



End of Session Statement on behalf of OIC Group, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmed,
Counsellor
53rd HRC Session
14 July 2023

Mr. President,

The OIC Member States¹ reaffirm their commitment to uphold human rights for everyone.

However, we would like to reiterate our firm rejection of the report by the SR on “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity” during the ongoing Session of the Human Rights Council.

The report is a poor reflection on its author, who lacks even a basic understanding of religions, thereby making a dubious attempt to find a justification for SOGI in religion.

Indeed, “a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.”

The bad news for SR is that all established schools of Islamic Jurisprudence have held 1400 years of unanimous rejection of same sex relationships.

It is hardly a surprise to see the SR’s attempts to bend existing international human rights law to his controversial mandate, but he should consider sparing the religion.

But as they say, desperate times call for desperate measures.

This report is an attempt to find grounds and spaces in religion – even if it entailed redefining it to justify a controversial concept.

This report is another tool deployed to seek legitimacy for a concept which has no basis in international law by citing the personal opinions of a partly few.

The mandate holder, who is evidently not an expert on theology, decided to manufacture his definition of “religion,” calling it an unfixed paradigm and labeling its position on sexual orientation as a “fabricated narrative”.

This is an ambitious but certainly an ill-advised expansion of the mandate all by himself.

It only shows what many already know. It’s not about protection from discrimination. It is a deliberate campaign to normalize and promote a deeply controversial notion. It’s about creating a paradigm where sexual orientation is the primary human anchor to which laws – heavenly or earthly- must submit.

Such reports whose scope and content is self-determined by the mandate holder and which fall way short of intellectual propriety should have no place in the UN system, including at the Human Rights Council.

I thank you

¹ Except Albania