



FINAL REPORT

**Leaving No One Behind: The Equal Rights Coalition Global Conference on
LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development**

**Vancouver, British Columbia
August 5-7, 2018**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

The [Equal Rights Coalition](#) is a multilateral and multi-stakeholder coalition through which member states cooperate closely with civil society, multilateral agencies, and other stakeholders to advance LGBTI human rights and inclusive development. Following its founding in Montevideo by the Netherlands and Uruguay, Canada and Chile assumed a 2-year term as ERC co-chairs in June of 2017.

The ERC works to promote innovative, effective diplomacy and inclusive development in support of the human rights of LGBTI persons.

The majority of the ERC's work is accomplished through its four thematic groups:

1. International and regional diplomacy (current co-chairs: Netherlands, Pan-Africa ILGA)
2. LGBTI inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (current co-chairs: UK, RFSL)
3. Coordination of donor funding (current co-chairs: USA, Synergia)
4. National laws, policies and practices (current co-chairs: Argentina, CREA)

The ERC Global Conference is the only global convening of its kind in which states, development cooperation agencies, civil society, international organizations, philanthropic foundations, and other relevant stakeholders come together to advance LGBTI human rights and inclusive development. Building on the Montevideo conference at which the ERC was created in 2016, and on LGBTI human rights and inclusive development conferences that preceded it in Washington (2014), Berlin (2013), and Stockholm (2011), the Vancouver Conference marked the first conference under a fully operational ERC and provided opportunities for high-level diplomatic engagement, working-level collaboration, and network-building among ERC stakeholders.

The ERC Global Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development saw the participation of approximately 275 delegates from over 85 countries. These delegates represented the ERC's member states, observing states, parliamentarians, international organizations, civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, and private sector representatives. Please refer to Appendix D for a more detailed overview of conference participation.

Conference Theme and Objectives

The conference theme, "Leaving No One Behind," acknowledges that LGBTI communities are a constituency whose inclusion in the 2030 Agenda is vital. Human rights advocacy work is most effective when combined with inclusive development policy. Many stakeholders, communities and people are too often left on the margins of efforts to advance LGBTI human rights and inclusive development.

Recognizing these intersectional barriers to equality, the Vancouver Conference included a focus on intersecting and under-profiled groups, including trans and non-binary persons, intersex persons, lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women, and youth. Given Canada's priorities as a host country, there was also a strong focus on Francophone and Indigenous issues and participation.

The primary objectives of the 2018 ERC Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development were as follows:

- **Building knowledge**
 - To reflect on global trends and developments related to LGBTI human rights and inclusive development (“what’s happening?”).
 - To foster awareness of emergent and/or under-represented areas of advocacy, policy and programming or funding in this field (“what’s missing and where are the key gaps?”).
 - To identify and elevate leading and innovative approaches to advancing LGBTI human rights and inclusive development (“what’s working?”).
- **Building networks:**
 - To deepen collaboration across states, development cooperation agencies, CSOs, international organisations, and other stakeholders (both within the ERC and more broadly) to advance LGBTI human rights and inclusive development.
 - To create a safe and enabling space that deepens and strengthens relationships and unlocks new opportunities for stronger coordination.
 - To ensure that global government discussions about policy and programming continue to be informed by and responsive to priorities and concerns of LGBTI communities.
- **Building norms:**
 - To help set and advance international norms for states asserting that LGBTI individuals have the same human rights as all other individuals and should benefit from, and participate in, inclusive development efforts on an equal basis with others (i.e. through a conference declaration).
 - To prioritize and elevate the voices of and issues impacting the most marginalized and historically underserved people within the LGBTI umbrella.

Conference Outcomes

The Vancouver Conference oversaw the development of a Conference Declaration endorsed by ERC member states with input from society and international organizations.

This Declaration puts forward ten commitments for ERC member states to adhere to, with a focus on strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration, including civil society and the private sector, advocating for LGBTI human rights, increasing the quantity and quality of assistance dedicated to LGBTI organizing,

sharing best practices, advocating for appropriate protections for intersex persons, and advancing information-gathering. The full Conference Declaration can be found in Appendix A.

A number of ERC member states and several multilateral organizations issued statements at the ERC Conference; please refer to Appendix B for written copies of some of these statements.

Civil society organizations also issued a series of recommendations directed towards ERC member states; many of these recommendations featured prominently in the conference proceedings and are therefore also reflected in the body of this report; the full set of recommendations can be found in Appendix C.

The Vancouver Conference also saw the expansion of the ERC to include its fortieth member, with Cyprus officially joining the ERC during a Signing Ceremony on August 7.

An additional outcome of the ERC Conference relates to greater engagement and integration of legislators and elected representatives in advancing LGBTI human rights. During a working lunch and subsequent meeting LGBTI and allied legislators/elected representatives discussed how to collaborate on international LGBTI rights issues, resulting in an expanded network of like-minded peers personally committed to action on international LGBTI rights; an increased awareness of initiatives engaging LGBTI and allied legislators and elected representatives; and a shared set of focus areas for international collaboration on LGBTI rights. The discussion focused particularly on the formation of an international network of LGBTI and allied legislators and elected representatives. Current and recent legislators and elected representatives were present from Canada, Guatemala, Malta, the Netherlands, Peru, and the United States, from local, state/provincial, and national levels of government.

PLENARY SESSIONS

The Vancouver Conference was opened by official remarks from the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, and His Excellency Roberto Ampuero, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile (see Appendix B).

High-Level Panel on Violence, Discrimination, and Inequalities Facing LGBTI Communities around the World (Monday August 5, 11:00 – 12:00)

The opening high-level panel of the ERC Conference emphasized the need to take action. Panelists noted that over 70 countries continue to criminalize same-sex attraction, and that LGBTI persons face disproportionate levels of violence and discrimination in access to employment, healthcare, and other vital services globally. Moreover, panelists noted that LGBTI persons face alarmingly high levels of extrajudicial violence, and that those who violate LGBTI human rights all too often benefit from impunity.

Panelists also noted a number of positive developments in efforts to advance LGBTI human rights around the world. The Honourable Dr. Helena Dalli, Minister for European Affairs and Equality of Malta, spoke of her country's legislation on gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics, which was made possible on account of two factors: personal motivation/leadership, and extensive bottom-up decision-making through which local LGBTI organizations were regularly and actively engaged.

This approach was in many ways echoed by Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the UN Independent Expert on the Prevention of Violence and Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, who noted the integral role that civil society has played in galvanizing states towards action in multilateral contexts ranging from the OAS to the UN Human Rights Council. Rosana Almeida, President of Cabo Verde's Institute for Gender Equality and Equity, also emphasized the importance of regular engagement with civil society, as well as the importance of working with media, journalists, and universities in order to promote positive, respectful narratives of LGBTI experiences, and with a view towards fostering acceptance among youth.

Rosana Flamer-Caldera, the Executive Director of the civil society organization EQUAL GROUND in Sri Lanka, emphasized the importance of addressing impunity and called on the ERC to engage in soft diplomacy with a view towards coaxing countries towards reform. Such an approach was complemented by the intervention of Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, who noted that alarming levels of violence and discrimination in the hemisphere occur in spite of increasingly robust legislation and policies in many countries. The Secretary General also pointed to the importance of principles and resolutions within the OAS as a mechanism through which to advance LGBTI human rights in the hemisphere.

Taking Stock – Global Trends, Gaps, and Opportunities for Advancing LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development (Monday, August 5, 14:00 – 15:00)

Maninder Gill, Director of Social Development with the World Bank, explained that, for the World Bank, working to address LGBTI issues emerged alongside a growing body of knowledge about the economic costs of exclusion. Ricky Nathanson, Founder of Trans Research, Education, Advocacy & Training (TREAT)

in Zimbabwe noted the importance of institutions such as the World Bank engaging in support of LGBTI human rights in countries that continue to criminalize LGBTI conduct and identities. Alberto de Belaunde, Congressman from Peru, spoke to the important role that LGBTI and allied legislators play in driving forward positive change and working to prevent backsliding. Strong, responsive democratic institutions have also been an enabling force that can help account for why certain countries in Latin America have moved more quickly towards advancing LGBTI human rights.

The ERC's Role in "Moving the Needle" on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development (Tuesday, August 6, 8:30 – 9:15)

This session focused on integrating key messages from the first day of the conference and helping to focus the second day on implications for the ERC's work to advance human rights and inclusive development. Inter-American Commissioner for Human Rights, Flávia Piovesan, addressed the international instruments and other legal grounds for understanding "equality" and "religious freedom" and explained that these concepts are not oppositional; understandings of other enumerated rights are not a legitimate grounds for undermining the foundational concept of equality. Micah Grzywnowicz, International Advocacy Advisor at RFSL, underscored the first day's focus on the importance of data, speaking to its relevance for the SDGs and the role of data in policy-making and advocacy. Referring to the break-out session on intersex people, a key message that emerged was that intersex issues need to be explicitly addressed as an issue of human rights as well as children's rights. Discussant Flávia Piovesan, agreed and explained the relevant international and regional conventions and accords that can protect intersex people, including children, especially in the health care context.

During a moderated question and answer period that followed, civil society spoke to CSOs' recommendations to the ERC (developed during the civil society preconference (see Appendix C). In particular, interventions during the moderated question and answer period spoke to the importance of acknowledging that most ERC member states do not adequately protect the human rights of intersex persons, and that greater accountability is required to ensure that ERC members progress in this area. Additionally, the need to increase funding available to LGBTI organizing globally – and intersex organizing in particular – was also underscored.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Key themes and recommendations emerging from each of the breakout sessions are highlighted below, in chronological order as they appeared in the ERC Conference Program (see Appendix E).

Break-out Sessions on Intersectional and Cross-Cutting Issues and LGBTI Advocacy (Monday, August 5, 15:15 – 16:45)

Indigeneity, Inclusive Development, and LGBTI Advocacy on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

- Indigenous LGBTI-identified individuals face discrimination, racism, homophobia, hurt, and harm with alarming consequences for their social, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing. This contrasts with some Indigenous realities in pre-contact societies where cultural, gender and sexual identities were embraced. Indigenous LGBTI-identified individuals also experience more limited access to LGBTI social movements and to quality healthcare/wellbeing services, resulting in higher levels of isolation, discrimination and violence.
- The presenters talked about the challenge of recognizing human rights, which are individual, and the collective rights that are integral to Indigenous peoples; balancing differing cultural roles and responsibilities connected to those rights can be challenging.
- The panel also highlighted the lack of ethically obtained data about Indigenous LGBTI people and communities, and that the term “LGBTI” fails to reflect or to capture Indigenous specificities (for example, 2Spirit in parts of North America, Sistergirls/Brotherboys in Australia, and Fa’afafine in Samoa).
- Recommendations for advancing these issues included the following:
 - Build the cultural competencies and frameworks to support governments, civil society organizations/agencies and other partners in ensuring cultural preservation and relationship building for global LGBTI Indigenous participants
 - Champion, consult and contribute to improving local Indigenous organizations and leadership
 - Support the development and implementation of a global Indigenous LGBTI network
 - Enable LGBTI Indigenous people and communities to address lack of social acceptance, inadequate access to services, isolation and discrimination
 - Consider a global Indigenous LGBTI awareness campaign with inspiring Indigenous LGBTI people that can translate understandings of legislative reform, human rights violations, and impacts of laws and champion LGBTI human rights
 - Commit to and sponsor global Indigenous LGBTI people to attend and participate in all Equal Rights Coalition conferences

