

Item 6

Joint Statement by Federative van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit-COC Nederland and International Lesbian and Gay Association

UPR Italy

28th session of the Human Rights Council

March 2015

*delivered by Alessia Valenza
written by Yuri Guaiana*

Thank you Mr. President,

This statement is made in consultation with a coalition of Italian NGO working for human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (“LGBTI”) persons in Italy, namely Associazione Radicale Certi Diritti, Centro Risorse LGBTI, Famiglie Arcobaleno and Intersexioni.

We welcome the response of the Italian government to accept all the recommendations on the human rights of LGBT persons. However, the recommendations cannot be considered, by any means, under implementation as it appears in the government’s response.

One of the recommendations explicitly mentions marriage equality,¹ but there are only two bills sitting at the Senate and there is no discussion scheduled. As for the recognition of same-sex relationships in Italy in the form of civil partnership,² there is only a bill under discussion in the Justice Commission of the Senate, with no guarantee of its adoption. Moreover, the bill envisages a new institution (civil unions) exclusively dedicated to same-sex couples, creating a sort of juridical segregation instead of strengthening "measures to combat discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation" as recommended during the UPR Session.

Mr. President

As for legislative actions to combat discrimination in all its forms on the basis of sex and sexual orientation,³ there is a highly controversial bill voted by the Low Chamber but criticized by all the Italian NGOs working for human rights, not only of

¹ Recommendations made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

² Recommendations made by the Netherlands and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

³ Recommendation made by Canada

LGBTI persons, on the ground that an exception to the ban is recognized for “organizations that carry out political activities, trade unions, cultural, educational, health or religious organisations or those related to worship”. For this reason the bill has been sitting on the Justice Commission of the Senate for months. If the discussion is ever to be resumed, it will be probably amended and discussed again in the Low Chamber.

Mr. President

We urge the Italian government to work promptly on all the recommendation accepted to implement them entirely, especially as far as marriage equality is concerned and to allocate more resources to fight discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you Mr. President.