

REGIONAL SEMINAR

“SHARING EXPERIENCES AND STORIES AMONG PARLIAMENTARIANS TO ADVANCE EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN”

SAN JOSÉ COMMITMENTS TO ACTION: COMPLETED ACTIONS

(As of June 10, 2017)

On March 9-10, 2017, the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica hosted parliamentarians from Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago and LGBTI activists from Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, St. Lucia and Suriname to discuss the situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) persons in the Americas, as well as the stories and experiences of each country and community represented, and to encourage actions that promote equality and inclusion of LGBTI persons in their countries.

In his welcoming remarks, Diputado Ronny Monge, from Costa Rica and Co-Convenor of PGA’s Gender, Equality and Population Program, invited parliamentarians to consider, in collaboration with the LGBTI representative of their country, if present, a concrete and feasible action to take upon their return to Parliament and within three months of the Seminar. He exhorted participants to use the publication “Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI People: a Handbook for Parliamentarians” (SOGI Handbook) as a resource to guide their deliberations. During the closing session, parliamentarians announced their commitment to take a number of actions, which are described in the [San José Commitments to Action](#).

The completed actions to date are the following:

PARLIAMENT OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Senator Maureen Payne-Hyman committed to:

- Submit a report to the President of the Senate about her participation in the Seminar highlighting the need to be more specific in the language employed in order to be more inclusive. **[Action completed.]**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BELIZE

Mr. Orlando Habet, Member of Parliament, committed to:

- Make a presentation to his political party’s Executive and Parliamentary Caucus to share the information of the Seminar. **[Action completed on March 21, 2017.]**

- Share the information about the Seminar with Mr. Michael Peyrefitte, Attorney General of Belize and a PGA Member, and give him the final version of the SOGI Handbook. **[Action completed.]**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF COSTA RICA

Dip. Marvin Atencio Delgado, Chair of PGA's National Group, committed to:

- Disseminate the SOGI Handbook to all 57 Costa Rican Deputies in the Legislative Assembly and advocate for the importance of addressing LGBTI issues to prevent this important tool from being just stored in drawers. **[Action completed on March 21, 2017.]**

Dip. Franklin Corella Vargas committed to:

- Strengthen public spaces for dialogue and position LGBTI rights and human rights in the political agenda. **[Action completed.]**

Dip. Ronny Monge Salas, Co-Convenor of PGA's Gender, Equality and Population Program, committed to:

- Continue holding meetings with LGBTI activists and elaborate a clear timeframe and agenda with scheduled dates for these meetings. **[Action completed.]**