



Submission to the Human Rights Council for the 4th Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review

Report submitted: April 2026

**Joint submission by PAREA, Stichting Projekta, and the Citizens' Initiative for
Participation and Good Governance (BINI)**

Lead Submitting Organization:

PAREA

Website: www.pareasuriname.com

Email: info@pareasuriname.com

Address: Costerstraat # 20, Paramaribo, Suriname

Supporting submitting organizations:

Stichting Projekta, Organizatie voor Vrouwen en Ontwikkeling (ECOSOC-accredited)

Address: Mathoeralaan 32, Paramaribo, Suriname

E-mail: info@projekta.sr

Website: www.projekta.sr

Burgerinitiatief voor Participatie en Goed Bestuur

Address: Mathoeralaan 32, Paramaribo, Suriname

E-mail: binisuriname@gmail.com

Website: www.binisuriname.sr

Lead submitting organization **PAREA** (est. 2014) is an **association of lesbian, gay, bi- or transsexual (LGBT) persons** in Suriname. Their activities include networking, capacity building, public awareness, and advocacy. This is their 2nd UPR submission.

Burgerinitiatief voor Participatie en Goed Bestuur (Dutch abbr. BINI, English name ‘Citizens Initiative for Participation and Good Governance’), established in 2015, is a coalition of over 20 civil society organizations and over 10 individual citizens, working on human rights, participation, good governance, and sustainable development. This is their 1st UPR submission.

Stichting Projekta, Organisation for Women and Development (est. 1993) is a Surinamese ECOSOC-accredited civil society organization that works on themes of democracy, good governance, and human rights, with a specific focus on gender equality and women’s rights. Their main activities are advocacy, capacity building, and civil society movement building. This is their 2nd UPR submission.

CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION BY SURINAME, OF THE THIRD CYCLE UPR RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSING LGBTQI+ ISSUES

Introduction

1. Suriname received eight recommendations addressing the need to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights and freedoms by LGBTQI+ persons within Suriname's jurisdiction, in the Third Cycle of its Universal Periodic Review.ⁱ
2. Of those received recommendations Suriname supported three, of which: (1) recommendation 97.64 Continue taking measures to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Chile); (2) recommendation 97.68 Strengthen the efforts to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, children and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Italy); and (3) recommendation 97.75 Seek training for law enforcement and judicial officers to ensure accountability for gender-based violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).ⁱⁱ
3. The five remaining recommendations were noted by Suriname and are, (4) 98.22 Take the necessary steps towards the adoption of legislative and other measures to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Fiji); (5) 98.23 Make Article 80 of the Civil Code gender neutral to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to family life by LGBTI+ persons (Iceland); (6) 98.25 Enact legislation that specifically addresses discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (Israel); (7) 98.26 Consider passing legislation that specifically addresses discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Argentina); and (8) 98.27 Enact legislation to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia).ⁱⁱⁱ
4. All recommendations supported and noted by Suriname call upon Suriname to effectively address the existing forms of discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons, arising from legislation, policies, and practices.

Status of Implementation

5. The extent to which Suriname implements these recommendations to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, can be considered marginal and inconsistent.
6. In the reporting period 2022-2026, Suriname protected the LGBTQI+ community against forms of sexual orientation- and/or gender identity-based discrimination, in a highly inconsistent manner. During that same period, LGBTQI+ persons even had to act against discriminatory practices committed by the State towards them.

Protection granted

7. Protection granted, full or partial, against discrimination, includes:
8. **2022** - The enactment of two labor laws, the Labor Violence and Sexual Harassment Act^{iv} and Equal Treatment Employment Act^v, by Suriname that include protections against all forms of violence and discrimination in the workplace on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in 2022.
9. However, this protection falls short for civil servants, as the personal scope of these Acts, as indicated, respectively indicated in Article 1(f) (g) and Article 1 (b) (c), is limited to only employees in the private sector, even though the State had indicated in the Legislation that this would be finalized within 1 year. This is why LGBTQ+ civil servants are excluded from the protection offered by this Act.
10. Additionally, the practical application of these Acts has been constrained by significant delays in developing and applying operational regulations and mechanisms.
11. **2022** – On January 21, 2022, the Appellate Court of Suriname confirmed in its ruling in the case marked GR-15202, SRU-HVJ-2022-1^{vi}, the ruling of the Subdistrict Court of 11 January 2017 in the case A.R. no. 15-5612, SRU-K1-2017-2, that the State cannot successfully invoke provisions of its national law to justify the non-implementation of rights of trans gender persons derived from applicable treaty law. Therefore, the Appellate Court upheld the ruling of the lower Court ordering the civil registry offices of Suriname to recognize and administer the reassigned gender of the plaintiff. This lawsuit was filed, because the State refused to recognize and register the reassigned gender.
12. However, the upheld ruling by the Appellate Court includes extremely drastic requirements for transgender persons to become eligible for the recognition and administration of a reassigned gender by the civil registry offices in its paragraph 4.4. The requirements include psychological assessments, complete gender reassignment surgery, and gender screening.^{vii}
13. **2024** - That due to a unanimous vote by the National Assembly on October 4, 2024,^{viii} Suriname became one of the first countries in the Americas to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the national census, with parliamentary approval.^{ix}
14. **2025** - The Subdistrict Court, by ruling of February 13, 2025, in case number CIVAR no. 202303970, SRU-K1-2025-2,^x reasoned that the State cannot successfully invoke the provisions of its national law to justify the non-implementation of the right to marry of same sex partners derived from applicable treaty law. Consequently, it ordered the State to have the marriages of two same-sex couples, concluded abroad, recognized and administered in the designated population registers of the Central Bureau for Civil Affairs in the same manner as marriages concluded between persons of opposite sexes. This lawsuit was filed because the State refused to recognize and register the same-sex marriages.