Francophone Inclusive Development and Advocacy on LGBTI Human Rights

- Panelists underlined that Francophone LGBTI advocates face a number of significant barriers in advancing human rights and inclusive development, since (1) the majority of funding opportunities and NGO network-building occurs in English, (2) most relevant documents/research projects are unavailable in French, and (3) many Francophone organizations/communities consequently lack some of the capacity and knowledge that may be more accessible to English-speaking (and, to a lesser extent, Spanish-speaking) organizations.
- Recommendations to address some of these barriers include:
 - Investing in and encouraging Francophone LGBTI organizations’ participation in major global events and conferences
 - Encouraging Francophone jurisdictions with strong domestic track records to engage more proactively in global solidarity work
 - Collaborating with civil society in Francophone countries in the field in order to support grassroots advocacy work and capacity-building

Intersex-inclusive Development and Advocacy on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

- Presenters noted that forced surgical interventions on intersex babies and youth are often performed on the basis of social/cultural views and not on the basis of health
- Poverty, lack of public awareness/support for intersex rights, and intersex persons' own lack of access to information about their intersex status are among some of the challenges to advancing intersex rights
- Malta's Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act is one of the few examples of legislation that addresses some of these challenges. This Act extends the period of time for a child's sex to be assigned on their birth certificate and forbids medical interventions on intersex persons motivated by social or cultural reasons. Penalties for violating these laws were brought into line with those for female genital mutilation. Malta also worked to mainstream policies on sex characteristics in other sectors (for example, prison policy and education policy)
- Recommendations to emerge from this session include:
 - that ERC member states support domestic reforms to protect the human rights of intersex persons, particularly as it pertains to ensuring that no medical surgeries or other treatments be performed on intersex persons absent their full, prior and informed consent.
 - that ERC member states support and fund organizations working on intersex issues domestically and globally.

Trans and Gender-diverse Inclusive Development and Advocacy on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

- Panelists identified funding as a significant and recurring problem, with parts of the community continually unfunded and other parts subsumed into funding on broader categories/issues (for example, LGBTI rights or health rights of men who have sex with men [MSM]), with the result that non-trans-led organizations control the majority of resources and underserve trans communities.
- The Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality from the Government of Portugal described the main features of the Law on the Self-Determination of Gender Identity and Gender Expression and on the Protection of Sex Characteristics, approved by the parliament of Portugal in July 2018.
- Societal change is fundamental; media and arts focusing on humanizing trans people can be impactful in this change (for example, the film *Una Mujer Fantastica* had a significant, positive effect on societal attitudes towards transgender rights in Chile, and in Portugal, government authorities have recently launched a public campaign called "Trans and Intersex – the Right to Be" as a means to raise awareness and change attitudes through the media).
- Concerns about children and adolescents' access to legal gender recognition in law are problematic; research shows that childhood and adolescence are when the vast majority of suicidal ideation occurs for trans people and stronger supports to recognize and protect trans youth are therefore required

- Trans communities and movements need support in capacity-building and developing new leaders to build sustainable movements

Lesbian and Bisexual Women, Inclusive Development on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

- Violence is a key issue lesbian, bisexual, and queer (LBQ) women face, particularly sexual violence. This is exacerbated by religion and families who interfere with court proceedings. LBQ women also face challenges accessing to justice due to the expense and length of time law enforcement/court proceedings can take.
- Lack of data also presents a significant challenge. It is easy to erase lives of LBQ women if they do not appear in the data.
- LBQ women often fall through the cracks. In the eyes of funders, they are neither women's rights organizations nor LGBTI organizations.
- Data shows that the vast majority of LGBTI organizations are run by men. Women are not at the table. This is a challenge that needs to receive more attention.
- Priorities include decriminalization, comprehensive equality, research and agency for LBQ women, and peer-to-peer exchanges.

Break-out Sessions for Equal Rights Coalition Thematic Groups (Tuesday, August 6, 9:15 – 10:30)

International and Regional Diplomacy

- Advancing law reform and decriminalization of LGBTI status emerged as a major theme
- The British NGO, Human Dignity Trust, outlined how diplomacy could support strategic litigation and law reform efforts through the “six Cs”: **consultation** with advocates; funding **contributions** to documentation and data gathering, and to shaping public opinion through public diplomacy efforts; **convening** thought leaders, activists, officials, and judges; **congratulating** states when they take positive steps; **cautioning** governments when they take regressive steps (including appealing positive decisions) and finally **championing** the need for legal reforms.
- Victor Madrigal, the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity agreed with the focus on decriminalization, and added that the ERC could also focus on reducing stigma and protecting LGBTI advocates from harm, as well as ensuring the continuity of the UN SOGI Independent Expert mandate.
- As co-chair of the ERC, Chile highlighted both private demarches and public statements as tools the ERC can utilize to advance change, as well as the need to expand ERC membership to include more governments from the global South.
- As co-chair of the Diplomacy Breakout Session, Monica Tabengwa encouraged more robust civil society participation in the diplomacy group, as well as the need to recognize positive actions as well as respond to downward trends.

- Civil society organizations also called for the ERC to finalize and release the ERC Diplomacy Toolkit.

Coordination of Donor Funding

- The goal of this session was to discuss the challenges and best practices for donors to ensure “do no harm” as a fundamental principle for supporting LGBTI human rights and inclusive development, while also highlighting those best practices that empower donors – in partnership with LGBTI communities – to do the most good.
- The discussion was anchored in the presentation of two compelling case studies: Nigeria and Indonesia. In both cases, panelists from civil society highlighted the critical need for donor support, particularly in emergency situations.
- Panelists encouraged creativity among both the movement and donors in their approach, including coordination among donors at country level, understanding the expectation that civil society is diverse and cannot be expected to speak with one voice, and the critical need to make funds flexible for urgent and unpredictable needs.
- Panelists underscored the importance of supporting LGBTI movement-led efforts, even if donors fund mainstream human rights organizations as intermediaries, to ensure agency, organizational growth and resilience.
- Finally, there was deep engagement by donors and civil society alike on the question of the “do no harm” principle. To employ this approach, donors should ensure efforts are LGBTI movement-led, focus on safety and security in program approach (especially in emergencies) and address funding gaps as identified by the community.
- The discussion concluded with a strong caution that taking a “do no harm” approach is not an excuse to do nothing. Instead, it is an opportunity to include LGBTI communities in donor efforts to navigate challenging environments in order to continue to respond and fund LGBTI communities.

National Laws, Policies, and Practices

- Whereas other breakout sessions took the form of panel discussions, this session took the form of a moderated discussion with interventions from a variety of high-level speakers:
- **Ignacio Sola Barleycorn, Director General for Equality of Treatment and Diversity, Ministry of the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations, and Equality, Spain:** In the mid-2000s, Spain prioritized expanding LGBTI human rights, including through equal marriage and changing sex on documents; some issues to be considered further include trans legislation (for example, self-determination). The Government has recently taken new measures: Pride is now included in official events calendars and access to in-vitro fertilization has recently become available, again, to lesbian and bisexual women. Some additional positive practices include issuing subsidies/funding to LGBTI organizations focused on the promotion of human rights and developing an observatory for hate crimes with specially trained units and active civil society engagement. Business Diversity Standards are also anticipated to be introduced.
- **Mark Kamperhoff, Head of Unit, EU Coordination and International Affairs, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany:** Following a high-court ruling in which an individual wanted to legally identify as non-binary, the German government is now

obliged to introduce a third gender as a legal gender marker for official government records by the end of the year. The Ministry of Family Affairs had commissioned research on this topic that was cited in the Court decision, illustrating the value and importance of expert-led studies and data collection in advancing LGBTI human rights.

- **Marc Bichler, Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights, Luxembourg:** Luxembourg recently launched a [National Action Plan for the Promotion of LGBTI Rights](#). Recognizing that “complex challenges call for complex answers,” multi-stakeholder approaches engaging the government, the private sector, the public, and civil society were noted as important. Luxembourg also developed an Inter-Ministerial Commission on Human Rights, which meets every two months and has helped facilitate coherence and cooperation across government departments. Luxembourg recently introduced legislation that makes it much easier to change first names and gender on official documents – including for minors with consent and for non-nationals living in Luxembourg. New intersex legislation is currently being drafted.
- **Julia Marcela Suárez Cabrera, National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination, Mexico:** in May 2016, the President of Mexico called for a meeting where he and Ministers heard from civil society and gave direction to implement timely measures to further guarantee the rights of LGBTI persons. Since then, many actions have been taken, including a survey on the topic of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), which collected data on experiences and perceptions and will be released in October 2018. This data will be used to input into public policies. A separate survey has been designed to address intersex issues, since a CSO working group advised that intersex rights should be addressed separately. National protocols related to hiring discrimination and health care protocols have also been developed.
- **Craig Hawke, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations in New York:** New Zealand has been an early adopter of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in addressing HIV/AIDS and the provision of public funding to facilitate access. A clinical paediatrics group has also been stood up focused on improving clinic practices related to intersex rights. Trans healthcare services, including mental health services, have been introduced in Northern areas. Two general challenges for advancing policy and best practices in this area are coordination across the relevant branches of government and gaps in data, particularly related to trans persons.
- **Manuel Abrantes, Technical Expert at Office of the Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality Portugal:** Factors that helped to steward forward the law on Gender Identity and Sex Characteristics include commissioning research on trans communities’ experiences in Portugal and extensive consultation and interaction with civil society. In addition to this law, some measures currently being pursued include a new policy framework for LGBTI persons, a National Action Plan that will be in place for the next 4 years, developing a new emergency shelter for LGBTI persons, and training in the health and security sectors.
- **Marjan Cencen, Ambassador of Slovenia to Canada:** Slovenia has recently introduced a civil union act, and legislative protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. The education system also includes training for students and teachers

related to human rights, and government funding has been invested in a number of projects ranging from roundtables to awareness-raising activities to sporting events to art exhibitions.

- **Robert Moosy, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, United States:** Federal hate crimes law has resulted in a number of prosecutions being brought forth, and all federal enforcement staff receive training on LGBT issues.
- **Stéphane Carcillo, Head of Jobs and Income Division, OECD.** The OECD is currently working to map out national laws related to LGBTI human rights across 36 countries. Questionnaires were sent to civil society and then sent to governments during a 7 country pilot stage. Results will be featured in next year's Society at a Glance publication. Afterwards, there will be a focus on looking from laws to programmes in 2019.
- **Joyce Hamilton, COC Netherland:** Encouraged states to focus on involving civil society in changing laws and evolving policies for LGBTI issues. Recommended that states work towards long-term planning, and that resources be factored into this planning.
- **Julius Kaggwa, SIPD Uganda:** urged ERC member states to include non-consensual genital surgery as a hate crime in national laws.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda

- Agenda 2030 was framed as an important mechanism for improving the lives of LGBTI people since the framework has been endorsed almost universally, since LGBTI persons are among the groups most likely to be “left behind” and therefore deserving of prominence within the SDGs, and since Agenda 203 features a strong focus on inclusion.
- Advancing the SDGs and LGBTI inclusion therein is an inherently multi-stakeholder initiative: governments convene, support negotiations; multilateral organizations and civil society collect data to help tell the story and support countries to collect data that measure inclusion and can inform policy and funding decisions (for example, the UNDP's LGBTI Inclusion Index).
- Recommendations for advancing these issues include:
 - ERC member states should champion the linkages between the 2030 Agenda and LGBTI inclusion, including through member states' Voluntary National Reviews
 - The ERC should facilitate collaboration with civil society during the High Level Political Forum.

