

UPR INTERVENTION FOR PORTUGAL
Thursday March 18th 2010
European region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, ILGA Portugal and
COC Netherlands

Delivered by Björn van Roozendaal

Mr. President,

We commend Portugal to accept the recommendation by the Czech Republic to adopt further measures to provide police, prison and judicial staff with human rights training with specific focus on protection of human rights of women, children, ethnic or national minorities as well as of persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity and strengthen the accountability of such personnel for their proper conduct, particularly when dealing with cases of hate crimes.

In relation to this recommendation we ask the delegation of the Portugal:

- To specifically inform the Human Rights Council about the development of the necessary means;
- To include civil society organisations in the development, execution and evaluation of such measures;

We also commend Portugal to accept the recommendation made by Azerbaijan to continue efforts to raise public awareness of human rights and effectively combat racism, racial discrimination and intolerance and encourage Portugal to include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity such awareness raising activities. In addition we recommend that gender identity will be explicitly included as a ground in antidiscrimination legislation.

We wish to recognize the positive steps that Portugal has taken in the past years to counter discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. In particular we note that first large-scale study on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Portugal commissioned by the Equality Body CIG will be published in May. We commend Portugal that training for judges now includes a component on equality explicitly including sexual orientation. We hope that such training in the future will also explicitly include gender identity.

We encourage Portugal to share best practices in this field with other countries and to consider applying the *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* as a guide to assist in policy development.

Thank you Mr President.