15. However, in paragraph 4.14 of her ruling, the Subdistrict Court judge did not grant the plaintiffs full access to the consequences of their marriages in the areas of property law, family law, and inheritance law. Instead, she ruled that the plaintiffs must settle the consequences of their marriages in those areas by notarial deed, because it is impossible to predict when existing marriage legislation will be made inclusive for LGBTIQ+ spouses.

Protection not granted

16. None to limited granted protection against discrimination, includes:
17. Suriname has adopted a 2021-2035 Gender Vision Policy that strives to eradicate discriminating stereotypes and gender discrimination.^{xi}
18. However, the policy is silent on LGBTIQ+ topics. On page 67 the policy document does make reference to LGBTIQ+ issues related to SDG 5.1 that aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere. In this context the CEDAW Recommendation 11b is included in the Policy document. It calls for the amendment of Article 8, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of Suriname to recognize intersecting forms of discrimination against rural, Maroon, Indigenous, women with disabilities, and lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex women. However, the Policy document indicates that amending the Constitution is not easy, as a two-thirds majority vote is required. For this reason, the document allocates 10 to 15 years to implement that recommendation.
19. **2023** – On March 30, 2022, the compatibility of Article 80 of the previous Civil Code with treaty law was challenged before the Constitutional Court of Suriname, by a same-sex married couple. On January 31, 2023, the Constitutional Court of Suriname decided that the provision was exclusively drafted for heterosexual marriages and did not have the intention to exclude same-sex marriages. For that reason, Article 80 was not found discriminatory and was consequently upheld.^{xii}
20. However, the Court also found that marriage and family law of Suriname is silent on LGBTIQ+ family and privacy rights, which is inconsistent with Suriname's obligations under treaty law, such as the American Convention on Human Rights. According to the Court, updating Suriname's legislation in accordance with treaty law is the prerogative of the legislator.
21. **2024** – On December 5, 2024, the National Assembly approved the revised Civil Code.^{xiii} During the revision process of the Civil Code, human rights defenders undertook initiatives aimed at making the Civil Code provisions on personal and family law gender neutral. All those initiatives proved fruitless; Suriname continued to refuse to open marriage to LGBTIQ+ persons in the 2024 Civil Code as the text and scope of the new Article 33 remained identical to that of Article 80 of the previous Civil Code.^{xiv}

22. However, on October 22, 2025 a coalition of human rights defenders led by Projekta held an informative session on the need for an inclusive Civil Code, which was attended by the Standing Committee for Human Rights of the National Assembly.^{xv} Following this event the coalition of human rights defenders led by Projekta was received in Parliament by the standing committee for Human Rights of the National Assembly to receive and discuss the need to be make the areas of property law, family law, and inheritance law of the Civil Code LGBTQI+ inclusive, on November 14, 2025. A draft of a proposed revised law was handed to the Standing Committee, who promised to proceed toward implementing the necessary amendments.^{xvi}

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. Expand the scope of the Labor Violence and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Act to grant LGBTQ+ civil servants protections against all forms of violence and discrimination in the workplace on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.
24. Expedite the development and implementation of operational regulations and enforcement of the Labor Violence and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Act.
25. Adopt appropriate legislation and policies to guarantee in law and in practice the right of transgender persons to legal recognition of gender reassignment, including by removing excessive medical or procedural requirements and financial barriers (recommendation also included in CCPR_C_SUR_CO_4_59079_E)
26. Implement the promised changes to the Civil Code in the areas of property law, family law, and inheritance law, to make it inclusive for LGBTQI+ persons.
27. Revise the 2021-2035 Gender Vision Policy to make it LGBTQI+ inclusive.

-
- ⁱ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname*, (Dec. 17, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6; Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname, Addendum*, (Feb. 22, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6/Add.1
- ⁱⁱ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname*, (Dec. 17, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6
- ⁱⁱⁱ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Suriname, Addendum*, (Feb. 22, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/6/Add.1
- ^{iv} WET van 10 november 2022, betreffende het voorkomen en tegengaan van geweld en seksuele intimidatie inzake arbeid. (Wet Geweld en Seksuele Intimidatie Arbeid), S.B. 2022 no 136, https://www.dna.sr/media/sorfelsu/sb_2022___136.pdf
- ^v WET van 10 november 2022, betreffende het bevorderen van de gelijke behandeling inzake arbeid. (Wet Gelijke Behandeling Arbeid), S.B. 2022 no 137, https://www.dna.sr/media/ikeltftw/sb_2022___137.pdf
- ^{vi} <https://rechtspraak.sr/sru-hvj-2022-1/>
- ^{vii} <https://rechtspraak.sr/sru-k1-2017-2/>, para. 4.4.
- ^{viii} Wet negende volks- en woningtelling goedgekeurd in DNA, <https://dwtonline.com/wet-negende-volks-en-woningtelling-goedgekeurd-in-dna/>
- ^{ix} Suriname, OUTRIGHT INTERNATIONAL (Jan. 27, 2026, 2:37 PM), <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/americas/suriname>.
- ^x <https://rechtspraak.sr/sru-k1-2025-2/>
- ^{xi} Gendervisie-Beleidsdocument 2021-2035 -<https://gov.sr/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3-juli-nederlandse-printversie-gender-vision-policy-document-2021-2035-1.pdf>
- ^{xii} <https://constitutioneelhof.sr/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CH-03-Besluit-d.d.-31-januari-2023-Art.-80-BW.pdf>
- ^{xiii} WET van 5 december 2024, houdende vaststelling van een nieuw Burgerlijk Wetboek (Burgerlijk Wetboek), S.B. 2024 no 164, <https://www.sris.sr/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/S.B-2024-no.-164-Burgerlijk-Wetboek.pdf>
- ^{xiv} ‘Rechten’ LGBTQ-gemeenschap niet opgenomen in project ‘Nieuw Burgerlijk Wetboek’ <https://dwtonline.com/rechten-lgbtq-gemeenschap-niet-opgenomen-in-project-nieuw-burgerlijk-wetboek/>; Women’s Rights Centre Suriname, **ERKENNING EN INCLUSIVITEIT VAN GELIJKE RECHTEN VOOR LGBT-PERSONEN OMSTREDEN IN SURINAME?** <https://wrcsuriname.org/2024/08/09/erkenning-en-inclusiviteit-van-gelijke-rechten-voor-lgbt-personen-omstreden-in-suriname/>
- ^{xv} NIEUW BURGERLIJK WETBOEK BESCHERMT LGBTQ+-GEMEENSCHAP NOG NIET VOLLEDIG <https://dagbladdewest.com/2025/10/25/nieuw-burgerlijk-wetboek-bescherm-t-lgbtq-gemeenschap-nog-niet-volledig/>
- ^{xvi} Commissie Mensenrechten DNA bespreekt voorgestelde wijzigingen in het Burgerlijk Wetboek https://www.srherald.com/suriname/2025/11/14/commissie-mensenrechten-dna-bespreekt-voorgestelde-wijzigingen-in-het-burgerlijk-wetboek/?fbclid=IwY2xjawQmkPFleHRuA2FlbQlXMQBicmlkETIxeTRKYzhVb05LZzB0ckt6c3J0YwZhchHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHq_INyt5CSrC5PkkU7Oei6rev1kdUMrWtuSm5iakJ3oWBIHm25Sdc5xf6ryD_aem_y-eaYp7MZmY0ffimMqWxeg

Annex: Partners for the Joint Submission

Lead Submitting Organization

Full Name:	Professional Associates for Representation, Equality and Acceptance
Acronym:	PAREA
E-mail:	info@pareasuriname.com
Full address:	Costerstraat 27, Paramaribo, Suriname
Contact person:	Rachel Wittenberg
Website:	www.pareasuriname.com
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/verenigingpareasuriname
Logo:	

Co-submitters:

Full Name:	Burgerinitiatief voor Participatie en Goed Bestuur (Citizens' Initiative for Participation and Good Governance)
Acronym:	BINI
E-mail:	binisuriname@gmail.com
Full address:	Mathoeralaan 32, Paramaribo, Suriname
Contact person:	Sharda Ganga, Coordinator
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/BurgerinitiatiefSR
Website:	www.binisuriname.sr
Logo:	

Full Name:	Stichting Projekta, Organisatie voor Vrouwen en Ontwikkeling
Acronym:	PROJEKTA
E-mail:	info@projekta.sr
Full address:	Mathoeralaan 32, Paramaribo, Suriname
Contact person:	Sharda Ganga, Director
Social media:	www.facebook.com/ProjektaSR
Website:	www.projekta.sr
Logo:	