



Equality Triangle Initiative
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Statement on Nigeria's Adoption of the 31st UPR Recommendations

Thank you Mr President, the Federation for Women and Family Planning makes this statement on behalf of the Equality Triangle Initiative.

Nigeria received over 60 recommendations relating to sexual and reproductive rights and health, including on ***violence and discrimination against women and girls, early and forced marriages, harmful cultural practices, HIV and AIDS, SRHR services and general health services - the majority of these recommendations were accepted by Nigeria*** and we commend Nigeria for doing so.

However, as an organization representing the interests of LGBT persons in Nigeria, we are dismayed that the Government continues to note recommendations that seek to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all its citizens regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. This refusal goes against the constitutionally guaranteed human rights of all persons in Nigeria. It also contravenes international human rights treaties and covenants that protect individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, which Nigeria is a party to. These include the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CEDAW, CAT and others.

We are concerned by Nigeria noting all recommendations that address the human rights of LGBT persons. We are particularly concerned by failure of the state to accept recommendations focusing on the rights to freedom of assembly and peaceful association for LGBT persons and the impact this will have on the lives of LGBT persons. Since the passage into law of the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act 2014, LGBT organizations have recorded more than 1000 cases of human rights violation perpetrated by both state and non-state actors. LGBT persons continue to live in fear, heightening their susceptibility to mental health illness.

We urge member states to be guided by local advocates as they continue their diplomatic advocacy with Nigeria in ensuring that unjust and discriminatory laws are repealed and that human rights violations based on SOGIE are eliminated. We further call on the National Human Rights Commission to include within its priorities human rights violations based on SOGIE and work with LGBT civil society in addressing these violations.

Thank You.