

Universal Periodic Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina

34th Session

November 2019



Sarajevo Open Centre

Čekaluša 16, 71 000, Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.soc.ba

Sarajevo Open Centre, founded in 2007 (SOC) advocates the full respect of human rights and social inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and intersex (LGBTI) people and women.

Sarajevo Open Centre is an independent feminist civil society organization that strives to empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and intersex (LGBTI) people and women through community empowerment and activist movement building. SOC also promotes the human rights of LGBTI people and women publicly and advocates on national, European and international level for improved legislation and policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By working on European integration issues, SOC is improving human rights in general and encouraging further the development of civil society.

and



Sexual Rights Initiative

25 Rue de Monthoux, Geneva

Switzerland, 1201

Email: info@srigeneva.com

www.sexualrightsinitiative.com

Formed in 2006, the Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI) is a coalition of organisations including Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights (Canada), Akahata (Argentina), CREA (India), Coalition of African Lesbians (South Africa), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (Egypt) and the Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland), with an office in Geneva. The SRI partners advocate together for the advancement of human rights related to sexuality, gender and reproduction at UN Human Rights Council

Key Words: Violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics; sexual and reproductive rights; rights to freedom of assembly, privacy.

Executive Summary

1. In its last UPR, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) received and accepted seven recommendations relating to the theme of discrimination and violence on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Despite this, there has been very little progress made in addressing the legal gaps and implementation of laws and policies addressing SOGIE.
2. Hate speech, discrimination and violence against the LGBTI persons are still a widespread phenomenon in BiH, and the state does not provide services tailored to the needs of the LGBTI persons. The assessment of the needs and problems of the LGBTI community conducted in 2017¹ found that LGBTI persons experienced high levels of homophobia, stigma and discrimination which had serious negative impact on their health and wellbeing. The report pointed to the predominantly heteronormative and patriarchal social context coupled with inadequate institutional mechanisms for protecting LGBTI rights and freedom in BiH as the root causes of violence and discrimination against LGBT persons.
3. LGBTI persons are often prevented from participating in all aspects of public and political life or meeting basic personal, social or cultural needs (such as being open about their relationships, freely expressing their gender identity). The obstructions to the freedom of assembly for LGBTI people, as well as the lack of legal gender and same-sex partnership recognition make the lives and needs of LGBTI persons often incomparable to the life of those whose sexual orientation, gender and/or sexual identity falls neatly within the dominant and cultural matrix of the BiH society.

I EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

4. During the last UPR, BiH received the following recommendations related to the equality and non-discrimination of LGBTI people which it accepted:
5. Implement transparent and inclusive mechanisms of public consultations with civil society organizations on all issues mentioned above (i.e. gender equality, minority rights ... and discrimination against LGBT persons) (Norway). **This recommendation has been partially implemented.**
6. Draft and adopt a countrywide anti-discrimination strategy, in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity ... (Germany). **This recommendation has not been implemented.**
7. Implement measures that ensure equality of rights and non-discrimination, especially on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity (Uruguay). **This recommendation has been partially implemented.**

¹ Numbers of Equality 2: Research on Problems and Needs of LGBTI Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2017 - Analysis of Findings, http://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ENG-Brojevi-ravnopravnost_04.10.2017.-WEB-II.pdf

8. Take measures to effectively combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (France). **This recommendation has been partially implemented.**
9. Develop a communications strategy to raise the awareness of society of the difficulties faced by groups of LGBTI persons and foster an environment of tolerance (Spain). **This recommendation has not been implemented.**

