

2021 QUADRENNIAL REPORT TO ECOSOC, UNITED NATIONS

ALMA is a professional association supporting lesbian and same sex attracted women doctors and medical students qualified for registration in Australia.

The association's aims are support for members and advocacy for them in their professional roles and workplaces, provision of role models and mentoring for lesbian and same sex attracted women students, advancing their visibility as health professionals, creating links with other like-minded health professionals and organizations, advocacy in relation to lesbian and same sex attracted women's health issues, and supporting visibility, research, and education.

Significant changes

Constitution Change: 17/8/2019: Keeping current with social terminology, "same-sex attracted" was added to wherever the word "lesbian" occurred.

April 2017 ALMA participated in the international teleconference with Outright Action International to support the United Nations Women Executive at the United Nations to promote Human Rights for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Women.

May 2017 ALMA wrote to Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, advocating for the Government to speak to the appropriate Russian authorities re the persecution of SOGIESC people in Chechnya.

July 2018 ALMA submitted A Shadow Report for Australia: Human Rights Violations of Lesbian, Bisexual Women and Intersex People in Australia to the 70th Session of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for consideration.

March 2019 ALMA attended the World International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) Conference in Wellington New Zealand and participated in multiple discussion groups.

March 2019 ALMA began participating in the Pride Foundation SOGIESC Asylum Seeker and Refugee Advisory Group in Australia. The group focuses on funding, networking with a wide range of Refugee and Asylum Seeker NGOs and Community Groups to develop strategies and advocacy pathways, to improve the situation for SOGIESC people.

The group is covering areas of community support, sponsorship, buddying systems, and advocacy in migration interviewing and procedures.

May 2019 ALMA co-signed a letter to the International Employers Organization (IOE) regarding the ongoing negotiations with International Labour Organization on the Convention on Violence and Harassment in the Workplace with special regard to SOGIESC people. ALMA became a cosignatory along with Out Right International supporting the International Labour Organisation in tackling all forms of violence with specific inclusion of SOGIESC people. It was presented to the Secretary-General of the International Organization of Employers (IOE), Suarez Santos in May 2019.

June 2019 ALMA co-signed with the Human Rights Council of Australia, a statement to urge for reinstatement of the SOGIESC Independent Expert (IE) to the United Nations which was presented at the 41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council in June 2019.

November 2019 ALMA presented at and attended the Queer Migration Conference in Canberra Australia and contributed to and co-signed the Canberra statement, outlining the issues for SOGIESC people in migration and in seeking asylum.

December 2019 ALMA wrote a submission to the Australian Government regarding SOGIESC Human Rights and the current Religious Discrimination Bill.

May 2020 ALMA co-signed #HealthyRecovery letter to G20 Heads of State urging for international cooperation and appropriate health responses to Covid 19 pandemic.

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December 2020 ALMA registered to attend the 65th Commission on the Status of Women

ALMA liaises and co-operates with the Australian Federation of Medical Women, International Lesbian and Gay Association and Outright Action International.

ALMA supports the Millennium Development Goals by its work in promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and its work in education. Each annual ALMA Conference contains sessions which address gender equality and empowerment of women. We also support the goal of Ensuring Environmental Sustainability by providing education at our conferences on the issue of Climate Change and ALMA has formed a Climate and Environmental Issues Subcommittee to specifically advocate for improved management in these areas.

Dr Liz Rickman May 2021

Co-Convener of the International Issues and Human Rights Subcommittee.

