

**Universal Periodic Review – Lithuania – Adoption of UPR outcome on Lithuania –
March 16, 2012**

Madame President,

I make this statement also on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative and the Family Planning and Sexual Health Association in Lithuania.

We welcome the commitment made by the Lithuanian Government to the realization human rights in Lithuania and the Government's acceptance of recommendations regarding sexual and reproductive rights.

In particular, we appreciate the pledge of Lithuanian Government to make a comprehensive range of modern and affordable contraceptives more widely available and to improve knowledge and awareness about family planning methods among women and men

We are pleased to note the acceptance of the recommendations made by Spain and Finland regarding the implementation of sexuality education into schools, however, we observe with regret the fact that no particular activities and actions have been undertaken regarding this issue to date. Sexuality education programs in Lithuania are still not relevant to the needs of adolescents, is not evidence-based or informed by a human rights based approach.

UNESCO, together with UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS Secretariat, developed the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education which recognizes that withholding information about safe and healthy expressions of sexuality, makes children, adolescents and young people potentially vulnerable to coercion, abuse and exploitation, unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV.

Positive communication about sexuality can help young people take informed decisions regarding their health and rights, empowering them to address and negotiate vulnerabilities they face, including being aware of their needs and rights, being respectful of the informed consent and decision-making of others and being able to address their sexuality in a positive manner.

Furthermore, as highlighted by the Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Health and the Right to Education, young people have the right to such information and education

We would therefore urge the government to consider integrating the UNESCO guidance on sexuality education into a national program.

Thank you