

Human Rights Council – 41st Session

Resolution: Sexual orientation and gender identity

12 July 2019

Australian Statement: Explanation of Vote

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. This article is reflected at the very core of this resolution.

Australia condemns violence and discrimination in all cases. The high rates of discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity demonstrate that this Council must continue to prioritise this issue, and that we must continue efforts to understand and address underlying causes of this discrimination and violence.

The debate we have just witnessed within the Council today has only reaffirmed the need for L.10/Rev.1 on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert.

People of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are often marginalised and less visible within their societies. The impact of this reality on the enjoyment of their human rights should not be underestimated. The Independent Expert confirmed this in his latest, and very insightful, report which highlighted the importance of data collection to inform policy and prevent, prosecute and punish human rights violations.

We recognise the exemplary efforts of the main sponsors of this resolution in conducting a transparent and inclusive negotiation process, which is reflected in the procedural nature of L.10/Rev.1. We regret that none of the amendments dealt with today were proposed for open discussion during the negotiation process.

The Council's rejection of the hostile amendments reaffirms the importance of this resolution, and its wide support.

Australia will vote in favour of this resolution, in support for the universality of human rights, and ending violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. We call on all members of the Council to vote YES.

Australia reinstates its co-sponsorship on L.10.

297 Words