

**Oral Statement**  
**International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA)**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**UPR Uzbekistan**  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

*Delivered by: Joyce Hamilton*

Thank you (Madam) Chair,

Uzbekistan is one of the few countries of the former Soviet Union which continues to criminalize consensual sexual relations between men. In accordance with article 26 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, decriminalization is an international obligation under the Covenant. The Human Rights Committee stressed in its 2010 concluding observations on review of Uzbekistan.

We urge the government of Uzbekistan to accept recommendations 50, 51 and 52 and drop the criminal code article 120 which criminalizes consensual same-sex relations between men. This article creates a hostile environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people who are constantly detained, blackmailed, extorted and experience physical, sexual and psychological violence.

We urge the government of Uzbekistan to take measures to address discrimination against LGBT people. We call upon the government of Uzbekistan to release men who are imprisoned under article 120 and repeal the article itself. Law enforcement agencies are responsible for many of the human rights violations, including physical and sexual violence, that LGBT people experience.

We urge the government of Uzbekistan to take measures to investigate violence against LGBT people, punish those responsible for it and prevent further violence by publicly condemning it.

Thank you