
UN Human Rights Council
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General Debate

Thank you, Mr. President.

Two days ago, 35.000 people marched through the streets of Geneva, as part of its Pride Parade, including many of us in this Chamber, under the banner of “Diplomats for Equality”. There, we proudly mixed our national flags with the rainbow ones. This was an opportunity to clearly ask for a life free from violence and discrimination for LGBTI+ people, and for the respect of our differences.

Last June, Israel hosted several similar Pride Parades, including in Jerusalem; the first ever Jewish-Arab Pride Parade, in the mixed city of Lod; and in Tel Aviv - the largest in the Middle East. 250.000 people came from around the globe to celebrate, express themselves and petition to the authorities for changes.

Mr. President,

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is clear when its first article reminds us that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”.

45 years later, the Vienna Declaration called “to develop and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all”, with no distinction. Moreover, it states that

“it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, we “envisage(d) a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination”.

This is exactly the purpose of the mandate of the Independent Expert on SOGI, as we acknowledge the violence and discrimination that LGBT people suffer from. This mandate does not imply the creation of more rights, but only a necessary step towards the protection of this group. We call upon all Member States to renew the mandate and send a strong signal that we are working towards ensuring that “no one is left behind”.

I thank you Mr. President.