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LGBT Rights Resolution Passes United Nations Human Rights Council In Lopsided Vote

The 25 to 14 vote may indicate support is growing for protecting LGBT rights under international human rights law.

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J. Lester Feder

BuzzFeed Staff

An LGBT rights resolution was adopted on Friday by the United Nations Human Rights Council on a vote of 25 to 14, with seven abstentions.

The resolution is rather anemic, simply calling for a report from the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights on combatting human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. But it is one of the few times a U.N. body has adopted a resolution affirming LGBT rights are human rights, and so LGBT advocates see it as an important precedent in empowering officials throughout the U.N. system to work on LGBT rights.

The proposal's opponents — led by Egypt and other members of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation — fought determinedly to defeat the proposal, which they framed as a form of cultural imperialism and an attack on Islam.

"We feel there is an attempt to impose uniculturalism" that "runs counter to religious and cultural practices of some countries," said Saudi Arabia's representative during debate. The language "In my opinion, this [resolution] is a human rights violation."

Pakistan's representative was more explicit: "The wider connotation of the words 'sexual orientation' can be destructive and inimical to our Muslim [faith] ...and to our youth as a whole," he said.... <http://www.buzzfeed.com/lesterfeder/lgbt-rights-resolution-passes-united-nations-human-rights-co#32if3q2>

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