



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON LGBT

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile to the Permanent Council,

Vienna, 19th of July, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I have on several occasions taken the floor on the LGBT issue and the position of my country in this matter is well known.

Today I would simply like to say that we share the US concern about the situation for LGBT people in the Russian Federation.

Mr. Chairman, we are fully aware of the sensitivity of the LGBT issue in many countries throughout the OSCE area. Intolerance against LGBT persons is widespread, also in my own country Norway.

And for this very reason it is important that authorities, locally as well as centrally, help fight this intolerance and not reinforce it by taking action against members of this vulnerable group, or by introducing legislation curbing their right of expression and assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.