

mitigate the effect of irrational fear of the LGBTI people, it will constructively impact the human rights discourse on the continent and strengthen the AU theme “Our Collective Responsibility to Protect” and to fulfil the human rights of all as guaranteed in Article 3 of the African Charter.

Honourable, Chairperson, allow me to express the confidence we have in this Commission. The space it opens for NGOs to meaningfully engage in the discourse, during the conception and elaboration of mechanisms, such as resolutions and recommendations for better protection of human rights as guaranteed by the African Charter.

Thank you very much for the time to make this presentation.



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Honourable Commissioners
Honourable State Delegates
Distinguished Guest
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Ladies and Gentlemen

Statement of the Human Rights Institute of South Africa, presented at the 46th Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. 11-25 November 2009.

Relationship of NGOs with the African Commission

Thank you Madam Chair for the opportunity to present this statement.

Human Rights Institute of South Africa commends the ACHPR, for continuing fulfilling its broad mandate of promotion and protection of human rights in the continent, particularly this session it was organised under difficult circumstances. Madam Chair the NGO community is banking on this Commission to use its mechanism fully to ensure inculcation of provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's to the people of this continent irrespective of race, colour, religion, political, birth, fortune, opinion, national, social origin, other status, language, ethnic group and sex without distinction of any kind, according to Article 2 of the African Charter. HURISA as NGO enjoying observer status with the African Commission organised capacity building workshops for community based organisations including NGOs and state organs to strengthen the African system of human rights at local level. This programme is impacted at regional level in collaborates with national NGOs, as well as national institutions and other stakeholders to popularise provisions of the African Charter.

HURISA was encouraged to learn that an application of an NGO working to address the human rights issues faced by LGBTI persons has been deferred to this session. This organisation fills an important gap in highlighting the plight faced by the people on the basis of their perceived or real sexual orientation or gender identity or presentation. Article 25 of the Charter obliges state parties to the African Charter to promote and ensure respect of the rights and freedoms contained in this charter through teaching, education, publication to see to it that these freedoms and corresponding duties are well understood. Opening space to organisations invested with these special expertises will contribute

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