

UN Human Rights Council 2007

Joint statement delivered by Norway on behalf of Nordic States Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden:

“During our session in November last year, Norway had the honour to make a statement on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity on behalf of 54 States. In that statement we urged the Human Rights Council to pay due attention to these violations and requested the President of the Council to provide an opportunity for discussing these important human rights issues.

Numerous Special Procedures have documented violations of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, including the use of the death penalty, torture, criminal sanctions, police harassment, violence, rape, beatings, disappearances, denial of freedom of expression, raids and closures of NGOs, and violations of their right to education, health and housing.

The Nordic countries welcome the launching last Monday of the groundbreaking Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. We believe they will make a useful contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights on the ground, and we commend them to the attention of States, treaty bodies and Special Rapporteurs.”