

Universal Periodic Review – Romania – Adoption of UPR outcome on Romania – June 06, 2013

Mister President,

I make this statement on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative, ECPI-Euro regional Center for Public Initiatives, SECS and the Global Justice Institute.

We welcome the acceptance of recommendations regarding sexual and reproductive rights made by the Romanian Government, and are pleased that it has accepted the Netherlands recommendation regarding the adoption of a national strategy on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Romanian government has had plans in place to adopt such a strategy for the last three years – yet no action to implement it has been undertaken during that time. This is a matter of urgent priority when we consider the high prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections, the extreme difficulties in accessing subsidized contraceptives, the lack of a national program for preventing and combating HIV, and, the difficulties in securing treatment without interruptions for People Living with HIV.

We are also pleased that the government has accepted the recommendation made by Slovenia on comprehensive sexuality education. However, we also note that a similar recommendation was accepted by Romania during the previous UPR cycle. We look forward to monitoring closely the implementation of this recommendation by the government.

In the process of implementing these recommendations, we would urge the government to adopt without further delay the National strategy on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and integrate sexuality education into the national school curricula as a mandatory discipline.

Finally we are also concerned that despite the outcome of the Romanian UPR in the 1st cycle, no activity was carried out to address discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in the framework of the 2007-2013 National Strategy for Implementing Measures on Preventing and Combating Discrimination. We urge the government to address this by adopting and implementing laws and policies that eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity as recommended by several states during the current UPR cycle and based on the declaration of acceptance by the Romanian government.

Thank you