



87 DeKorte Street, 3rd Floor Heerengracht Building, Johannesburg, 2017, South Africa  
Tel +27 11 339 1476 /68 • [getinfo@iranti.org.za](mailto:getinfo@iranti.org.za) • [www.iranti.org.za](http://www.iranti.org.za)

3 July 2019

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **IRANTI URGES SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION TO SUPPORT THE RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY**

1. On 11 -12 July 2019, the United Nation Human Rights Council at the 41<sup>st</sup> session will be asked to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI).
2. Iranti supported the historic vote in 2016 to pass a resolution that created the first IE SOGI. The IE SOGI is assigned to investigate, report and advise on the realisation of human rights around the world focusing on issues pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity. South Africa showed great commitment in 2011 and 2014 in support of the creation of the IE SOGI by being a lead state and co-sponsor of the SOGI resolution as well as voting in favour of the resolution
3. The IE SOGI has contributed significantly to improving the situation of LGBTI+ people by conducting official visits to Argentina, Georgia, Mozambique and Ukraine, where he engaged with various stakeholders, including government officials, civil society, UN agencies, funds and programs, religious leaders and LGBT people.
4. The IE SOGI has also produced four comprehensive reports documenting discrimination and violence on the basis of SOGI, welcoming progress and identifying best practices from all regions, as well as highlighting serious human rights violations in order to help States comply with their obligations under international human rights law.
5. Iranti strongly supports and advocate for the renewal of the mandate of the IE SOGI as organisation working to advance, strengthen and realise rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI+) persons.



87 DeKorte Street, 3rd Floor Heerengracht Building, Johannesburg, 2017, South Africa  
Tel +27 11 339 1476 /68 • [getinfo@iranti.org.za](mailto:getinfo@iranti.org.za) • [www.iranti.org.za](http://www.iranti.org.za)

6. Iranti, in a letter to the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, requests for South Africa to provide continued leadership by voting in favour of the mandate, by co-sponsoring the resolution and delivering a statement at the Human Rights Council in support of the mandate for renewal for IE SOGI.
7. Iranti believes this commitment from South Africa will ensure that we live in a country that promotes dignity, freedom and equality of all.

### **For media enquiries, please contact:**

- Jabulani Pereira, Director [jabu@iranti.org.za](mailto:jabu@iranti.org.za) 0829575349
- Letlhogonolo Mokgoroane, Communications and Policy Advisor  
[letlhogonolo@iranti.org.za](mailto:letlhogonolo@iranti.org.za)  
076 164 8972