

48th Session of the Human Rights Council

*ITEMS 3 & 5 ID with SR on rights of indigenous peoples
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I am Cavid Nabiyev, working for the Global Interfaith Network and making this statement on behalf of COC Netherlands.

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur and its focus. Indeed, effective participation, consultation, and consent in the recovery phase and related plans are essential for indigenous peoples and communities.

Despite the fact that many of us are people of faith and culture, people believed to belong to the LGBTI+ community are scapegoated in the name of protecting cultural and religious beliefs, especially in times of crisis, including during COVID, forgetting that there is also a long history of existence and acceptance in different cultures including in pre-colonial contexts and in a multitude of indigenous communities.

Stigma, discrimination, restrictive laws and policies compounded by systemic racism and sexism amid the COVID-19 pandemic had and continue to have a greater impact on LGBTQ indigenous women and girls.

Instrumentalization and politicization of women's bodies, particularly in relation to their rights to sexual and reproductive health, in the name of protecting cultural and religious beliefs, are amongst many such issues.

It is important to acknowledge that the structural discrimination that we fight against is deeply embedded in histories of patriarchy, colonization, conquest, and marginalization.

Also, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur, it is important to engage in a sustained dialogue with indigenous peoples and communities.

Interrelatedly, such engagement should also include dialogue with religious leaders, from all spiritual and religious traditions around the world, particularly in terms of sexuality and gender.

I thank you.

