

UN Human Rights Council 2008

Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union (5 March 2008):

“We however continue to overlook discrimination based on sexual orientation. Discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation is in contravention with the Principle of Universality that we are celebrating this year. We use this opportunity to express our continued concern at the many human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity and let me only name a few: sexual assault and torture, criminal sanctions, use of death penalty, violence, be it legal or *de facto* discrimination. Last autumn in New York, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and a number of eminent personalities including the former HCHR Mary Robinson launched the Yogyakarta Principles on the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity. These principles reflect existing international human rights standards and invite States to duly consider and reflect them in national policy and practice.

Therefore, we very much hope that this Panel and the whole year leading to the Human Rights Day on 10 December will recall the “core human rights principles of equality, universality and non-discrimination.” In the words of the High Commissioner, Mme Louise Arbour, “human rights principles, by definition, apply to all of us, simply by virtue of having been born human.” Let that guide us and inspire us in our continued quest for human dignity and equality for all.”