Legislation and policy

10. The prohibition of discrimination of LGBTI persons is regulated by two systemic laws: Law on Gender Equality in BiH and Anti-Discrimination Law. While the Law on Gender Equality - which prohibits discrimination on the basis of “sexual expression and/or orientation” - is declarative in nature in the context of protecting LGBTI persons against discrimination, the Anti-Discrimination Law offers comprehensive protection against discrimination in all aspects of public life, including education, employment, healthcare, provision of services, etc.
11. By adopting the amendments to its Anti-Discrimination Law in 2016, sexual orientation and gender identity have finally been accurately formulated and “sex characteristics” has been added to the list of protected characteristics, thus the Law finally explicitly regulates the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and intersex (LGBTI) persons from discrimination.
12. Until the end of 2015, no measures or public policies ensuring the equality of LGBTI people have been adopted nor implemented by any level of government in BiH. Since then, governments of both entities have adopted annual operational plans for the implementation of the Gender Action Plan in 2016, while the Council of Ministers of BiH adopted a one-year Anti-Discrimination Action Plan in April 2016.
13. All three annual operational plans for the implementation of the Gender Action Plan based on Gender Equality Law included measures, partially implemented throughout 2016, 2017 and 2018, that were designed to enhance the rights of LGBTI persons. They were mostly focused on basic trainings of public officials working in institutional gender mechanisms and relevant ministries in LGBTI human rights, and the improvement of legislation addressing the most prominent and urgent issues regarding the violence and discrimination against LGBTI people. No laws addressed through these policies were ever amended.
14. At the start of 2017, the Agency formed a working group tasked with producing an Action Plan to Enhance the Equality of LGBTI Persons, as foreseen in the Action Plan for Implementing the Proposed Anti-Discrimination Measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Anti-Discrimination Action Plan) produced by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH. In 2017 the working group produced a Draft of the Action Plan for Equality of LGBTI Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the 2018-2020 period, which is pending adoption by the Council of Ministers.
15. The other five measures from the one-year Anti-Discrimination Action Plan adopted in 2016 that were supposed to enhance the human rights of LGBTI persons have still not been implemented nor are there any signs that they might be implemented in the near future.

Implementation

16. Every third LGBTI person in Bosnia and Herzegovina has experienced discrimination. However, it is worth remembering that only a small number of LGBTI persons disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity to a wider circle of people. This means the number of LGBTI persons who have experienced some form of discrimination should be viewed in light of the reality that LGBTI persons generally conceal their identity out of fear from violence and discrimination.
17. Sarajevo Open Centre records up to ten cases of discrimination per year, on average. There is a trend of growing discrimination on the grounds of gender identity, especially in the areas of education, health care, employment, the media and in public administration. This is confirmed by the research that shows that about two-thirds of transgender persons in BiH claim they have experienced some form of discrimination. Gender expression is usually visible, making transgender and gender non-conforming persons more vulnerable than the rest of LGBTI community.
18. There are still no court decisions on cases of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or sex characteristics. The slow pace of executive and other institutions in the fight against SOGIESC-based discrimination have resulted in the low level of trust in the institutions in charge for the protection of human rights (87% of LGBTI persons don't trust the judicial institutions) which significantly affects the low number of cases of discrimination that make it to either the non-judicial bodies such as the Ombudsmen Institution for Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina or to the courts.

II RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

Violence on the grounds of SOGIESC

19. During the last UPR, BiH received the following two recommendations related to the right to life, liberty and security of the hate crime and hate speech acts which it accepted:
20. Publicly and unequivocally condemn any attack, verbal or physical, against LGBT groups and bring those responsible to justice. (Sweden). **This recommendation has not been implemented.**
21. Build upon developments in Sarajevo Canton police regarding training, coordination and awareness-raising in tackling discrimination of LGBT persons and implement these practices throughout the judiciary and the police. (Norway). **This recommendation has been partially implemented.**

Legislation and policy

22. In BiH legal system, hate crimes are differently regulated in the entities (FBiH and RS) and BD. Criminal codes of RS and FBiH penalize hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity, but there is a lack of implementation when it comes to conducting investigations in cases of crimes and other incidents on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.
23. Provisions which sanction incitement to hatred, hate speech and violence are included in the criminal codes of the Federation BiH and Brčko District, but they are limited exclusively to prohibition of

incitement to hatred and violence on national, ethnic and religious grounds. With this legal framework, it is impossible to sanction incitement to hatred and violence against LGBTI persons, which proliferate on internet portals and social networks and frequently lead to discrimination and hate crimes.

