



Commonwealth Secretary-General

23 September 2014

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your petition about LGBTI human rights in the Commonwealth, received on my behalf by the Acting Head of my office on 15 September.

As you are aware, I have publicly stated on several occasions that equality and non-discrimination are important tenets of the Commonwealth Charter. A number of Commonwealth member states have accepted recommendations under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review regarding non-discrimination and protection from violence for citizens regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

We continue to work with national human rights institutions and parliaments, building their capacities to further protect and promote equality and non-discrimination. Our work with young people across the Commonwealth has sought to strengthen their abilities to take forward national and regional advocacy on issues of equality and non-discrimination. We are also assisting some member states to integrate human rights education into their model school and teacher training curricula with the Commonwealth Charter as a focus area.

Building national capacities in partnership and in support of our member states and national institutions presents one of the best and most effective opportunities for sustainable and durable reform, and the Commonwealth will continue its efforts in this regard.

With best wishes,

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