High Level Meeting on the Role of Governments in Ending Violence and Discrimination against Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Women.

"This is one of the great, neglected human rights challenges of our time. We must right these wrongs"
United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium
Monday 9 March 2015
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM.

The Beijing Platform for Action states:
“Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments”

In spite of commitments agreed in the Beijing Platform for Action and other internationally agreed obligations, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, LBTI women continue to experience violence, discrimination and marginalization in all regions of the world.

How do Governments implement and fulfill their international obligations by ensuring that the human rights of all women in all their diversity are guaranteed? How can Governments promote and protect the human rights of LBTI women in law, policy and programs? How should Governments do this in cooperation with civil society?

At this event Governments from different regions will share good practices in the area of fighting violence and discrimination against lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women.

On the occasion of the 59th meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the cross-regional LGBT Core Group at the United Nations in New York - comprising Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, France, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, the USA, the European Union, OHCHR, Human Rights Watch (HRW) and International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) - together with the Council of Europe, will organize the event "Ending Violence and Discrimination against LGBTI women, in all regions of the world".

The UN OHCHR, delegates from UN Member States and human rights defenders will participate.

Preliminary Program (at date: 03-03-2015)

06.30 PM
- Welcome by Lopa Banerjee - Chief of the Civil Society Section, UN Women
- Opening by Carlien Scheele - Director Gender & LGBT Equality, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands

06.40 PM
Panel
Good practices of governmental policies and practices from the regions, moderated by Lydia Alpizar Duran – Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID):
- Latin America – Argentina government
- Pacific – Philippines government
- Asia - tba
- Caribbean – Aruba government – Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar
- Europe - The Netherlands government - Minister Jet Bussemaker
- Africa – tba

Reflections from global and regional Human Rights Institutions
- Council of Europe - Director of Human Dignity and Equality, Marja Ruotanen
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) - Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović (tbc)

07:25 PM
Debate

07.45 PM
Reception
- Reception - hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

08.45 PM

Organized by a coalition of UN Member States, Observers, OHCHR, European Union, Council of Europe, HRW, IGLHRC

Please RSVP before 4 March 2015, 1 PM at: NYV-RSVP@minbuza.nl and indicate whether or not you are in possession of a UN Grounds Pass