Implementation

- 24.** These laws are rarely implemented appropriately, also due to a lack of compulsory human rights-based training of police and judiciary officials who are working in the field of hate crime cases, or criminal cases based on the sexual orientation, gender expression or sex characteristics of the victims of violence. Currently there is no plan, policy or a program that requires mandatory education for law enforcement.
- 25.** In addition, there are no operative special units inside police institutions for investigating SOGIE- based crimes or incidents, which would have regular contact with local LGBTI organizations and work on strengthening protection and building trust. As a result, the responses are inadequate and inconsistent: investigatory and judiciary procedures are sluggish, and perpetrators mostly remain unpunished or are punished with insufficiently harsh measures. Currently, there are no judicial decisions on hate crimes against LGBTI people.
- 26.** Improvement in the implementation is as a direct result of the work of civil society organisations. In 2018, Sarajevo Open Centre established cooperation with Social Welfare Centre of Canton Sarajevo in order to provide better support for the victims of SOGIE-based violence. Also, as a result of training for prosecutors organized by Sarajevo Open Centre, a point of contact - cantonal prosecutor - was appointed for LGBTI hate crime victims.
- 27.** Sarajevo Open Centre, regularly documents around 100 cases of hate speech and incitement to hatred, and 20-30 incidents of criminal offenses and incidents motivated by prejudice on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity annually since 2012 (on average).
- 28.** Only 12.6% of the respondents trust the police, and 14.5% the judiciary. The main reason for distrust is possible homophobia/transphobia of police officers (82.6% respondents) and the judiciary (75.5% respondents). In addition, lack of confidence that they will be offered adequate protection, judgmental and stigmatizing attitudes of the staff working with LGBTI persons and incompetency are reasons for distrusting these institutions for most respondents. Regarding the judiciary, corruption (1.94%) and the length and complexity of procedure (1.29%) were also recognized as problems impairing the trust in this sector.
- 29.** The growing trend of domestic violence against LGBTI persons is concerning. Cases of domestic violence range from threats to blackmailing, unlawful deprivation of liberty and prohibition of movement, violence and bodily injury, and forced medical treatment. The perpetrators are parents or siblings with the support of extended family.
- 30.** Due to low level of trust in the institutions, namely the police and the judiciary, and the fact that the violence usually takes place in the family home and is perpetrated by family members on whom LGBTI persons are less likely to report cases of violence in fear that it will remove the financial provider from the family. LGBTI victims of violence and other bias-motivated crimes rarely report cases to the authorities.

- 31.** Lack of awareness and understanding and the bias within families force LGBTI persons to hide their identities and to continuously live in fear. Inability to freely and honestly express one's identity leads to numerous difficulties for the individual within the family. It results not only in dysfunctional relations and communication within the family, but it also prevents the formation of sound relationships in all segments of life and is often followed by psycho-emotional anxiety.
- 32.** Public statistics of police and social services do not disaggregate data to keep separate records of domestic violence against LGBTI persons. Another aggravating fact is that many LGBTI persons are forced to hide their sexual orientation and gender identity and expression for fear of discrimination and violence. As a result, there is underreporting and underrepresentation of all forms of violence against LGBTI persons generally, and even more so in instances of domestic violence.

III RIGHT TO FAMILY LIFE

Same-sex partnership

Legislation and policy

- 33.** Not a single administrative unit in BiH (family laws of RS, FBiH and BD) recognizes same-sex unions. Therefore, LGBTI persons are unable to claim their constitutionally guaranteed rights to freedom and security, private and family life and home, to starting a family, protection of property, or freedom of movement and residence, which are necessary to ensure the respect and protection for same-sex unions.

