



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF LAW

INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
PROGRAM

MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

LAUNCH OF CHALLENGE TO BARBADIAN LAWS CRIMINALIZING LGBTQ PEOPLE

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 4, 2018 — Three Barbadians — a trans woman, a lesbian and a gay man — will file a petition against Barbados on June 6 before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) challenging laws criminalizing “buggery” and other intimacy between consenting partners, including same-sex partners, as violating numerous rights guaranteed in the *American Convention on Human Rights*.

One of the petitioners, as well as representatives from groups supporting the challenge, will hold a press conference to discuss the landmark action and their goal of ending the criminalization of consensual sexual activity between persons above the age of consent, in particular the criminalization of consensual sex between same-sex partners.

WHO: Alexa Hoffmann, a 24-year-old trans woman born and raised in Barbados; Yvonne Chisolm, pro-bono litigation counsel; Westmin James, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies; Maurice Tomlinson, Senior Policy Analyst, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

WHAT: Launch of petition against Barbados before the IACHR, challenging laws criminalizing “buggery” and other intimacy between consenting partners

WHEN: Wednesday, June 6, 2018. 10 – 11 a.m. AST

WHERE: Moot courtroom, Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

Alexa Hoffmann, representing the petitioners, as well as representatives from local and international groups supporting the petition will be available for interviews following the press conference. A redacted version of the petition filed with the IACHR will be available at the conclusion of the press conference.

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