



PARLIAMENTARY ROUNDTABLE

BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED TO ADVANCE EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI) IN UKRAINE

NOVEMBER 19, 2018 | PREDSLAVA HALL, PRESIDENT HOTEL | KYIV, UKRAINE

9:30 – 9:40 am

Welcoming remarks

Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, Member of Parliament (Sweden), PGA President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-President

Good morning, everyone, and a warm welcome to this Parliamentary Roundtable on “Best Practices and Lessons Learned to Advance Equality and Non-Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in Ukraine,” co-organized by Ukrainian LGBT Association LIGA and Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA).

My name is Margareta Cederfelt, I am a Member of Parliament from Sweden and the President of PGA, and I would like to briefly provide you all with some information about PGA and our work to end discrimination based on SOGI.

PGA is a, NGO, cross-party international network of individual legislators that informs and mobilizes parliamentarians in all regions to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination and gender equality. With more than 1,300 members in over 140 countries, PGA is the largest network of individual members of parliament committed to human rights promotion worldwide.

In order to advance our vision of contributing to the creation of a Rules-Based International Order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world, we implement various campaigns – for example, to promote the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty, or to end child, early and forced marriage and the death penalty.

In 2013, PGA launched its *Global Parliamentary Campaign against Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* (or SOGI Campaign, for short) 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.

The SOGI Campaign has four main objectives:

- First, to sensitize and raise awareness among parliamentarians about equality and non-discrimination on the basis of SOGI in accordance with regional and international human rights instruments;



- Second, to strengthen communication and cooperation between parliamentarians and LGBTI civil society;
- Third, to introduce anti-discrimination legislation on the basis of SOGI;
- And fourth, to decriminalize homosexuality in target countries where the law penalizes same-sex, consensual relations in contravention of international human rights standards.

Since being launched five years ago, PGA's SOGI Campaign has sensitized and engaged more than 200 parliamentarians from over 30 countries around the world and facilitated meaningful interactions between parliamentarians and representatives of the LGBTI community in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. It has also supported PGA members and contributed to their efforts to advance inclusive legislative reforms in Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan and the Republic of Seychelles.

Additionally, PGA's SOGI Campaign has produced, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program, the publication "Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI People: A Handbook for Parliamentarians," which is freely available to download in several languages, together with other useful resources, in our LGBTI Inclusion Site online at www.pgaction.org/inclusion.

My colleague Petra Bayr, Member of Parliament from Austria and Treasurer of PGA, will introduce some key contents of the Handbook. An unofficial Ukrainian translation of the publication is contained in the USB drives that will be distributed today.

On behalf of PGA and its SOGI Campaign staff, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the LGBT Association LIGA for co-organizing this Roundtable and to all of you for participating. The objectives of this meeting are:

- To create a space for discussion and exchange of best practices and lessons learned on human rights and inclusion of LGBTI people between international and Ukrainian MPs; and
- To improve engagement between Ukrainian MPs and Ukrainian LGBTI activists that leads to specific actions specifically, the implementation in Ukraine of the Human Rights National Action Plan on LGBTI issues.

I look forward to learning from all of you today. Thank you.