



VISION:
A Pan African movement that
promotes and respects bodily integrity
and equal protection of human rights
regardless of culture, religion and faith,
sexual orientation, gender identity and

87 De Korte Street, Heerengracht, building office 302 Johannesburg,, South Africa. P.O.Box 2629 Saxonwold, 2131.
Tel: +227721968743, email: jacobus@ilga.org
NPO Number: 155-669

The UN HRC takes a Giant Leap towards Equality

Equal Rights Trump as the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva creates an Independent Expert on SOGI

Johannesburg, June 30, 2016,

Today the UNHRC took yet another positive move towards LGBT equality by adopting a resolution on ‘Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity’. This long anticipated move comes after two other resolutions adopted by the Council in 2011 and 2014 respectively. The resolution, an obvious game changer, establishes the mandate of an Independent Expert on SOGI who is tasked with, *inter alia*; assessing implementation of existing international human rights law, identifying best practices and gaps, raising awareness of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, engaging in dialogue and consultation with States and other stakeholders, and facilitating provision of advisory services, technical assistance, capacity-building and cooperation to help address violence and discrimination on these grounds.

Pan Africa ILGA congratulates the 7 Latin American countries -Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay, and 6 countries from all regions that co-sponsored the resolution. The resolution was passed by a vote of 23 in favor, 18 against and 6 abstentions.

“Today is our day to celebrate history. We are particularly proud of those States who chose to stand on the right side of history by voting in favor of creating a mandate that will bring systemic focus to human rights violations against persons because of their perceived and/or actual sexual orientation, gender identity and expression”. said Richard Lusimbo from Sexual Minorities Uganda, and Co-Chair Pan Africa ILGA.

This resolution is a result of years of joint campaigns and advocacy by more than 627 NGOs from all over the world. In Africa, some 36 countries criminalize same-sex sexual conduct and other forms of gender expression which often leads to discriminatory and violence. “It is time that African governments be held accountable to human rights principles, and begin recognizing that tolerance and empathy are good African values. Supporting the creation of an Independent Expert to investigate and bring UN’s attention on human rights violations against sexual minorities is the realization of those principles,” said Monica Tabengwa, Director of Pan Africa ILGA.

To read the full resolution please follow this link.....

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G16/135/00/PDF/G1613500.pdf?OpenElement>

For more enquiries contact Monica Tabengwa at monica@panafricailga.org, +27767958245 or Jacobus Witbooi jacobus@panafricailga.org +27721968743