



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES APPROVES HISTORIC HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION.

Amnesty International commends the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), which has today approved an important resolution on human rights which incorporates various topics of concern to Amnesty International. It notably includes agreements on the prevention and reduction of statelessness and the protection of stateless people in the Americas, in addition to measures to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishments with a gender perspective.

The historic resolution reaffirms the absolute and irrevocable prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishments but also, for the first time, urges all states to adopt a gender, sexual orientation and gender identity perspective in the fight against torture. Furthermore, it calls on states to “adopt concrete measures in relation to healthcare services in order to combat the underlying discrimination which often features in the torture and other mistreatment of women, and in particular to guarantee the right to access sexual and reproductive health services free from discriminatory stereotypes.”

Amnesty International drew attention to an alarming pattern of torture and other mistreatment in the area of sexual and reproductive health in Latin America and the Caribbean in a [report](#) published in March 2016. Amnesty also flagged the issues related to statelessness in the Dominican Republic in its 2015 report [“Without papers, I am no one” Stateless people in the Dominican Republic](#) and the recently published [“Where are we going to live?” Migration and statelessness in Haiti and the Dominican Republic](#).

Amnesty International also values the fact that the OAS resolution includes important recommendations on human rights, sexual orientation and identity and gender expression, which obliges member states to commit to a “balanced integration of gender within their different legal systems, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.”