

## QUICK GUIDE TO ADDRESSING SEXUAL RIGHTS ISSUES DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON NEW ZEALAND

These Guides include:

- A list of issues mentioned in the National Report, the Compilation of official UN Documents and the Summary of Other Stakeholders Submissions, with references to the particular paragraphs in which they can be found.
- The full text of those paragraphs
- In those cases in which the Sexual Rights Initiative has submitted reports, we have included an Annex with our recommendations.

References in the two working languages of the Council (English and French) have been kept in their original language.

**Issues** are highlighted, while **recommendations** are in bold and underlined. References in the National Report are *in Italics*.

All sexual rights issues that do not relate specifically to women are referred to in this Guide. Sexual rights' issues referring specifically to women -as well as other women's issues- are referred to in the Guide on Women's Issues

OP-CRC-SC (Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography) not ratified. A Combined Coalitions Submission by 25 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (Joint Submission 1 - JS1) stated that New Zealand should set a time frame to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography ( ) (Para 6, Summary).

ISSUE	N Report	Compilation	Summary
<b>Child abuse</b>		High prevalence. Lack of resources / non coordinated assistance services (26)	
<b>Gender identity/ Transsexual persons</b>			Advancement: Prostitution Law Reform Act. Need to protect youth from discrimination and educate schools/families (23) Need for qualified health care providers for transgender issues (49)
<b>Sexual orientation/Gay and Lesbians</b>			Advancement: Civil Union Act but adoption not allowed/right to marry not accessible (33)

### Child abuse

The Committee on the Rights of the Child shared the State's concern about the prevalence of child abuse, and regretted that services aimed at preventing abuse and providing assistance with recovery do not have sufficient resources and are insufficiently coordinated (Para 26, Compilation).

### **Gender identity/Transsexual persons**

OUTline NZ and GenderBridge Joint submission, and The New Zealand Human Rights Commission (NZHRC) underlined the progress made by the Government regarding the human rights of the Transgender and Takataapui (GLBTT) community. OUTline NZ and GenderBridge acknowledged that the Prostitution Law Reform Act is a significant step in this regard while stressing that more needs to be done. In particular, discrimination against TT youth within their family as well from their peers leaves many of them isolated leading to depression and suicide. Minimal understanding or awareness of their needs from educational institutions leads to apathy and a lack of incentive to continue with their education or career. This situation is even more prevalent amongst transgender youth (Para 23, Summary).

OUTline NZ and GenderBridge noted that many transgendered people stressed the need to educate health care providers to transgender issues, and that others have travelled overseas to get access to what they feel are more experienced surgeons (Para 49, Summary).

### **Sexual Orientation/Gays and Lesbians**

OUTline NZ and GenderBridge Joint submission, and The New Zealand Human Rights Commission (NZHRC) underlined the progress made by the Government regarding the human rights of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual (GLB) community. OUTline NZ and GenderBridge acknowledged that the Civil Union Act is a significant step in this regard while stressing that more needs to be done. (Para 23, Summary).

( ) OUTline NZ and GenderBridge added that that civil unions have not created equality in the area of parenting. A (heterosexual or homosexual) couple in a de-facto relationship or civil union couple can not adopt a child. Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand (AIANZ) noted that despite a Civil Union Act, same sex partners suffer from a discriminatory law not allowing them to marry ( ) (Para 33, Summary).

### **Suggested questions and recommendations:**

Recommend that New Zealand provides services aimed at preventing child abuse and providing assistance to victims with sufficient resources to do their work and improves the coordination between them, for increasing efficiency.

While commending New Zealand for the progress made in recognition of LGBT rights, recommend that a program for LGBT youth be designed and implemented, including awareness-raising in schools and communities, hotlines and dedicated staff in key schools to provide council and support.

While commending New Zealand on their recognition of transgender people's rights, recommend that it designs and implement a training program for health professionals so they can be better qualified to provide transgender people with the services that will allow them to fully enjoy their right to the highest attainable level of health.

OUTline NZ and GenderBridge

To reform the **Adoption Law** to allow same-sex couples to adopt children (Para 33, Summary)