



Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Dear Ms. Pillay,
High Commissioner for Human Rights,

As the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia is past us, and as countries around the world begin celebrating gay and trans pride this month, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your tireless advocacy on behalf of the LGBT and intersex community. LGBT and intersex staff members of the UN system feel great pride (and relief) that within their own family, advocacy is being carried out worldwide on behalf of the human rights of our community, particularly through the Free and Equal campaign launched by your Office.

Sadly, discriminatory staff policies still exist within the UN's family on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, as you mentioned in your internal message to staff this past IDAHOT day. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you as well for advocating for the full equality of LGBT and intersex staff members, and for raising this issue whenever you had the chance.

UN-GLOBE will continue advocating for full equality, not only on the recognition of same-sex unions, but also, as will become increasingly important, on the right to start a family, where a gender neutral approach to paternity and maternity leave would be crucial. This would be part of UN-GLOBE's upcoming work.

We hope we can continue counting on your support, particularly now, as the pension issue will soon be discussed at the Pension Board meeting in July. UN-GLOBE, as you know, argues that the UNJSPF should not base recognition of spouses when granting pension benefits on the country of nationality of the staff member. As the UN system increasingly moves to a jurisdiction approach— where legal unions are recognized based on legal status— it would be increasingly intolerable if this recognition is not extended to pension rights.

Thank you once again for your tireless advocacy for full equality and non-discrimination for us all.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hyung Hak Nam".

Hyung Hak Nam,
President, UN-GLOBE