Implementation

- 34.** Around 30.7% of same-sex couples who are in long-term and stable intimate relationships live with their partners, whereas around 49% plan to start living together in the forthcoming period. In other words, 80% of LGBTI persons who are in lasting and stable intimate relationships are committed to live together with their partners, and they either live together or plan to do so in the future, although the existing legal and institutional framework neither supports possible formalization of these relations, nor provides legal protection to such partnerships, or the individuals within these partnerships.²
- 35.** The majority of respondents claim that they would enter into a life partnership or same-sex union if it was legally recognized in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 62% of respondents who are in stable intimate relationships would formalize the life partnerships, while 24% said that they are not sure about it. In other words, the majority of respondents want to conclude a life partnership in the near or far future, but non-existence of applicable legislation in this field prevents them from doing so, violating their rights to equality, non-discrimination and depriving them of the legally guaranteed rights accorded to heterosexual couples.³
- 36.** BiH is one of many signatories of the European Convention on Human Rights, and according to the

² Numbers of Equality 2: Research on Problems and Needs of LGBTI Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2017 - Analysis of Findings, page 62 http://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ENG-Brojevi-ravnopravnost_04.10.2017.-WEB-II.pdf

³ Numbers of Equality 2: Research on Problems and Needs of LGBTI Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2017 - Analysis of Findings, page 62 http://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ENG-Brojevi-ravnopravnost_04.10.2017.-WEB-II.pdf

Convention, a document with the legal power of the constitution, every individual has the right to respect of their private and family life.

- 37.** In October 2018, BiH finally recognized the importance of dealing with this issue when the Government of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina accepted the opinion of its Ministry of Internal Affairs concerning the need for legal regulation of same-sex partnerships due to the increased number of requests for recognizing same-sex unions from abroad in the legal system of BiH. The government will form a working group which will be drafting the Law on same-sex partnerships. Sarajevo Open Centre contacted the Ministry of Justice of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to be included in the working group regarding the law, but the formation of the working group is still in process.

IV FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ASSOCIATION AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

Peaceful assembly

Legal framework and policy

- 38.** The right to freedom of assembly is protected by the Constitution of BiH, entity and cantonal constitutions, Statute of Brčko District, and entity and cantonal laws. This right is also additionally safeguarded by international documents which BiH ratified or adopted in its legal system, such as the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. However, there are certain provisions that give room for interpretation by officials responsible for their implementation to unfairly interpret them against LGBTI persons resulting in limiting the freedom of assembly of LGBTI persons.
- 39.** Current legislation in BiH obliges the assembly organizers to seek permission from other relevant authorities in cases when the assembly takes up roads or public spaces in front of institutions/other legal entities. This opens up the possibility of other legal entities, by not giving their permission or by taking it upon themselves to conduct risk assessments, to de facto limit the freedom of assembly for LGBT people.
- 40.** Additional financial burdens are placed on the organizers through the provisions of these laws that give discretionary right to the law enforcement/ministries of interior to demand additional measures from the LGBTI public events/protests organizers, including emergency medical, firefighter and additional security services.
- 41.** In addition to the increased administrative and financial barriers placed on organizers of LGBTI public events and gatherings, there are also fears of discrimination and violence perpetrated by non-state actors against persons participating in LGBTI public events and gatherings. These fears are based on past experiences of such violations and the failure of the BiH to ensure justice and reparations for the victims and have a chilling effect on LGBT persons exercising their right to assembly and expression.

Implementation

- 42.** Five years after the attack on organizers and participants of queer film Merlinka Festival in 2014, no charges have yet been brought against the perpetrators. One of the attackers appeared before the Municipal Court in Sarajevo, at the first hearing in March 2018. The delayed response of the judiciary

prompted Sarajevo Open Centre to lodge an appeal before the Constitutional Court of BiH in November 2016 concerning the violation of the freedom of assembly of LGBTI citizens.⁴

