

CONCEPT NOTE

SEMINAR FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS ON EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI) IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

17-18 MAY 2018 | CONGRESSIONAL PALACE OF THE ARGENTINEAN NATION | BUENOS AIRES

Parliamentarians for Global Action ([PGA](#)) – the largest transnational network of individual legislators with a membership of approximately 1350 parliamentarians in 142 countries around the world working on human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination and gender equality – and its National Group in the Honorable Chamber of Deputies of the Argentinean Nation are organizing a “Seminar for Parliamentarians and National Human Rights Institutions on Equality and Non-Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in Latin America and the Caribbean,” which will take place on 17-18 May 2018 at the Congressional Palace in Buenos Aires.

This activity is part of PGA’s Parliamentary Project on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Caribbean, a project of PGA’s Global Parliamentary Campaign against Discrimination based on SOGI ([SOGI Campaign](#)). The goal of the SOGI Campaign is to mobilize parliamentarians as human rights champions, taking action to guarantee that every individual has equal value, lives with dignity, and is able to achieve their highest potential free from all forms of violence and discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

To this aim, PGA’s SOGI Campaign seeks to organize activities such as the upcoming one in Buenos Aires, which provide a platform to bring together parliamentarians with their peers from other countries and with lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) activists, representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and other key stakeholders. This engagement contributes to building parliamentarians’ awareness, political will and capacity to effectively undertake their lawmaking, representative and government-oversight functions in relation to their States’ obligation to respect, protect and guarantee the human rights of all individuals, regardless of their SOGIESC.

Seminar objectives:

- **Connect** Latin American and Caribbean parliamentarians and representatives of NHRIs from the region with each other and with LGBTI activists and SOGI experts in order to: i) share best practices and legislative measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination based on SOGI and ii) foster and strengthen frequent collaboration among these stakeholders on this topic.
- **Empower** Latin American and Caribbean parliamentarians to become human rights champions with accurate and current information about the needs and challenges of LGBTI persons in their countries, backed by an international network of support.
- **Inspire** Latin American and Caribbean parliamentarians to take concrete actions to uphold, promote, and realize the rights of LGBTI persons in their countries.

Expected participants at the Seminar:

- **Parliamentarians** from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Guyana and/or Saint Lucia.
- **Representatives of LGBTI civil society organizations.**
- **Representatives from NHRIs** from Argentina (National Institute against Discrimination or [INADI](#)) and possibly other countries from the aforementioned list.
- **Other important stakeholders** promoting equality and non-discrimination in Argentina and the region.

Seminar themes:

- The context in Latin America and the Caribbean: Advances and challenges regarding equality and non-discrimination based on SOGI in the Inter-American Human Rights System.
- The role of NHRIs in promoting equality and non-discrimination based on SOGI: The examples of INADI and the Ibero-American Network of Anti-Discrimination Institutions or [RIOOD](#) and collaboration with parliaments.
- The case of Argentina: Advances and challenges in terms of equality and non-discrimination based on SOGI and lessons learned for other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The situation of LGBTI people in Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Guyana and/or Saint Lucia.
- The right to gender identity. The comprehensive law for trans people in Uruguay and other examples in the region such as Chile: lessons learned for other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Identification of best practices, priorities and concrete actions to be taken.

For more information on the Seminar, please contact:

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