Break-Out Sessions: Cross-Sectoral Approaches to Advancing LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development (Tuesday, August 6, 10:45 – 12:15)

The Role of the Private Sector in Supporting Inclusive Development and LGBTI Advocacy

- There was consensus in the session that businesses have the potential to advance LGBTI rights both internally and in society. Internally, companies and multi-national corporations should

ensure that they have global policies protecting LGBTI employees from discrimination, and should ensure that these are enforced irrespective of where they exist in the world.

- Externally, companies can respectfully make the case for LGBTI rights and inclusion in society, particularly given many companies' unique angle and influence in numerous countries. This has already happened with some companies in North America and Western Europe, and work is underway by the organization Open For Business to catalyze a coherent voice on LGBTI rights among the private sector in more challenging regional contexts, primarily in Africa and Asia.
- Companies can also build relationships with civil society organizations to help develop their capacities and to share resources such as safe spaces to hold meetings/events, and legal or accounting advice.
- The private sector can facilitate the economic development of LGBTI people, business owners, and communities around the world. For example, companies can implement policies to employ LGBTI individuals, support LGBTI-owned businesses in the marketplace, and provide training for LGBTI groups to gain valuable skills.
- Recommendations:
 - The ERC should invite private sector leaders to future conferences. This will involve these leaders in cross-sectoral conversations about LGBTI rights & inclusion, and how governments, civil society, and business can work together to advance equality.
 - The ERC can provide member states guidance on how to craft responsible public policy to encourage companies to be LGBTI inclusive. This should be in coordination with companies that have world-class diversity and inclusion practices and civil society organizations that help companies implement these practices.
 - The ERC can hold member states accountable for mirroring private sector best practices on LGBTI inclusive policies and practices for civil servants and government employees.
 - The ERC can facilitate introductions between civil society organizations and businesses. This will build bridges for the private sector help support civil society.
 - ERC member states can provide business leaders with guidance on how to approach government officials on LGBTI inclusion in challenging countries.
 - The ERC can invite civil society organizations who liaise with the private sector into the ERC's proceedings and events.

Multi-Sector Responses to Hate Crime and Violence Targeting LGBTI Persons

- The discussion highlighted the gaps, tools and best practices in bias-motivated violence reporting among both civil society and government officials, and underscored the importance of data in supporting criminal prosecutions, strategic human rights litigation and broader policy and advocacy objectives.
- Robert Moosy, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the civil rights division at the U.S. Department of Justice, described the evolution of U.S. jurisprudence on hate crime responses, noting the integral role data collection and evidence played in passing the U.S. Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009.
- Victor Kunderák, Hate Crimes Officer, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, highlighted that only 16 (of 57) OSCE Member States disaggregate hate crimes data based on

sexual orientation and gender identity. Nonetheless, the OSCE works closely with civil society organizations to help them report more effectively by providing regular workshops and trainings on hate crimes reporting and by issuing practical guides on best practices.

- Cianán Russell, UN Officer, Transgender Europe, discussed the significant barriers to hate crimes reporting within transgender communities around the world. The presentation highlighted the research that Transgender Europe is supporting to understand violence faced by trans and gender-diverse communities in Europe and beyond, as well as best practices identified by Transgender Europe to support local trans initiatives and transgender leadership.
- Njeri Gateru, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission of Kenya (NGLHRCK), discussed barriers to collecting hate crime data within a country where same-sex activity is still criminalized and LGBTI individuals are targeted for extortion and violence by the police. She noted several successful NGLHRCK training programs that are beginning to improve sensitivity within the police and build trust within LGBTI communities.
- In concluding remarks, the panel emphasized that the vast majority of hate crimes incidents still go underreported, even in countries that have taken significant affirmative steps to collect and analyze that data. As such, the panel ended with a combined plea for greater – and more coordinated – efforts to collect hate crime data and to disaggregate and analyze that data with respect to its unique impact on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender-diverse and intersex communities.

The Role of Data in Supporting LGBTI-Inclusive Development and LGBTI Advocacy

- Presenters noted the significant importance of data in helping bringing about change; when numbers and data highlight the severity of an issue, the weight and importance of that issue can be advanced.
- Different initiatives relating to the gathering and dissemination of data in different contexts include:
 - Data collected by the Global Philanthropy Project relating to the funding of LGBTI organizations globally
 - UNDP-led global LGBTI Inclusion Index initiative, which aims to collect data and measure inclusion of LGBTI people in five strategic areas. The UNDP and the World Bank partnered in developing 51 indicators for the Index, together with multiple stakeholders, including RFSL, ILGA, OutRight Action International
 - The ILGA-RIWI Global Attitudes Survey on public attitudes to LGBTI people around the world
 - Local data gathering and indexing initiatives, such as that carried out in El Salvador by local NGOs on government effectiveness and responsiveness to LGBTI needs
- There is very little data available on LGBTI communities in many contexts; consistently collecting data regarding LGBTI communities is important because (1) data is critical for informing public policy and for setting the agenda, and (2) data tells stories regarding trends and changes (e.g. whether policies are being implemented effectively; whether funding levels in support of LGBTI advocacy have changed).
- Difficulties with data collection: the terms “LGBTI” does not capture the nuances of locally specific forms of sexual and gender diversity; governments often lack the capacity to collect rigorous data (of LGBTI persons, as well as of the general population in many cases); LGBTI civil society/communities may have limited capacity/expertise in supporting data collection and/or may have reservations with disclosing LGBTI status in general surveys, etc
- Recommendations:

- In addition to working to support government capacity in data collection, support civil society, the private sector, and other actors in gathering relevant data
- Develop security measures to depersonalize data and to mitigate risk that data is used to persecute local LGBTI communities
- Encourage collection of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC)-disaggregated data by agencies that regularly collect data
- Funders of LGBTI issues should commit to sharing available data about their funding portfolios in order to facilitate accurate, open and transparent dialogue about the funding landscape for the global LGBTI movement

Synergies between the HIV/AIDS, LGBTI and Women's Movements

- HIV/AIDS often provides the space to advance LGBTI issues, including by giving the opportunity for gay men, sex workers, and other populations that are often marginalized to meet directly with ministers of health.
- Panellists discussed rising backlash globally, with a marked shift in women's rights, LGBTI rights, and HIV/AIDS advocacy after years of progress. Anti-propaganda laws, anti-LGBTI legislation and increasing polarization calls for the building of alliances with other movements of communities left behind.
- This backsliding has serious implications for the health and human rights of women and LGBTI persons (e.g. closing of clinics). One positive outcome of these disturbing developments in some cases has been the emergence of intersectional counter-movements, garnering support due a desire to push back against closing space.
- Recommendations:
 - Foster more learning across women's movements, HIV/AIDS organizing, and LGBTI activism
 - Address and mitigate challenges related to infighting for sparse funding availability
 - Utilize Agenda 2030 as a means to foster cross-movement collaboration and intersectional approaches that leave no one behind

Faith, Inclusive Development, and LGBTI Advocacy

- Panelists noted that people seeking to enjoy their human right to freedom of religion or belief cannot properly do so by infringing on the human rights of others.
- It was suggested that there is a need to establish a 'theology of decriminalization'.
- In the Caribbean and Africa, religion is at the core of battles for achieving decriminalization.
- In many Latin American countries, the fight for LGBTI rights is simultaneously a fight for having a secular state, given that religion remains important in the region and that the idea of a secular state is still not widely embraced.
- In the past, religion has been used to justify discrimination against Jewish people, black people, etc. Thus, parallels between current challenges of LGBTI communities and those faced by other historically marginalized groups.
- Panelists acknowledged that there are some religious leaders who seek to promote tolerance; thus, there is a need for nuance in the way that religions/ religious leaders are characterized
- Recommendations:

- Bridging the gap between religious communities and LGBTI people necessarily involves engaging religions in dialogue, starting with religious leaders
- ERC member countries should fund dialogues between religious communities and LGBTI groups.
- ERC member states should make 'conversion therapy' illegal

LGBTI Youth, Inclusive Education and Health

- A UNESCO-sponsored online consultation with over 20,000 LGBTI youth about inclusive education, healthcare, and gender equality found that the needs of young LGBTI people remain largely ignored in policy- and decision making.
- Among the respondents, nine-tenths reported feeling that LGBTI youth are "never" or "almost never" taken into account by their country's authorities; less than one-third reported always or most of the time feeling safe at school; over four-fifths reported that their needs as LGBTI persons are never or almost never addressed by school curricula or learning materials; and, among those who talked with a medical service provider, only a quarter reported that they felt safe and welcomed.
- Panelists reinforced these challenges in their respective regional contexts.
- Recommendations:
 - Establish institutional mechanisms to make voices of LGBTI youth heard and addressed in governments' processes for decision- and policy-making in education and health
 - Review governments' goals, targets and programmes for education and health, to identify the gaps and obstacles in terms of LGBTI+ inclusion and take actions accordingly
 - Open spaces to allow LGBTI young people to gather and discuss their issues and concerns, including through the establishment of Gay-Straight Alliances or similar structures
 - Build bridges between adult gatekeepers and LGBTI learners to improve communication and understanding

Appendix A: Conference Declaration

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

August 7th, 2018

We, ministers and representatives of the member countries of the Equal Rights Coalition, have come together in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on August 5-7, 2018, and pledged to work together to build a world where the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all are respected and where no one is left behind, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics. We recognise with regret that – on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - LGBTI persons continue to face human rights abuses and violations around the world.

These human rights abuses and violations – which we condemn unequivocally – include discrimination, violence and arbitrary arrests, on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics.

Since our founding in Montevideo, Uruguay, in July 2016, we have worked together to take action – through public pronouncements and diplomatic intervention – when we have witnessed lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) persons facing abuses and violations of their human rights. At the same time, we have welcomed the positive steps made by governments, legislatures, and courts around the world in combating discrimination and strengthening protections for the human rights of LGBTI persons.

If no one is to be left behind, there is work that remains to be done – including in our own countries. Progress can best be achieved through education, dialogue, awareness raising, advocacy efforts, cooperation, and recognition of our universal, indivisible, and interdependent human rights. We will continue to encourage innovative and effective policy and assistance approaches tailored to the needs and experiences of diverse communities and to work closely with civil society organizations and all relevant stakeholders in our efforts.

Since our founding, we have welcomed into our Coalition ten new member countries: Albania, Australia, Cabo Verde, Cyprus, Denmark, Iceland, Israel, Lithuania, Luxembourg, and Malta.

We recognize that our meeting takes place on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We have been welcomed here, along with our partners from civil society, from multilateral organizations, and from other stakeholder groups, whose contributions form an integral part of the work of the Coalition.

Our discussions in Vancouver build on our shared principles and on our collective efforts to date. We commit to respect and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which lie at the heart of the international rules-based order. We recognise that the rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights law apply equally to all individuals, including LGBTI persons, without distinction of any kind. We have renewed the pledges we made when we signed the Founding Principles first put forward in Montevideo.

We have all pledged to work toward and support successful sustainable development. We recognise that LGBTI persons must be meaningfully engaged in inclusive development efforts and must benefit from these efforts in a non-discriminatory manner.

