



**56th Human Rights Council session**

**20 June 2024, 1500**

**ITEM 3 – Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**

**Statement by Federatie Van Nederlandse Verenigingen Tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland**

*Delivered by: Nari Alibekova*

President,

This statement is delivered in consultation with a group of 15 transgender activists and activists from the Global South and East.

We welcome the Independent Expert's report and the attention it brings to the critical deterioration of human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and civil society around the world.

We, transgender and gender-diverse people, are directly affected by today's growing global crisis of rights and democracy. In Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe, civil society is under attack both under the neo-colonial influence of Russia and dictatorial initiative. Countries are passing laws that deny transgender people the opportunity to express themselves and receive medical care and legal recognition.

The spreading of information manipulation and misinformation, including anti-gender myths today undermines democracy. These laws and rhetoric directly harm our lives and health and are a manifestation of the global attack on democracy.

In light of this, we emphasize that the mandate of the Independent Expert is more important today than ever. We encourage you to strengthen your close cooperation with other Special Rapporteurs, treaty bodies and organizations that protect human rights around the world.

Thank you.