

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON EFFECTIVE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MEASURES BASED ON
SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI) IN
SOUTH AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017 | RAMADA HOTEL | PARAMARIBO, SURINAME

9:00 – 9:10 am

Welcoming remarks

Dr. Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname

9:10 – 9:20 am

Introductory remarks on behalf of PGA's National Group in Suriname

- Brief remarks to introduce PGA and the work of its National Group in the country to promote human rights for all

Mr. Patrick Kensenhuis, Member of the National Assembly of Suriname and Chair of PGA's National Group in Suriname

9:20 – 9:35 am

Tools for parliamentarians to advance equality and non-discrimination based on SOGI in accordance with international human rights law

- UNDP/PGA's SOGI Handbook for Parliamentarians and PGA's LGBTI Inclusion site: context and international law, actions by parliamentarians and engagement with civil society

Mr. Armstrong Alexis, Deputy Representative of UNDP, Suriname

Mr. Alex Roche, Program Officer - SOGI Campaign, Parliamentarians for Global Action

9:35 – 10:05 am

Best practices to strengthen engagement between parliamentarians, civil society representatives and the private sector

Mr. Faisel Tjon-A-Loi, Chairman of the LGBT Platform Suriname

Mr. Juan Pigot, Chairman of Parea

Mr. Steven Mac Andrew, Director of Suriname Trade and Industry Association

10:05 – 10:20 am

Coffee break and official photograph

10:20 am – 12:40 pm

Interactive discussion on effective anti-discrimination laws based on SOGI and strategies to promote such measures in Parliament

Moderated by Mr. Boris Dittrich, Advocacy Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Program at Human Rights Watch

Speakers will have 10 minutes each to present the situation of LGBTI persons in their respective countries and the anti-discrimination laws/initiatives put in place to protect and promote their rights, with a focus on best practices that can be replicated to build political support in parliament and strategies used to overcome challenges.

After the presentations, Mr. Dittrich will moderate a guided discussion and all attendees are invited to participate.

Speakers:

Ms. Desirée de Sousa-Croes, Member of the Parliament of Aruba

Hon. Dr. George Norton, Member of Parliament and Minister of Social Cohesion of Guyana

Ms. Ingrid Karta-Bink, Member of the National Assembly of Suriname

Sen. Wade Mark, Member of the Senate of Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Tamara Adrián, Member of the National Assembly of Venezuela

12:40 – 1:00 pm

Final thoughts and agreed actions

Mr. Wendell Asadang, Member of the National Assembly of Suriname

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Lunch at Rooftop, Ramada Hotel

Acknowledgments:

PGA would like to acknowledge the warm hospitality and support of PGA's National Group in the National Assembly of Suriname for hosting this Roundtable Discussion.

PGA is also grateful for the support of the Global Equality Fund, administered by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor of the US State Department, to its Parliamentary Project on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Caribbean, for the realization of this activity.

PGA would also like to thank UNDP for facilitating the participation of parliamentarians from Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.