We share the conviction that inclusive and human-rights-based policy and development approaches that respect diversity help to build more resilient, prosperous, and successful societies. Our discussions served to strengthen that conviction. We heard from two-spirit and other LGBTI Indigenous persons about their lived experience. We examined the importance of linguistic and cultural factors in building communities and enhancing collaboration between individuals and organizations, including those using the French and Spanish languages. We redoubled our efforts to address the distinct needs and experiences of intersex persons, of transgender and gender-diverse persons, and of lesbian and bisexual women. We recognise that LGBTI persons may face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including on the basis of their ethnicity, religion, age, or ability, among other grounds.

We are committed to making real progress for LGBTI persons -- including youth -- that leaves no one behind. We have therefore worked with partners to identify practical elements of a way forward. We explored innovative roles for the private sector and highlighted the central importance of data and measuring progress in supporting inclusive development and advocacy for the human rights of LGBTI persons. We evaluated contemporary strategies for advancing movement-building, intersectionality, and human rights in HIV/AIDS programming. We looked at the power of multi-sector responses to hate crimes, violence, and other human rights violations and abuses targeting LGBTI persons. We discussed the specific challenges of young LGBTI persons in accessing good quality and relevant education and health services, and the importance of listening to and supporting LGBTI youth. We also discussed the crucial roles of education and faith in inclusive development and LGBTI advocacy, and the need for strengthened engagement with teachers and faith leaders at the community level.

Our Coalition has worked since its founding to put in place an action-oriented program of work and multi-sectoral teams to make our goals a reality. Our discussions in Vancouver with civil society partners, multilateral organizations, and other stakeholders have enriched the Coalition's vision for our future work.

Based on our deliberations at the Global Conference, we make the following commitments:

We commit to advancing the work of the ERC by further strengthening its collaboration with its key partners, including civil society, international organisations, multilateral agencies, academia, the private sector and all others working to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of LGBTI persons;

- We commit to advocating for equal respect, protection, and promotion of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of LGBTI persons, including in cases where they are at acute risk;
- We commit to ensuring our strategies for advancing sustainable development are informed by the experiences of LGBTI persons through consultation with LGBTI civil society organizations, including in our planning and reporting;
- We commit to increasing the overall quantity and quality of assistance dedicated to protecting and promoting the human rights and inclusive development needs of LGBTI individuals, communities and organizations;
- We commit to strengthen relations with the private sector and to work together to foster in all sectors of society, including the workplace, the human rights of LGBTI persons;
- We commit to sharing best practices among governments, legislators, and civil society organizations to promote the universal de-criminalisation of LGBTI status or conduct and the

strengthening of protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics;

- We commit to working together to advocate appropriate protections for intersex persons and encourage states to implement policies and procedures, as appropriate, to ensure that medical practices are consistent with international human rights obligations;
- We commit to encouraging States, within the framework of their domestic legal systems and consistent with their international human rights obligations, to continue to strengthen institutions and public policies focused on preventing, investigating, and punishing human rights abuses and violations against LGBTI persons, and to ensure that victims enjoy access to justice and appropriate remedies;
- We commit to working to increase the space for civil society, both domestically and internationally, in recognition of the important actions civil society organisations and human rights defenders undertake in support of LGBTI persons, often at great personal risk; and
- We commit to encouraging States to strengthen information gathering on the number, diversity, and unique needs of LGBTI individuals and communities, with special attention on official documentation of and reporting of human rights abuses and violations based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics, including through collaboration with civil society to develop and implement rights-based and evidence-based policies.

Conscious of the urgent need for our efforts to yield results, we pledge to review progress on these commitments and on our program of work in our periodic meetings during the next two years, culminating in our next global conference in 2020.

Appendix B: Civil Society Recommendations

These recommendations were prepared by a group of civil society organizations and were based on discussions by civil society in a meeting that took place immediately prior to the conference.

1. All ERC governments should pledge to adopt, within 5 years, clear legislative provisions explicitly prohibiting the performance of unnecessary surgical or other medical treatment on intersex children before they reach the legal age of consent. Individuals must be able to provide personal, full, free and informed consent.
2. All ERC governments should pledge to provide, within the next 5 years, legal gender recognition solely based on self-determination with multiple gender markers options through an accessible, quick, and transparent administrative process as a minimum standard. In line with YP and YP+10, the elimination of all gender markers should be considered as a goal. All ERC governments should provide state-funded trans health care based on an informed consent process within the next 5 years.
3. We request that the government cochair of the ERC fund or secure the funding for civil society participation in the ERC in the sum of \$250,000 annually for simultaneous translation into English, Spanish and French for thematic working groups as well as civil society calls; transportation to ERC meetings (not including conference); and staff for civil society organizing.
4. The donor government members of ERC should collectively increase their funding to LGBTI-led initiatives by at least 30%. All ERC members with foreign aid programs should be funding LGBTI-led initiatives. Meaningful targets should be set for funding within donor and domestic programs for intersex, trans, LBQ women, and bisexual-led work on the needs of intersex, trans, LBQ women, and bisexual populations.
5. At least 6 new countries from Africa, Asia and the Pacific to join the ERC by 2020.
6. We request that the Diplomacy Working Group finalize its diplomacy toolkit. ERC member governments should commit to creating the diplomatic infrastructure necessary to implement the toolkit, including the designation of a focal point in each of its embassies to apply the toolkit and to serve as a liaison to the local populations for diverse SO/GIE/SC in that country.
7. All ERC member countries must commit to strong working relationships and dialogue with civil society including both in their home countries and the countries where they take initiatives.
8. The foreign affairs officials who participate in the ERC should convene key domestic policy ministries to review the laws and policies for people of diverse SO/GIE/SC or convene alternating meetings that focus on domestic and foreign policies of ERC members.
9. Operationalize the principle of "leaving no one behind" to make that the Sustainable Development agenda is inclusive, mainstream the development needs of individuals across multiple intersectional grounds including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, ethnicity, sex, gender, disability, age, Indigeneity, social class, and others.
10. Meaningfully and proactively engage with CSOs working for the wellbeing of persons of diverse

SO/GIE/SC people in course of the National Consultation process in preparations for the Voluntary National Review (VNRs).

11. Following the model of intersectionality, disaggregate data collection of diverse SO/GIE/SC populations, pertaining to access to rights such as education, food security, housing, poverty, in order to quantify who is "left behind" so as to undertake informed, evidence based policymaking, ensuring confidentiality and security of individuals.

12. As the development agenda affords tangibility to the rights paradigm, commit to concretely realizing right to food, housing and education for minorities of diverse SO/GIE/SC.

13. Ensure competent inclusion of Indigenous, tribal and traditional populations and cultures of diverse SO/GIE/SCs.

14. All ERC governments should commit to reviewing their refugee and asylum processes to ensure that applicants based on SO/GIE/SC status are assessed within the framework of international human rights, that all refugees and asylum seekers of diverse SO/GIE/SC are housed in safe spaces during processing, and that gender diverse applicants and those with variations of sex characteristics are not housed in sex-segregated spaces of any kind without their freely given consent.

Appendix C: Conference Program



Leaving No One Behind: The Equal Rights Coalition Global Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

MAIN CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Sunday, August 5

12:00 – 15:00 40th Annual Vancouver Pride Parade

Delegates are invited to take part in the festivities beginning at noon. Arrangements have been made for a limited delegation of ERC representatives to march in the parade.

18:00 – 19:30 Cocktail Reception – Opening of the ERC Global Conference

Venue: Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street

Monday, August 6

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee and light refreshments as conference delegates arrive

10:30 – 12:00 Official Opening of the ERC Global Conference

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

Welcome

- Welcome to the Territory and Official Opening, Former Chief of Musqueam First Nations, Gail Sparrow
- Introduction by The Honourable Hedy Fry, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre
- Remarks from The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
- Remarks from His Excellency Roberto Ampuero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chile

High-Level Panel on Violence, Discrimination, and Inequalities Facing LGBTI Communities around the World

- Moderator: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
- His Excellency Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States
- The Honourable Dr. Helena Dalli, Minister for European Affairs and Equality, Malta
- Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Rosana Almeida, President of the Cabo Verde Institute for Gender Equality and Equity
- Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, EQUAL GROUND

12:00 – 12:15: Family Photo

12:15 – 13:30: Lunch

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

13:30 – 15:00 High-level Plenary Resumes

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

High-level remarks:

- Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister of Education, Culture, and Science, the Netherlands
- Rosa Monteiro, Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality, Portugal
- John J. Sullivan, Deputy Secretary of State, United States (video address)

Panel: Taking Stock – Global Trends, Gaps, and Opportunities for Advancing LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

This panel will highlight the current global landscape for activists, governments, and other agents of change seeking to advance LGBTI human rights and inclusive development.

- Moderator: Liisa-Ly Pakosta, Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner, Estonia
- Ricky Nathanson, Trans Research, Education and Training
- Congressman Alberto de Belaunde, Peru
- Maninder Gill, Director for Social Development, World Bank

15:00 – 15:15 Health Break

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

15:15 – 16:45 Break-out Sessions: Intersectional and Cross-Cutting Issues and LGBTI Advocacy

These sessions will highlight particular components of intersectionality and examine who is left behind in contemporary efforts to advance LGBTI human rights and inclusive development. Afterwards, panelists will convene for a plenary to report back on the discussion on these themes.

- **Break-out A: Indigeneity, Inclusive Development, and LGBTI Advocacy on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development**

- *This session delves into some of the distinct and converging experiences of LGBTQ2 Indigenous people: what challenges they face, how these track with wider LGBTI or Indigenous populations, and what commonalities can be identified across countries and continents.*
- Venue: Junior A, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
- Speakers:
 - Moderator: Victoria Kuczer, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
 - Andrew Baker, ILGA World
 - Bec Johnson, Tekwabi Gizz, National LGBTI Health Alliance
 - Andrés Mallo Sandoval, Colectivo TLGB de Bolivia
 - Tuisina Ymania Brown, Pacific Human Rights Initiative
 - Congresswoman Sandra Morán Reyes, Guatemala

- **Break-out B: Francophone Inclusive Development and Advocacy on LGBTI Human Rights**

- *With global attention on LGBTI human rights and the creation of cross-border networks of support, this session explores the commonalities and differences encountered by French-speaking LGBTI people and groups who defend their rights.*
- Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
- Speakers:
 - Moderator: Marie-Pier Boisvert, Conseil québécois LGBT
 - Opening remarks: Minister Stéphanie Vallée, Minister of Justice and Minister responsible for the fight against homophobia, Québec
 - Georges Azzi, Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality
 - Joseph Achille Tiedjou, Plateforme UNITY
 - François Croquette, Ambassador for Human Rights, France
 - Frédéric Hareau, Equitas International Centre for Human Rights Education
 - Closing remarks: Randy Boissonnault, MP, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 Issues

- **Break-out C: Intersex-inclusive Development and Advocacy on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development**
 - *This session will address the all-too-frequent omission of intersex persons' experience by exploring the rights violations they face, the legislative and policy changes that have been achieved and are sought, and the resources and strategies required to further advance this work.*
 - Venue: Junior B, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
 - Speakers:
 - Moderator: Kim Vance, ARC International
 - Silvan Agius, Director, Human Rights & Integration, Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, Malta
 - Morgan Carpenter, GATE
 - Julius Kaggwa, SIPD Uganda

- **Break-out D: Trans and Gender-diverse Inclusive Development and Advocacy on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development**
 - *This session will examine recent gains made by trans and gender-diverse persons across international institutions and national and sub-national laws and policies, and the need for development policies and programs that explicitly include trans and gender-diverse persons.*
 - Venue: Junior C, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
 - Speakers:
 - Moderator: Mauro Cabral Grinspan, GATE
 - Phylesha Brown-Acton, Asia Pacific Transgender Network
 - Richard Burzynski, UNAIDS
 - Franco Fuica, OTD Chile
 - Rosa Monteiro, Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality

- **Break-out E: Lesbian and Bisexual Women, Inclusive Development on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development**

- *This discussion will highlight rights violations facing lesbian and bisexual women and recent developments geared towards advancing lesbian and bisexual women's inclusion in LGBTI advocacy and inclusive development.*
- Venue: Junior D, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
- Speakers:
 - Moderator: Joyce Hamilton, CoC Netherlands
 - Njeri Gateru, National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Kenya
 - Marta Mendez Diaz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain
 - Sarah Gunther, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
 - Kenita Placide, ECADE

16:45 – 17:45 Panel Discussion: Intersectional and Cross-Cutting Issues on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

This panel will feature participants from the preceding break-out sessions and will highlight the commonalities and distinct challenges related to ensuring that Indigenous persons, francophones, intersex persons, trans and gender-diverse persons, and lesbian and bisexual women are not left behind.

