

Gabriele Piazzoni's Intervention Representing Pride 7 at the G7 Gender Equality Ministers and Civil Society Dialogue – Matera, October 6, 2024

Hello everyone

I am Gabriele Piazzoni, the Secretary-General of Arcigay, and it is my honor to address you today on behalf of P7, the emergent engagement group working around the G7 dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the G7 delegations and the Italian presidency for affording us this invaluable opportunity to share our perspectives.

We are especially privileged to present a concise overview of our requests contained in our communiqué at this significant gathering. In light of the prevailing skepticism towards political institutions within our societies, we remain steadfast in our belief that the challenges faced by the LGBTQIA+ community worldwide can be positively influenced by the choices and policies enacted by the governments represented in this room.

I would also like to express our appreciation to W7 for consistently incorporating our requests into their communiqués and for providing us a platform today. The alliance between the women's movement and the LGBTQIA+ movement has historically been a cornerstone of societal liberation. Both communities, while experiencing their unique forms of oppression, share a common root in discrimination. This oppression manifests in various ways, including unequal access to opportunities in employment, healthcare, family rights, and in the most tragic cases, outright violence.

We recognize that this form of oppression operates on three distinct levels: within families, within society, and within governmental structures. At the state level, discrimination may be overt, through explicit laws targeting LGBTQIA+ individuals, or more insidiously, through anti-gender rhetoric like it has happened in many east European countries. It is an undeniable truth that societies which manage to ensure full protections and equal opportunities for all their members are also those that flourish and prosper.

Therefore, we call upon governments to take decisive action to dismantle all forms of discrimination and to guarantee full protection and equality for LGBTQIA+ individuals. It is imperative that we work collectively to ensure that LGBTQIA+ people can engage in all dimensions of society—politically, economically, in healthcare, and within the workforce—safely and meaningfully.

Alongside civil society, we urge G7 governments to champion a culture and language that staunchly combat the escalating attacks on women in all their diversity, as well as on individuals of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations, including

non-binary, gender non-conforming, and transgender individuals who often suffer the most severe and vicious forms of violence and discrimination.

Given the dire challenges faced by our community members in various parts of the globe, we also request the G7 to affirm and expand refugee protection for those fleeing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, or sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

Furthermore, we request that G7 governments remove any barriers hindering the full recognition of same-sex families and the rights of their children.

In closing, I wish to emphasize the importance of a holistic approach to civil rights. We firmly believe that LGBTQIA+ rights are intrinsically human rights. Moreover, we assert that LGBTQIA+ communities worldwide must take a resolute stance in support of human rights violations, even when they do not pertain specifically to our own communities. We contend that to achieve a peaceful and prosperous global society, all governments must diligently work to uphold human rights in a fully intersectional manner.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to these vital issues.