



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INC

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To the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon Kevin Rudd MP

Re: Resolution on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Via Email: kevin.rudd@dfat.gov.au

17 June 2011

Dear Minister Rudd,

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO). AFAO is the national federation for the HIV community response. We provide leadership, coordination and support to Australia's policy, advocacy and health promotion response to HIV/AIDS. Internationally AFAO contribute to the development of effective policy and programmatic responses to HIV/AIDS at the global level, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

Today, Friday 17 June, the United Nations Human Rights Council will vote on an historic resolution on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. AFAO strongly urges the Australian Government to endorse this important resolution, and to undertake all measures necessary to ensure that the resolution is adopted.

No individual should be subject to persecution, violence, torture, stigmatisation and abuse on the basis of their sexuality. Australia must act on this issue, in accordance with its stance on other human rights-based international treaties that we are signatories to.

If this resolution is not enacted, LGBTI communities around the world will continue to suffer persecution, stigma and discrimination which also has a direct impact on effective responses to HIV prevention and care and support programs.

Australia's support for this resolution is vital - not only as basic human rights measure - but to demonstrate the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to the global fight against HIV/AIDS and those communities most affected, which include members of the LGBTI community.

Minister Rudd, last week you showed your support for new global targets to help in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, adopted at the United Nations High Level meeting on AIDS in New York. Just as Australia demonstrated its support of LGBTI issues last week, it must do so again.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Lake
Executive Director
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations