



Arria-formula Meeting on 'Integrating the Human Rights of LGBTI persons into the Council's Mandate for Maintaining International Peace and Security', 20 March 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier,
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Chair

Thank you for organising today's meeting, which we are pleased to co-sponsor. I thank the Independent Expert for his briefing and take the opportunity to reiterate Malta's full support towards his mandate. I also thank Artemis and Maria for sharing their moving personal stories with us.

As a member of the UN LGBTI Core Group, Malta firmly believes that the Security Council must be more responsive to the needs of all individuals affected by conflict, including persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics.

In 2015, for the first time, the Council turned its attention to the brutality of Daesh in Iraq and Syria against LGBTI persons. Since then, global threats against lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender-diverse, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+) persons have increased, and violations and abuses of human rights against persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity have been documented in conflict and crises settings, including Afghanistan,



Myanmar, Yemen, and Ukraine, as also reported by the Human Rights Council.

As we have heard at the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, digital technologies are also being used as a tactic of war to spread homophobic and transphobic messages in conflicts around the globe.

Persons with non-conforming sexual orientation and/or gender identity live in fear of arbitrary detention and persecution. They face systematic discrimination. They must also contend with the imposition of gendered and sexualised norms of conduct, violent persecution, marginalisation, and exclusion.

In conflicts, the situation for them is even more precarious, due to the lack of access to transition medication and therapies, specialist protection, health care, and other life-saving services.

All forms of sexual and gender-based violence must be more systematically monitored, investigated, and prosecuted.

The ten Security Council resolutions and sixteen Presidential Statements on Women, Peace and Security make clear that gender equality is inextricably linked with peace and security. They emphasise the importance of protecting all those who break gender norms and stereotypes, whether as peacebuilders, human rights defenders, or because of their participation in public life as women, girls, or LGBTIQ+ persons. I take this opportunity to



commend the U.S. for the commitments it just announced and assure them of Malta's support.

Malta calls for survivor-centred and human rights-based approaches to conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence in all humanitarian assistance and recovery effort. This should include comprehensive specialised services, access to justice, livelihood support, evacuation, and emergency response services.

We support the need for more intersectional policy approaches that ensure better protection of LGBTIQ+ rights in conflict situations and across the Council's actions on women, youth, and children in armed conflict. We need a more effective accountability framework for responding to gender persecution based on sexual orientation and gender identities.

Chair

It has taken the Council eight years to put the situation of LGBTI persons under the spotlight. We hope that today's meeting will bring us closer together as a Council to condemn all human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ persons and hold perpetrators accountable, and to further commit to protect their fundamental freedoms.

I thank you.