51st session of the UN Human Rights Council
Oral Statement: The situation of LGBTI+ rights in Uganda
Submitted by: Right Livelihood Award Foundation

Mr. President,

We would like to draw your attention to the situation of the LGBTI+ people in Uganda, who are facing an intensification of serious violations of their human rights.

On August 3, 2022, after a series of episodes of harassment by the police, Uganda’s NGO Bureau suspended the activities of one of the main organisations defending LGBTI+ rights: Sexual Minorities Uganda. Using a legal subterfuge, the Ugandan administration now seeks to silence any voice that opposes the persecution of sexual minorities: 7 more organisations are currently at risk of closure. As a consequence, similar groups, health centres and home shelters, are suspending their activities for fear of reprisals. In a country where homosexuality can be sentenced with life imprisonment, those services are sometimes a matter of life or death. The closure of these institutions worsens the situation of the Ugandan LGBTI+ community, whose rights, from health to freedom of association, are being increasingly trampled on.

We call on the Council to keep this situation under scrutiny and urge the government to align with its international Human Right obligations, upholding the fundamental rights of LGBTI+ citizens, including by revoking the closure of Sexual Minorities Uganda; refraining from utilising NGO legislation to further limit the activities of LGBTI+ advocacy groups and by ensuring accountability for any crimes committed against them.

Thank you