



30th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4 – Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

Statement by the Allied Rainbow Communities International¹

Delivered by Arvind Narrain

Mr. President,

The Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic unequivocally demonstrates that the rise and consolidation of Daesh as well as other extremist groups like the Jabhat Al-Nusra threatens the very existence of religious and ethnic minorities such as the Yazidis, Kurds, Assyrians, Christians, Druze, Ismailis, Alawites and Shias.

It is clear that Daesh seeks to establish a state cleansed of religious and ethnic minorities. To achieve this objective Daesh has exterminated men from minority communities and subjected women and girls from these communities to sexual slavery and forced marriages.

Daesh also has no place for those who are sexual non-conformists - be it those who are in extramarital relationships or those who happen to be LGBTI. With respect to LGBTI people, Daesh has demonstrated that its aim is not merely persecution but elimination of the entire grouping.

Daesh has deliberately and intentionally declared war on human diversity in all its forms and this calls to mind other mass crimes in the past including the Nazi Holocaust which targeted Jews, Romas, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and homosexuals. History is repeating itself.

Daesh's genocidal project is a powerful reminder of the very reason as to why on 10 December, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted unanimously.

We urge the international community to sanction all parties involved in this exacerbated conflict, halt the flow of arms and adequately protect all civilians, including all religious, ethnic and sexual minorities.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ This statement was prepared in close consultation with Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV). MPV is a faith-based human rights organisation, which promotes theologically-sound frameworks for Islamic liberalism. They can be found at <http://www.mpvusa.org/>