



## Third Committee, Interactive Dialogue with Victor Madrigal Borloz, Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, 26 October 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Adam Kuymizakis, Deputy Permanent Representative

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Thank you, Chair.

Malta aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and [COUNTRY] on behalf of the UN LGBTI Core Group.

Independent Expert,

I reaffirm Malta's unwavering support to your mandate.

Your report sheds light on the profound and enduring impact that colonialism and decolonisation have had on the perpetuation of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This colonial legacy is at the root of discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, including the criminalisation of consenting same-sex relations, that continue to deny the human rights and dignity of LGBTIQ+ persons globally.

Malta will continue to promote and protect the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, including by advocating for repealing or reforming laws, policies and practices that criminalise consensual same-sex intimacy.



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In this regard, what role do you see for civil society, particularly in religious communities, in deconstructing these colonial patterns of violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons?

In closing, let me express our gratitude for the outstanding work that you have carried out during the tenure of your mandate.

I thank you.