

Human Rights Council – 36th session
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes – Indonesia
Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development



Thank you Mr President. Action Canada makes this statement on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We welcome the Government's acceptance of recommendations related to the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education, early and forced marriage and reproductive health. We urge the government to take practical and meaningful steps to implement these recommendations with the full involvement of women, adolescents and their advocates, in accordance with human rights standards.

However, we are perplexed that, at the same time, the Government decided not to accept recommendations to repeal discriminatory laws that violate women and adolescents' sexual and reproductive rights including those that restrict access to health services, information and commodities. These two different positions are incompatible in law and practice. Further, the explanation provided by the Government for not accepting particular recommendations is wholly inadequate in that a list of reasons were applied to all noted recommendations regardless of substance.

The Government's own national report states that "reducing maternal mortality and improving access to sexual and reproductive healthcare across the country continues to be high priority on the national agenda". Yet the reality is that access to these services are dependent upon ones' marital status, denying unmarried women, adolescents and people of diverse sexualities and genders access to life saving and life changing healthcare to which they are entitled. During his visit to Indonesia in March of 2017, the Special Rapporteur on Health expressed particular concern over policy or legal barriers related to the realization of sexual and reproductive rights and that this exposed women, adolescents and marginalized communities to violence and discrimination.

We take this opportunity to remind the Government of Indonesia that discrimination on any grounds is prohibited under international human rights law and to strongly encourage the Government to review the laws and policies that serve only to deny individuals' their human rights.

Thank you