- Moderator: Kim Vance, ARC International
- Bec Johnson, Tekwabi Gizz, National LGBTI Health Alliance
- Julius Kaggwa, SIPD Uganda
- François Croquette, Ambassador for Human Rights, France
- Mauro Cabral, GATE
- Njeri Gateru, National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Kenya

Tuesday, August 7

8:30- 9:15 Plenary: The ERC's Role in "Moving the Needle" on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

Day Two's opening session will integrate some key messages from the previous day's convening, focussing on their implications for the ERC's work to advance LGBTI human rights and inclusive development.

- Moderator: Clif Cortez, World Bank
- Micah Grzywnowicz, RFSL
- Flávia Piovesan, Inter-American Commissioner on Human Rights

9:15 – 10:30 Break-out Sessions for Equal Rights Coalition Thematic Groups

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

- **Break-out A: International and Regional Diplomacy**
 - *The goal of this session is to develop a plan of action that identifies contexts, forums, and other areas or issues where ERC members can advance the human rights of LGBTI persons through diplomatic engagement.*
 - Venue: Junior D, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
 - Speakers:
 - Moderator: Mark Reichwein, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
 - Téa Braun, Human Dignity Trust
 - Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
 - Jaime Godoy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile
 - Monica Tabengwa, Activist, Botswana
- **Break-out B: Coordination of Donor Funding**
 - *The panel will explore the concept of "do no harm" as a fundamental principle for donors in supporting LGBTI human rights and inclusive development.*
 - Venue: Junior C, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
 - Speakers:
 - Moderator: Maria Sjodin, Outright Action International
 - Stefano Fabeni, Synergia
 - Olumide Makanjuola, TIERS
 - Yuli Rustinawati, Arus Pelangi
 - Grace Poore, Outright Action International
 - Anthony Cotton, USAID

- **Break-out C: National Laws, Policies, and Practices**

- *This moderated discussion will draw on the experiences of those present to analyse best practices in national laws and policies.*
- Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
- Speakers:
 - Moderators: His Excellency Eugenio María Curia, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to Canada; Sunita Kujur, CREA.
 - Speakers:
 - Ignacio Sola Barleycorn, Director General for Equality of Treatment and Diversity, Ministry of the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Equality, Spain
 - Mark Kamperhoff, Head of Unit, EU Coordination and International Affairs, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany
 - Marc Bichler, Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights, Luxembourg
 - Julia Marcela Suárez Cabrera, National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination, Mexico
 - Craig Hawke, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations in New York:

- **Break-out D: The Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda**

- *This panel will consider the possibilities contained in the 2030 framework and discuss the different roles of various stakeholders engaged in the processes of SDGs implementation, follow up and review.*
- Venue: Junior A, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
- Speakers:
 - Moderator: Phylesha Brown-Acton, Asia Pacific Transgender Network
 - Andrea Ayala, ESMULES
 - Elaine Chard-Antonopoulou, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom
 - Mandeep Dhaliwal, UNDP
 - Micah Grzywnowicz, RFSL

10:30 – 10:45 Health Break

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

10:45 – 12:15 Break-Out Sessions: Cross-Sectoral Approaches to Advancing LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

- **Break-out A: The Role of the Private Sector in Supporting Inclusive Development and LGBTI Advocacy**

- *For this session, the organizers will convene leaders in the private sector and civil society, including multinationals with a global presence, to discuss why it is important to engage the private sector and how it can work with governments and civil society to advance LGBTI human rights and inclusive development.*
- Venue: Junior D, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
- Speakers:
 - Moderators: Phil Crehan, National LGBTI Chamber of Commerce; Drew Keller, Open For Business
 - Ashley Brundage, PNC
 - John Galligan, Microsoft
 - Ruth Hunt, Stonewall
 - Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, EQUAL GROUND
 - Juan Enrique Pi Arriagada, Pride Connection
- **Break-out B: Multi-Sector Responses to Hate Crime and Violence Targeting LGBTI Persons**
 - *Governments, civil society, and multilateral organizations are deploying innovative tactics to encourage reporting and collect data on violence targeting LGBTI persons. This session aims to highlight these efforts, assess their strengths and weakness, and identify best practices.*
 - Venue: Junior A, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
 - Speakers:
 - Moderator: Mark Bromley, Council for Global Equality
 - Njeri Gateru, National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Kenya
 - Viktor Kandrak, Hate Crime Officer, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
 - Robert Moosy, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, United States
 - Cianán Russell, Transgender Europe
- **Break-out C: The Role of Data in Supporting LGBTI-Inclusive Development and LGBTI Advocacy**
 - *Efforts to effectively resource and support LGBTI human rights and inclusive development are constrained by limited data on these communities' lived realities and access to funding. This panel seeks to highlight some of these challenges, as well as promising advances to bridging these gaps.*
 - Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
 - Speakers:
 - Moderator: Andre du Plessis, ILGA World
 - Andrea Ayala, ESMULES
 - Clif Cortez, World Bank
 - Matthew Hart, Global Philanthropy Project
 - Boyan Konstantinov, UNDP

- **Break-out D: Synergies between the HIV/AIDS, LGBTI and Women's Movements**
 - *Building on the success of the HIV/AIDS response, the AIDS movement must continue to adapt to the new challenges and to strengthen synergies across the HIV/AIDS, LGBTI and women's movements on the common issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The session will bring together people from across sectors to discuss the lessons learned and how they can be applied towards building a common advocacy agenda for rights and health.*
 - Venue: Junior B, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
 - Speakers:
 - Moderator: Richard Burzynski, UNAIDS
 - Sunita Kujur, CREA
 - Jean Eric Nkurikiye, African Men for Sexual Health and Rights
 - Dédé Oetomo, GAYa NUSANTARA Foundation
 - Birgitta Weibahr, Senior Policy Specialist, SIDA

- **Break-out E: Faith, Inclusive Development, and LGBTI Advocacy**
 - *Faith can be a source of strength for individuals and communities facing difficulties on the grounds of their sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, or sex characteristics. At the same time, freedom of religion can also be used to curtail the rights of LGBTI people. This working session will explore linking the worlds of freedom of religion and equal rights of LGBTI persons.*
 - Venue: Burrard, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
 - Speakers:
 - Moderator: Doug Kerr, Dignity Network
 - Aud Marit Wiig, Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Norway
 - Congressman Alberto de Belaunde, Peru
 - Annise Parker, LGBTQ Victory Institute
 - Pang Khee Teik, Seksualiti Merdeka
 - Maurice Tomlinson, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

- **Break-out F: LGBTI Youth, Inclusive Education and Health**
 - *This session will highlight results from consultation conducted amongst LGBTI youth worldwide, to explore their experiences and views on how to make the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda more inclusive in relation to health, education and gender equality.*
 - Venue: Junior C, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
 - Speakers:
 - Moderator: Chris Castle, Chief of the Section of Health and Education, UNESCO
 - Darian Baskatawang, Independent First Nations
 - Camilo Garcia, UNESCO intern

- Omar Didi, MAG Jeunes LGBT
- Maryem Gamar, African Queer Youth Initiative
- Yuan Wei, Trans Center
- Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Netherlands

12:15 – 13:15 Closing Ceremony

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

Includes:

- National Statements and Remarks
 - Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Director General of the World Health Organization (video address)
 - Marc Bichler, Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights, Luxembourg
 - Mark Kamperhoff, Head of EU division, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany
 - His Excellency Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
 - Georges Nakseu Nguetang, Director of Political Affairs and Democratic Governance, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
 - Jessica Hedin, Deputy Head of Mission, Sweden
- Signing Ceremony for new Coalition member
- Concluding remarks from Randy Boissonnault, M.P. and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada on LGBTQ2 Issues
- Official Closing, Former Chief of Musqueam First Nations, Gail Sparrow

13:15 – 14:45 Lunch and Official End of the Conference

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

CONFERENCE SIDE PROGRAM

Sunday, August 5

8:30-16:45 Civil Society Pre-Conference

Venue: Room 1300-1500, Segal Building, Simon Fraser University

This pre-conference provides civil society with an opportunity to share experiences and strategies towards promoting LGBTI human rights and inclusive development in advance of the ERC Conference. The ERC Civil Society Core Group is responsible for the participation and content of this event.

9:00 – 12:00 Multilateral/International Organization Pre-Conference

Venue: Strategy Room, Segal Building, Simon Fraser University

This pre-conference provides multilateral/international organizations with an opportunity to share experiences and strategies towards promoting LGBTI human rights and inclusive development in advance of the ERC Conference.

Monday, August 6

8:00 – 9:00 Side Event: Francophone Networking Breakfast – By invitation

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

This side event will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss coordination to advance LGBTI human rights in francophone contexts, including the development of an international francophone LGBTI network.

9:00 – 10:30 Civil Society Pre-Conference continues

Venue: Pavilion A/B, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

12:15 – 13:45 Working Lunch on Opportunities to Advance LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development within the Commonwealth – By invitation

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

Invited parliamentarians, government officials, and CSOs from Commonwealth countries will meet to discuss strategies for advancing LGBTI human rights and inclusive development within the Commonwealth.

18:00 – 19:30 Side Event: World Bank Presentation on LGBTI Data Generation

Venue: Junior Ballroom C, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

This side event will feature a presentation regarding recent World Bank and LGBTI data generation results and plans in Thailand, Brazil and the Western Bal

18:00 – 20:00 Dignity Network Side Event – By invitation

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

Conversation between invited Canadian and international civil society leaders regarding Canada's role in advancing LGBTI human rights and inclusive development.

Tuesday, August 7

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast organized by the Global Philanthropy Project – By invitation

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

The Global Philanthropy Project will facilitate conversation focused on donors' role in advancing LGBTI human rights and inclusive development and offer an opportunity for networking among invited public and private LGBTI donors.

14:45 – 15:30 Officials-level ERC States Coordinating Committee meeting

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

This session will convene the national delegations of ERC member states.

15:30 – 16:15 ERC Coordinating Committee meeting

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

This session will convene the national delegations of ERC member states, observer states, UN agencies, and invited CSO delegates. This officials-level meeting serves as an opportunity to identify next steps for the Equal Rights Coalition.

