

Human Rights Council – 41st Session

Resolution: Sexual orientation and gender identity – tabled amendment L.32

12 July 2019

Australian Statement: Explanation of Vote

We reject amendment L.32 to add a new preambular paragraph to this resolution.

The proposed amendment that L.10/Rev.1 disregards the universality of human rights and this is not correct.

Let us be clear: diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity is a lived reality for a great many individual across the world – it is not merely a concept or theoretical notion. This resolution is therefore important, as it seeks, through the mandate of the independent expert, to shed light on the violence and discrimination experienced by people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities , and to provide avenues for protection against these abuses.

This resolution does not disregard the universality of human rights, as implied by amendment L.32. On the contrary, it reaffirms the universality of human rights by bringing attention to human rights abuses faced by people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities – people who are often marginalised, and experience high rates of violence and discrimination.

Further, amendment L.32 also asserts that private individual conduct falls beyond the scope of the international human rights framework.

We reject this notion.

The private conduct of individuals goes to the very core of human rights – it is why we are here in the Council chamber today.

Australia will vote against this amendment and we urge all members of the Council to do the same.

224 Words