- 43.** In December 2019, The Constitutional Court of BiH adopted the appeal of the Sarajevo Open Centre and others, and made a decision confirming that the public authorities of the Sarajevo Canton have violated the right to freedom of assembly of LGBTI persons by failing to ensure the safety of the participants of the Merlinka Festival 2014.
- 44.** Same decision confirmed that the authorities failed to conduct a thorough investigation and sanction the perpetrators of violence, through which they violated the prohibition of being subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment, enabling the homophobic and transphobic violence to occur at the Festival.
- 45.** According to the decision of the Constitutional Court of BiH, the governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sarajevo Canton have to pay a total amount of 8,000 BAM to the appellants in compensation for the violence, fear and stress the appellants experienced.⁵
- 46.** In 2017 when Sarajevo Open Centre planned on commemorating International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, Ministry of Traffic of Canton Sarajevo failed to respond to the request of SOC and their administrative silence led to the violation of freedom of assembly.
- 47.** The Institution of the Ombudsperson confirmed that the Ministry of Transport violated freedom of assembly. Following a complaint from Sarajevo Open Centre, the Institution issued a recommendation describing concrete steps to be undertaken by the FBiH Parliament, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Interior of Sarajevo Canton.⁶
- 48.** Another case of violation of this right was recorded in March 2018, when SOC asked for permission to hold a public event on the square in front of BBI Centre. The event was supposed to commemorate International Transgender Day of Visibility. The permission was denied even though SOC had already organized an event in front of the BBI Centre without any security concerns. In September 2018, Academy of Fine Arts gave its permission for organizing an exhibition of queer artists, but after a while, the permission was withdrawn without any explanation.⁷
- 49.** The inaction of the relevant institutions in dealing with past violations, which include attacks and threats towards the LGBTI activists and organizers, coupled by the lack of their support to create an enabling environment for LGBTI persons in public spaces has had a chilling effect on the exercise of the rights to assembly and expression of LGBTI people. The result is that the LGBTI activists and the LGBTI community haven't organized the Pride March in Bosnia and Herzegovina so far.

⁴ Pink Report 2018, page 27, <http://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Pink-Report-2018.pdf>

⁵ <http://soc.ba/en/press-release-responsible-institutions-have-violated-the-freedom-of-the-lgbt-community-gathering-without-protecting-the-merlinka-festival/>

⁶ Pink Report 2018, page 29, <http://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Pink-Report-2018.pdf>

⁷ Pink Report 2018, page 16, <http://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Pink-Report-2018.pdf>

V RIGHT TO HEALTH

Assisted reproductive technology

Gender confirmation procedures

Unnecessary medical procedures on intersex persons

Legislation and policy

- 50.** Biomedically assisted fertilization is not available for same-sex couples as only persons in heterosexual marriages or extramarital unions (with notarial certification of their statements confirming the existence of such union in accordance to the entity family laws) can access these procedures.⁸
- 51.** Transgender people in BiH can only change the sex marker in their official documents and the Unique Master Citizen Number after a “complete” medical transition. According to the laws on Registry Books at entity level and in Brčko District and through the internal rules of the ministries of health and ministries of interior of the entities and Brčko District, following the check of the documentation brought from abroad, the ministries of interior retract the old Unique Master Citizen Number, issue a new number and a decision on the basis of which the person can proceed to change the rest of their documents.
- 52.** Bosnia and Herzegovina belongs to a small number of countries in Europe which explicitly protected intersex persons in their anti-discrimination legislation, by prohibiting discrimination on the ground of sex characteristics – a very positive step in the protection, respect and fulfilment of intersex persons rights. However, intersex persons are an extremely invisible and vulnerable group in BiH society, due to the lack of information about intersexuality and the stigma, discrimination and violence faced by intersex persons in public, in educational settings (including in how intersex is referred to in literature, school and university textbooks), and also in health care settings by medical workers. The terms hermaphroditism and pseudohermaphroditism are still used to denote intersex persons despite the fact that these terms are inaccurate, scientifically unfounded, and stigmatizing for intersex persons.

Implementation

- 53.** According to the law, a transgender person is obligated to undergo a full medical transition before being able to change their gender marker in official documents and their unique identification number. But what makes this even harder, is that transgender persons have to go abroad for endocrine therapy and surgical procedures, since these cannot be performed in BiH due to the lack of trained and sensitized medical professionals.

