



Suggested recommendations to Costa Rica for its review during the 33rd session of the Universal Periodic Review, 6–17 May 2019

Recommendations to the government of Costa Rica

ACCESS TO ABORTION

- Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and ensure access to safe and legal abortion services for women, girls and all people who can become pregnant, and access to quality post-abortion care by trained health care providers in all circumstances;
- Urgently adopt and implement technical guidelines to ensure access to safe and legal abortion for all pregnant individuals, in accordance with international human rights standards, including with regard to states' obligations to respect and protect the rights to life and health.

DISCRIMINATION

- Urgently adapt national legislation to recognize marriages and partnerships between same-sex couples, on the same basis and conferring the same rights, as marriages and partnerships between opposite-sex couples, as set forth in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in advisory opinion OC-24/17;¹
- Allow individuals to change their legal name and gender, including their gender markers on official documents issued by the state, through a quick, accessible, and transparent procedure and in accordance with the individual's own sense of gender identity.

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

- Publicly recognize the important role of all human rights defenders and ensure they are able to carry out their work in a safe and enabling environment and protected against violence and threats, with specific attention to women human rights defenders, LGBTI defenders, Indigenous defenders, and other defenders facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization;
- Ensure thorough, prompt and independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations against human rights defenders, including the killing of environmental and Indigenous human rights defender Sergio Rojas in March 2019 and other attacks against the Bribri and Broran Indigenous peoples, and bring to justice those suspected of criminal responsibility for these crimes;

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

- Continue its efforts to receive and protect persons in need of international protection, including those fleeing the human rights crisis in Nicaragua, and guarantee their effective access to essential services such as health and education without discrimination.

¹ I/A Court H.R. Gender identity, and equality and non-discrimination with regard to same-sex couples. State obligations in relation to change of name, gender identity, and rights deriving from a relationship between same-sex couples (interpretation and scope of Articles 1(1), 3, 7, 11(2), 13, 17, 18 and 24, in relation to Article 1, of the American Convention on Human Rights). Advisory Opinion OC-24/17 of November 24, 2017. Series A No. 24.