15:30 – 16:30 Post-conference Meeting of Legislators and Civil Society – By invitation

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

Chaired by the Prime Minister of Canada's Special Advisor on LGBTQ2 Issues, Randy Boissonnault, MP, this meeting presents an opportunity for the Special Advisor and invited legislators from around the world to exchange views with invited civil society organizations regarding the development an ongoing network of LGBTI-supportive parliamentarians.

17:00 – 19:00 Public Event: Leaving No One Behind – Canada's Role in Advancing LGBTQ2 Human Rights Globally

Venue: Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University

This panel will provide Vancouverites and other interested stakeholders with an opportunity to join the conversation about Canada's role in advancing LGBTQ2 human rights globally. This panel features LGBTI activists from around the world, representatives of international agencies and governments to highlight the current global landscape for advancing LGBTQ2 human rights, and the role that Canada can play in support and solidarity of these rights.

Wednesday, August 8

9:00-18:00 Donor Coordination Side Event

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

This day-long side event will provide invited stakeholders with an opportunity to engage in an in-depth conversation about the most important gaps in resourcing LGBTI human rights work and the most effective strategies for furthering this work.

Appendix D: Conference Participation

The ERC Global Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development saw the participation of approximately 275 delegates from over 85 countries. These delegates represented the ERC's member states, observing states, parliamentarians, international organizations, civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, and private sector representatives. For the sake of brevity, only heads of delegations have been listed.

ERC Member States

Albania (H.E. Ermal Muça, Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Canada)

Argentina (H.E. Eugenio Curia, Ambassador of Argentina to Canada)

Australia (H.E. Natasha Smith, High Commissioner of Australia to Canada)

Austria (H.E. Stefan Pehringer, Ambassador of Austria to Canada)

Belgium (H.E. Raoul Delcorde, Ambassador of Belgium to Canada)

Canada (Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada)

Cabo Verde (Rosana Almeida, President, Cabo-Verdian Institute for Gender Equality and Equity)

Chile (H.E. Roberto Ampuero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chile)

Costa Rica (Luis Eduardo Salazar Muñoz, LGBTI Commissioner)

Cyprus (H.E. Vasilios Philippou, High Commissioner of Cyprus to Canada)

Czech Republic (Martina Stepankova, Head of Human Rights)

Denmark (Maja Sverdrup, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Danish Embassy to Canada)

Estonia (Liisa-Ly Pakosta, Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner of Estonia)

Finland (Heikki Hietala, Counsellor, Political Affairs, Embassy of Finland, Washington D.C.)

France (François Croquette, Ambassador for Human Rights)

Germany (Mark Kamperhoff, Head of EU division, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth)

Italy (Iacchini Massimiliano, Consul General of Italy)

Lithuania (Julijus Rakitskis, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to Canada)

Luxembourg (Marc Bichler, Ambassador-at-large for Human Rights)

Malta (Dr. Helena Dalli, Minister for European Affairs and Equality)

Mexico (Julia Marcela Suárez Cabrera, Director of Legislative Analysis and International Affairs, National Council to Prevent Discrimination)

Netherlands (Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister of Education, Culture and Science)

New Zealand (Craig Hawke, Permanent Representative of New Zealand Mission to the United Nations in New York)

Norway (Aud Marit Wiig, Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Protection of Minorities)

Portugal (Rosa Monteiro, Secretary of State for Citizenship and Gender Equality)

Slovenia (H.E. Dr. Marjan Cencen, Slovenian Ambassador to Canada)

Spain (Ignacio Sola Barleycorn, Director-General for Equality of Treatment and Diversity, Ministry of the Presidency)

Sweden (Jessica Hedin, Deputy Head of Mission, Swedish Embassy to Canada)

Switzerland (Pascal Borno, Consul General)

Ukraine (H.E. Andriy Shevchenko, Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada)

United Kingdom (Elaine Chard, Policy Advisor, Gender Equality Unit, Foreign & Commonwealth Office)

United States of America (Scott Busby, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State)

Uruguay (Trilce Gervaz, Charge d'affaires, Embassy of Uruguay to Canada)

Regrets: Ecuador, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia

Observer States

Brazil (Clarissa Souza Della Nina, Counsellor, Brazilian Embassy to Canada)

Japan (Masayo Tada, Deputy Consul, Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver)

Seychelles (Dr. Naomi Joan Faray Ferguson, Public Health Specialist, Ministry of Health)

Thailand (Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

International Organizations

Commonwealth Secretariat (Justin Pettit, Human Rights Adviser)

EU (Diodora Bucur, Press Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Canada)

OAS (Luis Almagro, Secretary-General of the OAS)

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (Georges Nakseu Nguiefang, Director of the Directorate for Political Affairs and Democratic Governance)

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Flávia Piovesan, Inter-American Commissioner on Human Rights)

Inter-American Development Bank (Andrew Morrison, Chief, Gender and Diversity Division)

OECD (Stéphane Carcillo, Head of Jobs and Income Division)

UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures (Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity)

UNAIDS (Richard Burzynski, Senior Advisor, Community Support, Social Justice and Inclusion)

UNDP (Mandeep Dhaliwal, Director, HIV, Health and Development Group)

UNESCO (Christopher Castle, Chief of Section for Health and Education)

UNFPA (Tim Sladden, Adviser)

UNHCR (Jean-Nicolas Beuze, Representative)

World Bank (Maninder Gill, Director for Social Development)

Appendix E: High-Level Remarks and National Statements

Canada: Speech by Randy Boissonnault, MP, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 Issues

Good afternoon,

What an exceptional conference!

Distinguished guests, friends and colleagues: Thank you so much! The progress we have made to date in gathering knowledge, developing networks and establishing standards has been possible thanks to your experience, your vision, and your efforts.

I would like to thank especially Chile, our co-chair for the Equal Rights Coalition. We have had the pleasure of getting to know their dedicated team at all levels, from the minister to ambassadors to diplomatic officials.

This conference, taking place as it has following Vancouver Pride, has provided an opportunity to see the celebration through the lens of those with us here who are unable to march in such events in their countries because such events cannot take place.

When Pride started forty years ago in Vancouver, being seen could mean losing your job or your family. We have come far, in a country where the Prime Minister marches at pride parades as a proud ally.

Participating in the Pride Parade can still be risky for some today in Canada. Every time we march during the celebrations, we show our solidarity with marchers elsewhere who are met with violence.

As we march, we are aware that we still have a long way to go toward the full respect of universal human rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and two-spirit persons worldwide. In every country and community.

Fortunately, this path to equality is more frequently chosen. We go even farther when we work together. Hence, the Equal Rights Coalition (ERC) was founded two years ago in Montevideo. Initially, it was made up of 29 countries. Now it consists of 40 countries, including Cabo Verde, our first African state, and Cyprus, our newest member.

But there is still room for growth. I expect more nations to join us. Moreover, it is vital that international organizations and civil society continue to be essential and equal partners.

In Montevideo, my colleague Parliamentary Secretary Pam Goldsmith-Jones shared a remark that I made to all 184 Government Caucus members. It was the Wednesday after the horrific shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. I told my colleagues that I felt destroyed. Empty. I shared that I had not felt so disheartened since the events of 9/11 in New York City. 49 people like me had been targeted and murdered in a place of safety and sanctuary simply for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and two-spirit. I urged my colleagues to reach out to LGBTI community organizations and spaces, particularly those for queer people of colour. They were doubly and triply vulnerable. I then

said that, we still need safe spaces in 2016. If any of your constituents have never had to pause and think twice before grabbing their loved one's hand in public, then they do not know what it is like to be LGBTI, and they do not know why we need spaces of sanctuary.

We only have to look at what is happening around the world to have hope on the road ahead. In corporate offices, in schools, in courts, in legislatures – our work and our stories are changing the world for the better. When we imagine a more loving world for us, when we assert our dignity against all risks, we move mountains. There is momentum behind ending colonial-era laws against same-sex intimacy. ERC members recently welcomed developments toward ending the practice of forced anal exams at national levels.

Yet, in too many places, LGBTI communities continue to face barriers to full equality and participation within society. You may hold hands briefly, only to face violence around the next corner. You may marry but you may not adopt children. You may be subject to unnecessary surgery upon birth, without your consent. You may seek ways to affirm your gender, only to find out the only options are thousands of miles and thousands of dollars out of reach.

Things will not change overnight. Many communities are not represented here today. It is unlikely that some of these communities will join us soon.

Our hope for a better future is what has brought us together here.

Having a variety of tools for persuasion and asking each sector to play its role are key. For example, as we heard in one discussion session, trade can be a powerful tool for change. Where the law and morals fail, economics can be persuasive.

A growing number of businesses are acknowledging this fact.

Last year in the United States, according to the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, the LGBT community spent \$917 billion. That same survey determined that three in four LGBT adults and their loved ones would prefer to support brands known to be LGBT-friendly.

The value of being inclusive can no longer be ignored. Frankly, at a time when economies of the world are a little on edge, it makes no sense to exclude the economic participation of whole communities.

This is why I am honoured to join the Minister of International Trade Diversification, the Honourable Jim Carr, for Canada's first LGBTQ2 trade mission. We will lead a delegation of LGBTI entrepreneurs to the U.S. National LGBT Chamber of Commerce's international conference, which is in Philadelphia next week.

The rise of the politics of division will ultimately be no match for the full weight of our movement. The international rules-based system. The economics of inclusion. The inherent humanity of each of us, when people look us in the eye.

Canada will continue to fight discrimination and maintain its commitment to focusing on diversity and inclusion in decision making and policies on the national scene. Internationally, we are working to advance LGBTI human rights with multilateral and bilateral partners.

We are proud to do so by collaborating with ERC member countries, international organizations and civil society.

To this end, I am pleased to announce, as a part of our government's commitment to advance LGBTI rights, a path forward to improve Canada's policy parameters on supports for international LGBTI work. In September, in Ottawa, the Government of Canada will convene a working meeting with Canadian civil society that work on LGBTI international development. I will chair that meeting. Officials from Global Affairs Canada will participate, from diplomacy and international development. We will build a path forward together.

I am also reaffirming our commitment to update "Voices at Risk", which gives specific guidance for Canada's overseas missions on supporting human rights defenders.

Furthermore, I am pleased to announce new funding in the amount of one million dollars for the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program. This is a new initiative for LGBTI communities. Canada will launch a call for proposals in the coming months to address LGBTI rights during violent conflict by: protecting LGBTI people during conflict, involving LGBTI people in responses to conflict and stabilization; and stabilizing post-conflict societies while advancing the rights of LGBTI communities. This is another concrete step on Canada's path towards defending and promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and two-spirit rights, at home and abroad.

When the ERC first came together in Montevideo two years ago, we presented this guiding principle:

"Working together towards a world where all persons, born free and equal in dignity and rights, will be able to fulfil their precious birthright."

We have recommitted to that principle here. When next we meet, may we be that much closer to making it reality on a global scale.

With no one left behind.

Thank you.

Chile: Remarks delivered by H.E. Roberto Ampuero, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Excellencies, Representatives, Delegates and Friends,

I would like to thank the Government of Canada for the opportunity to host the ERC Global Conference in the beautiful landscape of Vancouver, British Columbia.

For my country, co-chairing the ERC with Canada has been exciting, especially as it is the first intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder network that we are all building together and reinforcing each other. Today, therefore, we are celebrating the second anniversary of the Coalition. And we are very grateful to participate in this challenge, courageously motivated to achieve equality for all.

