8 Macintyre Street, Parkview

P.O. Box 3890 Bulawayo

Zimbabwe

Tele: +263 86 4411 2416/7

Email: humphrey.srcdirector@gmail.com

Website: [www.sexualrightscentre.org](http://www.sexualrightscentre.org)

**WRITTEN SUBMISSION FOR THE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE PREPARATION FOR A GENERAL COMMENT ON ARTICLE 6 (RIGHT TO LIFE) OF THE ICCPR**

We, the Sexual Rights Centre, a non-profit grassroots organisation that works to advance the sexual rights of marginalised women, children and men in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe submit to this discussion because our work adopts a human rights based approach premised on the fundamental principles of equality, dignity and respect for all. We believe that every individual has the right to life and is entitled to equal access to information, resources and facilities for socio economic development in order for them to enjoy all their human rights.

As an organisation that advocates for the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons in Zimbabwe, we challenge the criminalisation of same sex sexual activities by the government of Zimbabwe and we see this as a breach of Article 6 of the ICCPR. Such criminalisation has led to brutal killings of LGBT persons, increased targeted hate crimes and poor service delivery and increase of HIV and other health illnesses within such a marginalised community. We demand that states be responsible and take obligation to prevent and investigate killings, discrimination, loss of work, loss of education opportunities and lack of socio economic development opportunities for LGBT communities. The General Comment should affirm the link between the right to life and Article 6 , recognising the obligation under Article 6 to realise the right to health , the right to equality, freedom from non -discrimination, right to education and employment, with special attention to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expressions.

LGBT persons in Zimbabwe face barriers to access to hassle- free and competent health services, leading to increased HIV infections, AIDS related deaths, depression and psycho social illnesses, all leading to a reduced life expectancy.

This general discussion must consider Article 6, where it says no one shall be arbitrarily be deprived of his life, then link the failure of states to take obligation to prevent and investigate killings, discrimination, loss of work, loss of education opportunities and lack of socio economic development opportunities for LGBT communities as a huge contribution to the arbitrarily deprivation of one’s life.

The Sexual Rights Centre believes that the General Comment should reflect the fact that states parties have an obligation to address the root causes of the deprivation of life, including discrimination and stigma suffered by LGBT communities in health care settings.