

Resolution Calling for Immediate Emergency Asylum for LGBTs in Africa

Whereas, homosexuality is a crime in 38 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the death penalty is proposed as an option for punishment in Uganda and several other nations, resulting in a sharp increase of arrests, beatings, torture, and death among LGBT persons and their supporters, as well as jeopardizing HIV/AIDS treatment and care for millions, and

Whereas, [DPOC rejects] the adoption of these new laws, which constitute grave threats to the universal rights to life, freedom of expression, of association and assembly, and freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; reiterates that sexual orientation and gender identity are matters falling within the remit of individual rights to privacy, as guaranteed by international law and national constitutions; and underlines the fact that LGBT equality is an undeniable element of fundamental human rights; and

Whereas, the current LGBT asylum procedures are largely financially and politically prohibitive and out of reach for all but a select few African citizens, be it therefore

Resolved, that the DPOC strongly supports legislation and administrative action that would make it easier for the Federal Government to expand and grant expedited asylum to refugees who are fleeing persecution in another country because of their sexual orientation or identity, or because they oppose anti-LGBT legislation, and be it therefore further

Resolved, that the DPOC calls on the U.S. Government, including President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, to take action to end the persecution, abuse, and murder of LGBTs around the world, including but not limited to making strong public and international statements condemning such persecution and exerting all necessary pressure on governments to take action.