

**SEMINAR ON EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND
GENDER IDENTITY FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

**PARLIAMENT OF URUGUAY, MONTEVIDEO
11 JULY 2016**

ACTION DOCUMENT

In the last five years, many governments and international organizations, in collaboration with civil society, have taken steps to strengthen human rights protection for LGBTI persons, including the recent adoption on June 30th of an historic United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution on “Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).” The Resolution, which mandates the appointment of an Independent Expert on the subject, reaffirms that the legal obligations of States to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all individuals, including LGBTI persons, are well-established in international human rights norms and standards.

We, Parliamentarians from Latin America and the Caribbean, met on the eleventh day of July 2016 with representatives of LGBTI civil society and international and regional organizations, hosted by the Parliament of Uruguay, in Montevideo, to address discrimination against, violence towards, and exclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans* and Intersex (LGBTI) persons in our countries.

We, Parliamentarians stand ready to work in partnership with all stakeholders, including the governments, civil society, regional and international organizations, and the donor community that meet later this week at the Global LGBTI Human Rights Conference in Montevideo, Uruguay.

We pledge to take concrete legislative and political actions to guarantee equal protection and inclusion of LGBTI people, including in relation to: combatting violence, stigma and discrimination against LGBTI people, and ensuring equal access to justice, education, housing, employment and health services for all citizens, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Specifically, we commit to:

1. Review domestic legislation regarding non-discrimination with the objective of harmonizing it with existing regional and international obligations in our respective countries, repealing discriminatory laws if they exist, and promoting and strengthening non-discrimination legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics with relevant stakeholders, including the Executive, the private sector, the media and the general public;

2. Consult with LGBTI civil society representatives to learn from their expertise, include them in political dialogue and processes, and help disseminate their testimonies and analysis on the barriers to accessing systems of health, justice, registry, education and other public services;
3. Engage with our National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), the Organization of American States (OAS) and its Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to raise awareness about violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons, mobilize parliamentary support to regional human rights conventions and statements, and monitor the implementation of national recommendations on equality and non-discrimination, including through parliamentary oversight bodies/Committees and through questions to Ministries;
4. Advocate for an increase in budgetary allocations to programs and policies that:
 - a. Protect against discrimination experienced by LGBTI people, including based on the intersection of additional grounds of discrimination they may face, including on the basis of race, disability, ethnicity, religion, indigenous status, gender, age, etc.;
 - b. Promote the full inclusion, political and civic participation of LGBTI persons as well as the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights; and
 - c. Support research and data collection and analysis about the situation of LGBTI persons to develop evidence-based strategies that allow us to truly leave no one behind; and
5. Promote and share widely the publication *Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI People: A Handbook for Parliamentarians*, prepared by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and UNDP, as a resource to inform and catalyse action by parliamentarians and other relevant stakeholders to advance the human rights and inclusion of LGBTI persons.

Adopted July 11, 2016 in Montevideo, Uruguay