We are truly honored to be accompanied by all of you, Excellencies, Representatives, Delegates and friends. We also express our gratitude to all your governments and institutions for being such wonderful partners of the ERC.

All our governments present today, members and observers of ERC, share the common ideal of promoting and protecting the human rights of LGBTI persons worldwide. This is one of the main objectives of our foreign policies. And the Coalition is evidence of this community of views. We are pleased to see that the maturity of this Coalition is reflected in the growing number of States involved since its launch in Montevideo in 2016. During this Conference we will celebrate the signing ceremony of our 40th member! [Cyprus]

We also recognize the vibrant and committed work of international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other important actors in making this initiative a reality. Their support and commitment puts urgency and strength into our common message: we cannot tolerate discrimination and violence against LGBT persons and, as never before, we need to unite political and diplomatic efforts to achieve equality and non-discrimination.

In this sense, we are aware of the differences we have, but we also believe that this Coalition has been created to bring together countries at different levels of development and with different visions of how we should approach the inclusion in our societies, using the recognition of human dignity and equality as a basis.

Only by working together can we succeed in achieving the main objective of equality. For this reason, leaving no one behind, the theme for the sustainable goals agenda for 2030 is also the theme of the Conference. Equality is a universal and common ideal that requires the highest calling that we can make. All our voices together will have an impact on improving equality from our diversity.

My country assumed this role in the Coalition in the hope of contributing to the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons throughout the world. This Conference provides us with a fantastic opportunity to learn from each other, to work on building bridges and synergies, all in a spirit of open, respectful and constructive dialogue.

We are very happy to see the Coalition grow. And we want to continue to build this initiative with you all as strong as making equality for all LGBTI persons a reality.

We wish you all a fruitful Conference!

Thank you

Germany: Remarks delivered by Mark Kamperhof, Head of EU division, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany

Dear Co-Chairs, Excellencies, dear fellow participants and friends,

On behalf of Germany I would like to thank Canada and Chile for organizing this conference in Vancouver. I can hardly imagine a more inspiring place to discuss about diversity than this beautiful city! However, the colorful and tolerant vibe of this place must not deceive us:

As we were reminded also here, around the globe, there are still millions of people who face discrimination and violence because of who they are, how they live and whom they love.

Almost half the world population lives in countries criminalizing people for their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In our ongoing struggle for equal rights, nobody must be left behind!

In 2018 we mark the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Let's work together to make sure that the promise of its first article becomes a reality for all, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity: "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights".

In the past years, we have witnessed encouraging developments. On all continents, there are countries which recently changed their legislation to fight hatred and discrimination.

Let me take this opportunity and provide you with two recent examples from Germany:

In 2017 Germany finally opened marriage to same-sex couples. This was a milestone in the legal equality of homosexual couples.

Furthermore, the Act on the Criminal Rehabilitation of Persons Sentenced for Consensual Homosexual Acts after May 8, 1945 entered into force.

Globally, attitudes are changing. More and more young people appreciate the value of a tolerant and diverse society.

We have come a long way. But the many discussions in these last days – during the sessions as well as during the breaks – underlined that a further intensification and closer coordination of our efforts is needed, both at home in our respective countries, on the global stage in Geneva and New York, and worldwide, wherever the human rights of LGBTIQ remain unprotected.

The main agents of change are civil society activists. With courage and creativity you fight for equal rights, in defiance of widespread harassment and violence. Sometimes you risk your lives. The Equal Rights Coalition is an excellent way to support you. We want to work together with our partners in order to further strengthen civil society, and to send a clear message to activists around the globe: We stand on your side, you are not alone!

Thank you!

Luxembourg: Déclaration de SE M. Marc Bichler, Ambassadeur itinérant pour les droits de l'homme du Luxembourg

Monsieur le Président,
Madame la Présidente,

J'ai l'honneur de transmettre les salutations du Gouvernement luxembourgeois aux participants de cette importante conférence de la Coalition pour les droits égaux sur les droits humains des personnes LGBTI et le développement inclusif. Nos plus sincères remerciements vont à nos hôtes et aux co-présidents pour l'accueil et l'organisation dont nous bénéficions ici à Vancouver.

Le Luxembourg a rejoint la Coalition pour les droits égaux le 26 mars 2018. Nous avons souscrit aux Principes fondateurs de la Coalition avec d'autant plus d'enthousiasme que nous avons pu nous rendre compte de l'important travail que les membres de la Coalition avaient pu faire depuis le lancement de l'initiative par l'Uruguay et les Pays Bas, à Montevideo, en juillet 2016.

C'est dans cet esprit que mon pays condamne toutes les discriminations, tous les actes de violence et discours de haine envers des personnes en raison de leur orientation sexuelle, de leur identité de genre ou de la variation de leurs caractéristiques sexuées. Nous sommes intimement convaincus qu'il s'agit là de violations graves des droits humains et fondamentaux – droits qui doivent être protégés par la communauté internationale et qui sont bien sûr inscrits dans la Constitution de mon pays.

Dans ce contexte, je suis particulièrement fier de pouvoir annoncer l'aboutissement de deux initiatives récentes qui documentent l'appui du Gouvernement aux personnes LGBTI dans la lutte pour le respect de leurs droits et pour lesquelles les ministères de la Justice et de la Famille et de l'Intégration ont fourni un important travail de coordination.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'attirer votre attention sur le Plan d'action national pour la promotion des droits des personnes LGBTI que le Gouvernement vient d'adopter il y a tout juste deux semaines. Les objectifs du plan d'action sont la mise en oeuvre des engagements pris par le Luxembourg au niveau international, de rassembler et de coordonner les actions en cours et à venir. Le plan d'action tient également compte des études récentes et des recommandations de la part des ONG défendant les intérêts des personnes LGBTI. Ainsi le plan d'action reconnaît-il clairement qu'il n'existe pas un groupe homogène de personnes LGBTI et que les personnes lesbiennes, gays, bisexuelles, transgenres et intersexes vivent des réalités souvent très différentes. Il est impératif que nous les respections.

La deuxième initiative luxembourgeoise dont je voudrais faire état aujourd'hui, vise la mise en oeuvre par mon pays de la recommandation du Conseil de l'Europe sur la discrimination à l'encontre des personnes transgenres en Europe de 2015. Elle se place également dans le contexte de l'Examen périodique universel du Luxembourg au Conseil des droits de l'homme, en janvier de cette année, à l'occasion duquel – et en présence de notre Ministre des Affaires étrangères et européennes – les efforts luxembourgeois en faveur des personnes lesbiennes, gays, transgenres et intersexes ont été salués et le Gouvernement a été encouragé à légiférer en la matière.

C'est désormais chose faite. En date du 25 juillet, le Parlement a adopté une loi qui permet à l'avenir aux personnes transgenres et intersexes de changer plus facilement et plus rapidement la mention de leur sexe et de leur prénom à l'état civil. L'ancienne procédure judiciaire lourde a été remplacée

par une procédure purement administrative qui n'exige plus la production d'un certificat médical, voire une intervention chirurgicale ou un traitement hormonal. – La société civile, et notamment l'ONG Intersex & Transgender Luxembourg, ont salué ce qu'ils appellent « une loi progressiste qui apportera un grand soulagement aux personnes concernées ».

Par ces nouvelles mesures innovantes au niveau national, le Gouvernement signale clairement aux personnes LGBTI : Votre combat est aussi le nôtre ! – Cette position vaut bien sûr également pour l'engagement que le Luxembourg met à jour au niveau international.

Le respect des droits humains et le développement humain inclusif et durable constituent deux piliers importants de notre politique étrangère. Le Luxembourg est un adepte fervent du multilatéralisme, et nous nous inquiétons des effets d'érosion et des attaques plus ou moins ouvertes sur les principes de l'universalité, de l'indivisibilité et de l'inaliénabilité des droits humains.

Face à des défis globaux de taille tels l'insécurité, les changements climatiques ou les discriminations de toutes sortes, les réponses collectives de la communauté internationale doivent être plus percutantes que jamais. Elles doivent être renforcées et non pas affaiblies. A cet égard, l'engagement et le travail de la Coalition pour les droits égaux vont dans le bon sens. Le choix de placer notre conférence sous le sigle des droits LGBTI et développement inclusif est éminemment pertinent, car le respect des droits humains et les efforts pour un développement inclusif et durable ont vocation d'aller main dans la main. L'Agenda 2030 et les Objectifs du développement durable adoptés par les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement en 2015, l'affirment sans la moindre ambiguïté. D'ailleurs, comment saurait-il en être autrement ? En effet, comment peut-on espérer, d'un côté, que les effets de nos efforts soient durables si, de l'autre côté, certaines personnes ou certains groupes de personnes sont laissés sur le bord de la route ? C'est précisément pourquoi, à Luxembourg, notre stratégie générale de coopération au développement – à laquelle nous allouons annuellement un pour cent de notre RNB – se réfère systématiquement au cadre juridique des droits de l'homme, et nos efforts de promotion des droits de l'homme font partie intégrante de nos contacts avec nos partenaires dans les pays en développement.

Monsieur le Président,
Madame la Présidente,

Soyez assurés que, dans le contexte de notre candidature pour un siège au Conseil des droits de l'homme pour les années 2022-2024, le Luxembourg continuera d'oeuvrer à la promotion et la protection des droits humains de toutes les personnes et notamment des personnes LGBTI. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

*The Netherlands: Speech by the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science,
Ingrid van Engelshoven*

Check against delivery

Good morning,

As Minister responsible for equal rights, I'm always on duty.

I want to act quickly when people face discrimination or harassment simply because of who they are.

I want to act quickly to prevent people and organisations from chipping away at equal rights.
To challenge those people and get them to change.

The same way you do, in your countries.

I believe timely action is essential.

And I take that literally. That's why every January, the first New Year's reception invitation I accept is the one hosted by COC Netherlands.

COC Netherlands has been fighting for equal rights and social acceptance for the LGBTI community since 1946.

And they know how to host a good new year's party.

I've never been anywhere else where people can so completely be themselves. If it were up to me, I'd invite you all!

By attending the event I'm sending a clear message: LGBTI equality means the world to me.

By being here today, we're all saying that LGBTI equality means the world to us.

The Netherlands is proud to be one of over 30 countries that founded this coalition in Montevideo.

And that location is important. LGBTI rights are universal and not limited by geography.

It's encouraging to see so many different countries from so many different regions represented at this conference.

I want to thank the colleagues in Canada and Chile for their leadership in the Equal Rights Coalition.

And I want to welcome Cabo Verde, the first African member of the coalition.

I'm keen to see what we can learn from you, as we move forward together.

After all, what unites us is that we all want to improve ourselves.

And that includes the Netherlands.

In terms of legal protections, the Netherlands is doing pretty well. But when it comes to social acceptance, we can do a lot better. LGBTI people still face violence, intimidation and other threats to their safety.

In the street, at home, at work and at school.

Equal treatment doesn't come at the push of a button. But we can work hard to promote it each and every day.

That's why I've concluded strategic partnerships with national LGBTI organisations. It's important that we put our principles into practice, in my home country and 'backyard'. An open dialogue between governments and NGO's is valuable in reaching that goal.

You are working to improve the situation in your regions. And the Netherlands is working with countries in various regions and with a range of regional LGBTI-organisations.

So that everyone can be themselves. Every minute. Everywhere. Not just at a New Year's reception.

Dear all,

Back in 2010, during the Vancouver Winter Olympics, taking part was just as important as winning.

