



62, rue de Vermont, #44, Geneva 1202, Switzerland
Ph.: +41-22-733-47-05 • Fax: +41-22-734-4761
arc@arc-international.net • www.arc-international.net

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Your Excellency,

Urgent re: ECOSOC Committee on NGOs – applications of ILGA & LBL

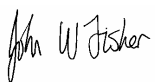

We understand that some members of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs may attempt to summarily reject the applications of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) and the Landsforeningen for Bøsser og Lesbiske (LBL) - without according these organizations the basic opportunity for full discussion and consideration required by due process.

As you are doubtless aware, lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people face systemic human rights abuses in every region of the world. This past year alone, United Nations Special Rapporteurs have documented violations of the human rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people, including arbitrary arrests, deprivation of food and water, beatings, rape and murder. UN High Commissioner of Human Rights Louise Arbour has also highlighted these concerns.

The organizations under consideration bring an invaluable voice and perspective to these important human rights issues, issues that are all too often rendered invisible. Dismissing their applications summarily would set a dangerous precedent, and raise questions about the Committee's commitment to ensuring that the voices of underrepresented and marginalized groups are heard.

We urge you to ensure that ILGA and LBL receive the full and favourable consideration they deserve.

Sincerely,

John Fisher & Kim Vance
Co-Directors
ARC International