“Protecting Human Rights, Combating Discrimination and Addressing HIV/AIDS of Persons with Diverse Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities”

Presented by: Zenita Nicholson
Secretary, Board of Trustees, SASOD
Country Coordinator (Guyana), Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition
SOCIETY AGAINST SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION
SASOD’S 3 H AGENDA

- HUMAN RIGHTS
- HOMOPHOBIA (S)
- HEALTH PROMOTION
GUYANA’S PARLIAMENT

- National Assembly
- Unicameral Legislature
- Total of 65 Parliamentarians
SASOD’S GENESIS AND PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT

- 2003 – Constitutionally Amended Bill was unanimously passed
- Included sexual orientation as a ground for discrimination
- Pressure from conservative religious forces
- Approved Bill sent back for reconsideration
- Forum with ALL MPs held on June 7, 2003
- Only 3 MPs from the opposition attended (then PNCR)
RECOMMENDED PARLIAMENTARY MEASURES TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LGBT GUYANESE

- Repeal Guyana’s discriminatory Laws
- Expand existing legislative protections
ENGAGING PARLIAMENTARIANS IN GUYANA

3 LEVELS
1. NATIONAL LEVEL

THROUGH CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES
2. REGIONAL LEVEL

The Organisation of American States (OAS) provides opportunities for engaging Government Ministers who are also parliamentarians.
3. INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

- UN Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review
- UN Treaty Bodies
Thank you
SASOD’S ONLINE RESOURCES

Website:  www.sasod.org.gy
Blog:  www.sasod.blogspot.com
Facebook:  www.facebook.com/groups/sasod
YouTube:  www.youtube.com/user/sasodguyana
LinkedIn:  www.linkedin.com/company/sasod
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