Here, in 2018, we can do both. The more countries join us on the path to equality – whether it's today, next week or next year – the more we are working towards our victory.

Thank you.

Portugal: Speech by the Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality, Rosa Monteiro

It is my great pleasure to be here. On the one hand, to express once more the support and commitment of the Government of Portugal with the protection and advancement of the rights of LGBTI people. On the other, to learn from existing policies and practices with all of you. I am sure our diversity will enable us to grow stronger and expand our collaboration in the near future.

I am especially glad to be the bearer of good news from Portugal. Let me give you some important examples.

This year, for the first time in Portugal, a specific Action Plan has been adopted by the Government to combat discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

This Action Plan is part of the new National Strategy for Equality and Non Discrimination, and it contains concrete indications regarding measures to be implemented, targets, budget and monitoring for the next four years. It will enable us to better prevent discrimination and violence in public and private life; to collect more data and knowledge on the experiences and needs of LGBTI people; and to ensure that gender and sexual diversity is paid attention in all sectors of governance, rather than put into a compartment and treated as a minor accessory to equality policies.

In line with this Action Plan, we are currently working to incorporate LGBTI issues in the strategic orientations and actual practices of schools, municipalities, security forces, victim support services and other key actors on the ground.

Another major development has been the approval by our national parliament, last month, of a law proposed by the Government to establish the self-determination of gender identity and expression and the protection of sex characteristics.

After legal achievements in the last years with regard to marriage, child adoption, discrimination in employment or hate crimes, this is the first time a legal framework exists in Portugal to fully protect trans and intersex people, including new rights and procedures in several fields – education, healthcare,

official documents and more. Following the examples of countries like Argentina, Malta and Norway, trans persons in Portugal will be able to change their legal documents without any medical diagnosis. Also, in a critical advancement for the rights of intersex persons, treatments and interventions at any age without the person's consent (except in cases of proven risk for the person's health) will now be forbidden with the new law.

As to the valuable work done by civil society organisations, we have been able to secure and improve cooperation and funding, recognizing their role as key partners for their experience and permanent activities with LGBTI people. This is how a variety of services are maintained, catering to different profiles and needs in this population.

NGOs also play a leading role in the training of professionals and awareness-raising initiatives, bringing in original and effective approaches. Very recently, the work of collaboration between Government, civil society and a municipality in the north of Portugal made it possible to open the first emergency shelter specialised in supporting LGBTI people in the country.

Last but not the least, Portugal hosted the Idahot Forum 2018, a meeting at the European level that happens once a year, on the occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, and gathers representatives from governments as well as local and international organisations to share and discuss developments. A total of 250 participants attended this meeting in May, including – in the case of Portugal – Ministers and Secretaries of State responsible for policies in the field of equality, education and youth.

Let there be no doubts: much work is still to be done and many urgent problems to solve. We must certainly expand our efforts and improve our capabilities to make sure all situations of discrimination and violence are adequately condemned and prevented.

The task is also to 'leave no one behind': LGBTI people are diverse, and measures must be designed and implemented to tackle the intersection of disadvantages and the particularities of – for instance – an LGBTI elderly person; or a Roma lesbian woman; or a trans woman with a disability; among many other cases.

Good practices in other countries provide important lessons and standards. In some others, worrisome trends are emerging or gaining momentum. There is no alternative other than expressing our solidarity and support to people persecuted or threatened by whatever source of power, in any place of the world.

Our duty is not merely to say it, but to do it – reinforcing our commitments and policies to advance the rights of LGBTI people in this world that we share.

Thank you very much.

Spain: National Statement

España se encuentra fuertemente comprometida en la lucha contra la discriminación, el odio y la intolerancia contra las personas LGBTI. Garantizar un modelo de sociedad en el que nadie pueda ser discriminado por su orientación sexual o identidad de género, en el que puedan expresarse libremente

los afectos y celebrarse la diversidad como un importante activo social, constituye un objetivo fundamental para el Gobierno de España.

A nivel nacional, España está desarrollando una ambiciosa agenda con la creación de la Dirección General para la Igualdad de Trato y Diversidad en el Ministerio de Presidencia, Relaciones con las Cortes e Igualdad, la devolución del derecho del acceso a las técnicas de reproducción asistida a mujeres lesbianas o bisexuales, o la declaración del día 28 de junio como Día Nacional del Orgullo LGBTI. Se profundizará en la mejora de los sistemas de recogida de datos sobre discriminación y crímenes de odio. De igual manera se prestará una especial formación de los profesionales sanitarios y las fuerzas policiales, la inserción sociolaboral, en especial de las mujeres transexuales, la propuesta de normas que mejoren las condiciones de vida y garanticen el derecho a la igualdad y la formulación de iniciativas y actividades de sensibilización social información, participación, y cuantas otras sean necesarias para la promoción de la igualdad de trato, la no discriminación y la mejora de las condiciones de vida de las personas LGBTI.

A nivel internacional, la no discriminación por razón de orientación sexual e identidad de género es una de las prioridades de la política exterior española en materia de derechos humanos. Consecuentemente, impulsamos numerosas y muy variadas acciones en defensa de los derechos de las personas LGBTI tanto a nivel bilateral con terceros países como en diferentes foros multilaterales. España participa activamente en el Mecanismo del Examen Periódico Universal del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, suscitando preguntas y articulando recomendaciones dirigidas a aquellos países en los que se detectan violaciones de los derechos humanos de las personas LGBTI. Somos miembros fundadores de la Coalición por la Igualdad de Derechos y en 2017 nos adherimos al LGBTI Core Group de Naciones Unidas. Apoyamos y respaldamos la figura y el mandato del Experto Independiente de Naciones Unidas sobre la protección contra la violencia y la discriminación basada en la orientación sexual y la identidad de género. El año pasado, la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid albergó la Conferencia Mundial de Derechos Humanos de personas LGBTI en el marco de las celebraciones del WorldPride Madrid 2017.

Thailand, Statement by, H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

It is indeed an honor for me to represent Thailand at this important and timely meeting -- to witness and take part in the Coalition's efforts to advance the human rights and inclusion of LGBT persons. For me, it is a personal pleasure to be back in this beautiful country with its warm and friendly people once again. I wish to thank the Canadian and Chilean governments for giving us this opportunity to hear first-hand the voices of the LGBTI communities from around the globe.

As some of you may already know, Thailand is home to one of the first ever transgender politicians. We possess the highest rate of sex reassignment surgeries in the world. And we are now moving towards becoming the first Southeast Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage through legislation.

Thailand's Constitution guarantees equal rights and protection under the law and non-discrimination to everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Our Gender Equality Act, passed several years ago, is a milestone legislation for addressing discrimination beyond gender binary. Our National Human Rights Plan includes a specific section on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Thai society is firmly rooted in a culture of tolerance and acceptance, embracing LGBTI persons and others, both nationals and visitors, from all walks of life, and from every corner of the world.

Yet, we recognize that much more remains to be done. Last year the Thai Government declared human rights a national agenda. We are finalizing our Civil Partnership Bill to ensure the right to marry, the right to property and the right to child adoption, among others, for LGBTI persons. We have also started to implement separate measures for such persons, including providing separate facilities for LGBTI inmates in some of our major penitentiaries.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

This has been a most valuable conference. We have learned a lot over the past two days, including best practices and innovative solutions involving LGBTI issues. But our work must not stop here. We must continue to promote human rights education to raise awareness, especially among children and youth, as well as to engage civil society, local communities and the private sector, in an inclusive and participatory process.

This Conference has inspired us to do more, and to work harder until the noble goals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for all peoples is fully realized. The freedom, dignity and equal rights to which we are all entitled from the day of our birth must be a living reality each and every day of our lives.

I thank you.

World Health Organization – Remarks delivered by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General

Excellencies, friends, colleagues,

Greetings from Geneva. Thank you for inviting me to speak to you today, and I'm really sorry I can't be with you in Vancouver.

I'd especially like to thank Canada and Chile for their leadership in establishing the Equal Rights Coalition. We share your vision for advancing the health and human rights of all LGBTI people.

WHO was founded 70 years ago on the conviction that health is a human right for all people.

That conviction is as strong today as it was then. No one should be deprived the care they need because of their gender identity, sexual orientation or characteristics, or for any other reason.

That is exactly what the Sustainable Development Goals call for – a world in which no one is left behind.

Universal health coverage is the best way to protect everyone's health rights. But we know that many LGBTI people around the world face barriers in accessing health services.

We're working to tear down those barriers.

For example, WHO no longer classifies gender incongruence as a mental health disorder in the International Classification of Diseases. We hope this small change will help to reduce stigma for transgender people and increase access to services.

But there is more we can all do.

We need more and better disaggregated data, so we can see who is being left behind, and why.

We need people-centred services that address the unique needs of LGBTI communities.

We must tackle discrimination in health care.

And we must address the social, legal, economic and cultural barriers to care.

Thank you for your commitment to justice and health. Together, we can build a healthier, safer, fairer world.

I thank you.

United States: Remarks by John J. Sullivan, Deputy Secretary of State

Excellencies, friends, and colleagues: I regret that I'm unable to join you today in beautiful Vancouver for such an important meeting. Although I can't be there in person, I'm honored to be able to address you through this message on behalf of the United States.

Two years ago in Montevideo, our countries committed to advancing human rights and to supporting inclusive development for all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and sex characteristics. We agreed to translate from ambition to action the principle enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that human rights are universal and that LGBTI persons are entitled to the same dignity, rights, and freedoms as everyone else.

In just two years, our Equal Rights Coalition has made significant strides. The Coalition has been on the leading edge of the international community's response to human rights violations and abuses such as those committed in Chechnya and elsewhere around the world. Together, we have encouraged countries to repeal laws criminalizing LGBTI status or conduct. Coalition members around the world are working with civil society partners to maximize our support for brave human rights defenders on the frontlines fighting for progress in the world's most challenging environments. This progress has been possible not only thanks to Canada and Chile's steady leadership as co-chairs, but also due to the energy

and commitment of all coalition members, civil society organizations, and diplomatic partners. We are grateful for your tireless efforts at shaping a shared agenda.

Despite this progress, we understand that much work remains to make good on the promise of our coalition. The United States looks forward to exploring in concrete terms what we can do together to address criminalization of LGBTI status or conduct and the serious levels of violence and discrimination targeting LGBTI persons. We are eager to discuss ways that the coalition can support and recognize governments and civil society activists who are pressing for positive reforms. We encourage discussion on how the coalition can work collectively in global and regional fora and how we can better coordinate donor assistance.

This coalition, like our societies, is strengthened by our diversity. As Deputy Secretary of State, I have sought to strengthen and advance this issue not only overseas but also within the United States government. I've learned that accounting for diversity strengthens our own resolve and enables us to learn about innovative approaches that benefit all. Respectful dialogue yields positive outcomes. We value your active engagement, unique perspectives, and diverse views. Our collective success depends on it.

I'm proud that our delegation from the United States includes senior representatives from the Department of State, Department of Justice, and USAID. We are striving to do better by sharing our own challenges, particularly in addressing bias-motivated violence targeting the LGBTI community and ensuring Development Assistance is truly inclusive.

Addressing the threats and unique human rights challenges of LGBTI persons will require our unflagging vigilance. As our coalition works to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, the United States will remain a steadfast partner. We encourage a frank and honest exchange of views in the coming days and continued collaboration with our coalition partners to ensure that no one is left behind. Thank you.