

Human Rights Council – 33rd session
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes: THAILAND
Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development



Mr. President, Action Canada makes this statement on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative and Kaleidoscope Human Rights Foundation.

We welcome the Government's acceptance of the recommendation to reinforce harm reduction measures targeting drug users in order to avoid adverse health effects, including increased HIV infections and hepatitis. However, we also urge the government to increase the number and funding of HIV programmes provided to LGBTI persons, including in particular those aimed at MSM under 25, and transgender women.

We are concerned by the rejection of the recommendation to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law which would include all grounds for discrimination. While the introduction of the 2015 Gender Equality Act is a positive step, we note that LGBTI persons suffer many unique and intersecting forms of discrimination, violence and disadvantage in all areas of life. Such discrimination cannot be effectively addressed without legislation that specifically recognises and protects individuals on the grounds of LGBTI status. However, we welcome with great interest the acceptance of the recommendation to increase efforts to ensure the right to the highest attainable standard of health for sex workers by ensuring access to health care and services and comprehensive sexuality education.

Comprehensive sexuality education equips individuals with knowledge and skills to make healthy choices, reinforces gender equality, and is a critical tool to prevent gender-based violence and empowers people to claim their human rights. As such, we encourage the government to:

- undertake measures to increase education and the understanding of the rights of LGBTI persons, including the introduction of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the official school curriculum;
- undertake measures to eliminate bullying and harassment of LGBTI students in Thai schools, including by developing a model anti-bullying policy;
- to review all school textbooks and direct schools to cease using those that contain negative portrayals of LGBTI persons; and
- to undertake measures to combat social stigmatization, stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination against LGBTI persons in all areas of public life, including through providing access to services, and remedies for when rights have been violated.

We also encourage the government to enact legislation to allow individuals to change their gender on all their official documentation, including their birth certificate, upon request.

Thank you