

**NGO statement by Azusa Yamashita on behalf of Rise Together – Women’s Network for East Japan Disaster and Gay Japan News (ILGA member)
50th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
April 29, 2013**

Thank you, Chairperson.

We welcome the positive measures in recent years taken by the Japanese government promoting and protecting the rights of women in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Disaster and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Women in disaster-affected areas including women of vulnerable groups such as single mothers, women with disabilities, migrant women and non-heteronormative and non-gender-conforming people continue to face discrimination and violence.

Japanese government has repeatedly been recommended by UN human rights mechanisms to take legislative measures to eliminate discrimination including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and yet to implement.

We would like to request that the Committee pay its special attention to the significant lack of implementation by the Japanese government on the issue of the rights of women in disaster-affected areas and the issue of human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you.