

The Sexual Rights Initiative and the Seventh Round of the Universal Periodic Review

For the 7th round of the UPR, SRI launched a Call for Submissions, prioritizing young activists, women and trans/intersex persons. The Call was circulated through women's, sexual rights and LGBT email lists - and we are very grateful to all of you who helped us with that!

We received 19 applications for reports on 5 of the countries under review and requested submissions directly from organizations in 3 other countries under review. Like on previous occasions, the work was highly rewarding and resulted in the production and submission of reports on the following countries:

- Bolivia, in cooperation with local activist Isis Galán
- Bosnia-Herzegovina, in cooperation with Organization Q.
- Fiji, in cooperation with Lechuga Foundation
- Gambia, in cooperation with local activist Jacques Lundja
- Italy, in cooperation with local activist Enza Roberta Petrillo
- Kazakhstan, in cooperation with LGBT Organization Labrys
- Nicaragua, in cooperation with Programa Feminista Centroamericano La Corriente
- Slovenia, in cooperation with local activist Olga Hudzikova

The reports dealt with a variety of Sexual Rights issues including:

- Abortion
- Child sexual abuse
- Cultural norms and beliefs about gender and sexuality that might lead to human rights violations, including discrimination (in two reports)
- Equal rights in marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Freedom of thought and expression related to sexual rights issues (in two reports)
- HIV/AIDS
- LGBT rights (in two reports)

- Reproductive rights in general (in two reports)
- Rights of activists and organizations working on SR issues (in two reports)
- Sex, gender, sexual preferences and gender identity based discrimination (in five reports)
- Sex work (in two reports)
- Sexual rights of migrant women/minority women (in two reports)
- Sexual violence (in two reports)
- Sexuality education (in three reports)
- Trafficking (in two reports)

Reports were produced and submitted in English (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Fiji, Gambia, Italy, Kazakhstan and Slovenia) and Spanish (Bolivia and Nicaragua).

Once again, we feel truly honoured by the opportunity to work with so many courageous and brilliant activists from around the world and look forwards to continue doing so.

Personally, let me take the opportunity to communicate that this has been the last UPR Round that I coordinate for the Sexual Rights Initiative due to my new work engagement with Mama Cash Fund for Women in Amsterdam. On behalf of Mulabi, Yolanda Orozco will be coordinating this work from now on. And I know she will enjoy it as much as I have done it!

For those interested in reading the reports, please visit www.mulabi.org in the coming days.

Alejandra Sardá

The Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI) is a coalition created in 2006. Its members are: Action Canada for Population and Development, CREA (India); Mulabi, Latin American Space for Sexualities and Rights (Argentina-Costa Rica-Mexico-Colombia), the Polish Federation of Women for Family Planning and others. SRI's mandate is to advance the notion of sexual rights and sexual rights issues broadly in the Human Rights Council.

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For she would willingly have slept, but since night is free pasturage, a limitless field, since night is unmoulded richness, one must tunnel into its darkness. One must hang it with jewels.

Virginia Woolf, A Woman's College from Outside