⁸ Analysis of the draft laws on biomedically assisted procreation in FBiH: <http://eu-monitoring.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Analiza-zakona-BMPO.pdf>

- 54.** Research into the needs of LGBTI persons by Sarajevo Open Centre from 2017 showed that around 61% of transgender persons, who participated in the research, plan to undergo gender confirmation procedures, while 22.2% of them have not made that decision yet. The health insurance does not cover the costs of the gender confirmation procedures, and these costs are often too high for many transgender persons who face economic hardship because of stigma and discrimination in education and employment.
- 55.** There are no standardized, human rights based medical guidelines and procedures for the treatment of intersexuality which would be applicable for all medical institutions in BiH. Sarajevo Open Centre research from 2016 found that so-called “sex normalization” surgeries are still performed in some public health institutions. The medical and surgical treatment of newborns were being performed to aesthetically adjust the appearance of the baby and its sex characteristics to male or female sex regardless of whether this jeopardized the baby’s health and violated their rights to bodily autonomy, bodily integrity, health, privacy among other rights, and could amount to torture.

VI RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Peer violence

Comprehensive sexuality education

- 56.** Homophobic and transphobic peer violence in primary and secondary schools is a pervasive problem. Although some cases have been reported to the competent ministries of interior and social welfare centres, there is still an evident lack of a concrete institutional plan to combat peer violence and develop an inclusive and tolerant educational environment which would include the LGBTI perspective as well.⁹
- 57.** Although there are a number of strategic documents, action plans and protocols aimed at ensuring a safe and enabling learning environment for all students/pupils through the prevention of peer violence in schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina, their implementation is weak: the schools and their staff are not fully familiar with the content of these protocols, and there is no systematic data collection nor official statistics.
- 58.** Children belonging to vulnerable/marginalized groups are not specifically mentioned in these documents, which leaves the interpretation up to the discretion of school administration, teachers, and other relevant actors in the process. Given the prevalence of homophobic and patriarchal views and the lack of institutional knowledge on the issues faced by the LGBTI pupils/students and an adequate human rights-based response, this often translates into violence against LGBTI students being ignored or not recognized.
- 59.** There is no comprehensive sexuality education in public school system and LGBTI identities are not adequately or appropriately discussed or included in textbooks. Furthermore, textbooks usually contain stereotypical, stigmatizing representations of LGBTI identities in the broader scope of traditional representation of female and male gender roles.

⁹ <http://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Me%C4%91uvr%C5%A1nja%C4%8Dko-nasilje-na-osnovu-razli%C4%8Ditosti-%E2%80%93-iskustava-i-preporuke.pdf>

RECOMMENDATIONS

60. Improve the existing peaceful assembly legislation to clearly define differences between protests by citizens and commercial public gatherings and clearly stipulate that only bodies in charge of interior affairs need to be notified when planning a public assembly.
61. Amend criminal codes of FBiH and Brčko District to include incitement to hatred based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.
62. Improve the cooperation between the police and the judiciary in prosecuting hate crimes against LGBTI persons through systematic collection of data on gender based violence / hate crimes on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics in both entities and Brčko District.
63. Develop a programme/measures to combat peer violence in primary and secondary schools which will encompass homophobic and transphobic violence, as well as programmes to promote tolerance and create an inclusive educational system in both entities and Brčko District.
64. Ensure all policies and measures tackling gender-based domestic violence by all relevant institutions in both entities and Brčko District, apply an intersectional and participatory approach in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these policies and measures.
65. Pass and implement laws in all three administrative units (Republika Srpska, the Federation of BiH and Brčko District) that would legally recognize same-sex partnerships and define the rights and obligations of cohabitating couples in same-sex unions (with particular focus on social and economic rights).
66. Pass and implement laws in all three administrative units (Republika Srpska, the Federation of BiH and Brčko District) that would simplify and make more accessible the procedure of legal sex change and which would enable the legal change based on life with a different gender identity without setting the condition of having completed the full medical transition.
67. Prohibition of medically unnecessary surgical procedures and medical “sex normalization” treatments in health institutions performed on intersex persons without the full and informed consent of the intersex person.