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## **Statement at the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**

**8 July 2020**

**by Mr. Daniel Batliner, Permanent Mission of the Principality of  
Liechtenstein**

Madam President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Independent Expert for the presentation of the report on practices of so-called “conversion therapy”.

The report reminds us, that practices of conversion therapies, carried out by a diverse range of actors, including private and public mental health-care providers, faith-based organizations, traditional healers and State agents, are by their very nature degrading, inhuman and cruel and create a significant risk of torture. In addition, those practices provoke profound psychological and physical damage with lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or gender-diverse persons of all ages, in all regions of the world.

Madam President,

We would like to reiterate our strong objection with regard to the incorrect and harmful notion that sexual and gender diversity are disorders that need to be corrected.

If we want to adequately and effectively tackle practices of conversion therapies, we would first need to combat stigma and prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or gender-diverse people and promote their social inclusion.

We thank the Independent Experts for his efforts in this regard and would like to know how we can best support him in this endeavor.

I thank you.