



MUSLIMS FOR
PROGRESSIVE VALUES

Statement by Muslims for Progressive Values at the United Nations Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting on ISIL's Targeting of LGBTI Individuals August 24, 2015

I would like to thank all the organizers and partners who came together to realize this event, and emphasize the bravery of Mr. Nahas and Adnan for telling their jarring, heartbreaking, and humbling stories. It is crucial to address all the marginalized and vulnerable demographics inordinately affected by violent extremism, including and with emphasis on LGBTI populations, women and girls, IDPs and refugees, ethnic and religious minorities, and youth, under the auspices of the Security Council.

My name is Omair Paul. I represent MPV, and was honored to participate in the Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security this past weekend in Amman, Jordan. As a member of the drafting committee of the Amman Declaration, a theme the committee ensured to drive forward was the truth that we cannot have peace without development and we cannot have development without peace. In my personal capacity I would go further to say that you cannot have either of those necessities without ensuring the full protection of human rights for all people, and upholding the value of non-discrimination within public and policy spaces.

To this end, I implore the governments in this room today to consider these discourses and values holistically and interdependently, and to engage all relevant civil society organizations and actors - including LGBTI and human rights organizations, youth, and socially inclusive faith based organizations and faith leaders - to formulate strategic international frameworks that seriously consider the demographics targeted and affected by violent extremism and discrimination, and those that additionally employ counter speech initiatives, sensitization paradigms, and peace education for countering violent extremism within the Security Council.

I would like to echo the sentiment of horror and anxiety that we felt after hearing Mr. Nahas' and Adnan's testimonies, and what the Argentinian delegation alluded to: that is at times it may seem that behind these ivory walls we may forget the lives of the people we claim to be in the representation of, and what we feel when we are reminded of those lives. I implore us all, governments and civil society alike, not to forget the lived realities of those people and our privilege. Thank you.