



**59th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the
Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association**

Statement by the Swedish Federation for LGBTI Rights - RFSL

Delivered by: Purity Tukwasibwe

Mr. President,

My name is Purity, and I am a trans woman. This statement was drafted in collaboration with trans and gender diverse activists from the Global South and East.

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's timely report and its intersectional analysis of the obstacles LGBTI and other vulnerable groups face in exercising peaceful assembly during elections.

Globally, anti-LGBTI rhetoric is increasingly used during elections to deflect from real issues and fuel prejudice, with trans women often singled out for hate and scapegoating by politicians.

Authoritarian regimes use anti-LGBTI policies and narratives to restrict civil society and frame gender diverse identities as threats to the State. This repression is compounded by the lack of legal gender recognition, which excludes trans people from voting, running for office, and safely participating in political life.

We are deeply concerned by legal developments such as Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act and similar legislative trends in Nigeria, Ghana, and Bolivia. These measures severely restrict freedom of assembly and set dangerous precedents.

Cuts to development aid and harmful "foreign agents" laws further suppress dissent and impact LGBTI communities, undermining democratic engagement.

Madame Rapporteur,

How can your mandate help states recognize the harm of anti-trans rhetoric and uphold peaceful assembly rights during elections?

I thank you.