



The Role of the United Nations in Combatting Discrimination and Violence against Individuals Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

A Programmatic Overview

25 November 2015

This paper provides a snapshot of the work of a number of United Nations entities in combatting discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and related work in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and intersex communities around the world. It has been prepared by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the basis of inputs provided by relevant UN entities, and is not intended to be either exhaustive or detailed. Given the evolving nature of UN work in this field, it is likely to benefit from regular updating¹. The final section, below, includes a [Contact List](#) of focal points in each UN entity, as well as links and references to documents, reports and other materials that can be consulted for further information.

Click to jump to: [Joint UN statement](#), [OHCHR](#), [UNDP](#), [UNFPA](#), [UNHCR](#), [UNICEF](#), [UN Women](#), [ILO](#), [UNESCO](#), [WHO](#), the [World Bank](#), [UNAIDS](#) (the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS) and [Joint UN initiatives](#).

Joint UN statement

Joint UN statement on Ending violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people:

- On 29 September 2015, 12 UN entities (ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS Secretariat, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WFP and WHO) released an unprecedented [joint statement](#) calling for an end to violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.
- The statement is a powerful call to action to States and other stakeholders to do more to protect individuals from violence, torture and ill-treatment, repeal discriminatory laws and protect individuals from discrimination, and an expression of the commitment on the part of UN entities to support Member States to do so.

UN Secretariat

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Support and follow-up to UN human rights bodies and mechanisms:

- OHCHR prepared the first two official UN reports on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity ([A/HRC/19/41](#) and [A/HRC/29/23](#)). The reports were requested by Human Rights Council through its [resolutions 17/19](#) and [27/32](#) and presented in 2012 and 2015, respectively.
- OHCHR also supported the March 2012 Human Rights Council panel on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, at which the first report's findings were discussed.

¹ The latest edition of this document is available [here](#).

- OHCHR supports UN human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies and special procedures, to fulfil their respective mandates in relation to the rights of LGBT and intersex persons. Such work includes gathering and sharing information on alleged rights abuses, assisting in the development of treaty body recommendations and general comments, and the drafting urgent appeals to Governments on human rights abuses based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- In September 2015, OHCHR organized the first [UN meeting on the human rights of intersex people](#) to support the work of UN, regional and national human rights mechanisms in better addressing the specific human rights violations faced by intersex people.
- In November 2015, OHCHR together with UNAIDS supported the first dialogue between the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and UN human rights mechanisms on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Support to informal inter-governmental processes:

- OHCHR has provided support to various informal inter-governmental processes focusing on sexual orientation and gender identity, including the [Oslo Conference on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#), co-chaired by Norway and South Africa in April 2013 and regional meetings organized by UN Member States.
- OHCHR has helped organize ministerial-level meetings at the General Assembly in [September 2013](#), [September 2014](#) and [September 2015](#) on addressing violence and discrimination against LGBT persons, with the 2015 event focusing on the inclusion of LGBT people in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Office also supports a cross-regional group of UN Member States in the organization of public events at UN HQ in New York, including an annual Human Rights Day event that focuses on the fight against homophobia and transphobia ([2013 event on the role of sports in the fight against homophobia](#), [2014 event on family diversity](#)).

Advocacy and policy advice:

- OHCHR advocates for the protection of the human rights of LGBT and intersex people through [public advocacy and statements](#) of the High Commissioner, the Secretary-General and other senior staff, and in private meetings with member States and other stakeholders.
- OHCHR field offices also integrate LGBT-related human rights concerns into their monitoring and advocacy work, engaging with civil society and other stakeholders, and raising concerns with Governments. In a number of countries, OHCHR field presences have played a role in advocating against measures that threaten the rights of LGBT persons, or in favour of measures aimed at strengthening human rights protection for members of LGBT communities.

Guidance and training materials:

- A 2012 OHCHR publication, "[Born Free and Equal: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Human Rights Law](#)" outlines the key obligations of States under international law to protect the rights of LGBT people.
- OHCHR is developing a trainers' manual on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity to be launched in 2016.

- OHCHR is finalising a report on positive practices by States to implement UN recommendations to protect the human rights of LGBT and intersex people that will be launched in 2016.
- OHCHR together with UNAIDS are finalising an optional module on the human rights of LGBTI persons to be included in the UN-Women electronic learning course "[I know gender](#)" in 2016.

UN Free & Equal Campaign (www.unfe.org):

- In July 2013, the High Commissioner launched the global public information campaign, [Free & Equal](#), aimed at raising awareness of homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination, and promoting greater respect for the rights of LGBT people.
- Since its launch, the campaign has generated a stream of videos, [fact sheets](#), infographics and other popular content for dissemination on social media. Campaign events have taken place in more than a dozen countries around the world – in several cases organized jointly by OHCHR and UN partners on the ground.
- A [Free & Equal Global Film Series](#) was also recently launched in cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information.
- Free & Equal has benefitted from the strong support of the UN Secretary-General, as well as a number of celebrities who have become [Equality Champions](#) for the campaign, helping to spread campaign messages to a global audience. During the campaign's first year, more than a billion people saw, read or heard campaign messages online, on TV, radio and print media.
- Among the campaign's most popular outputs to date are "[Faces](#)", a video that celebrates the contributions that millions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people make to families and local communities around the world, "[The Welcome](#)" – a short, Bollywood-inspired music video with a human rights message and "[The Riddle](#)" – the video highlighting human rights abuses faced by LGBT people worldwide that kicked off the campaign. With more than twelve million combined views online, these videos rank among the most widely watched UN videos ever produced.

OHCHR's main website also contains a [dedicated webpage](#) with further information on related activities and outputs.

UN Funds and Programmes

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Policy advice, advocacy, awareness-raising and capacity-building:

- In the past 12 months, UNDP undertook and supported initiatives that promote the rights of LGBT people in 58 countries by working on the nexus of HIV, sexual orientation and gender identity. Moreover, together with OHCHR and other UN agencies, UNDP has also been increasingly engaged in ensuring that the rights of LGBTI persons are part-and-parcel of the human rights and sustainable development agendas.
- UNDP has carried out capacity-building and provided advice to governments, national human rights institutions, parliamentarians, judiciaries and other public entities on legal frameworks and social policies that concern sexual orientation and gender identity, especially on strengthening HIV responses for men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people. In Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP has been engaged in a number of activities, which are directly

or indirectly aimed at reducing inequalities and exclusion on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

- UNDP has created platforms for dialogue between local and national governments and civil society to discuss ways to move forward on law and policy reform for marginalised groups and those affected by HIV.
- In cooperation with OHCHR and UNAIDS, UNDP has been organizing and participating in the Headquarters-based internal UN LGBT focal point meetings. These meetings aim to improve coordination of activities of various UN agencies and to elevate this topic to a higher level.
- UNDP and OHCHR gathered development measurement specialists and LGBTI data and research leaders in New York on September 16-17, 2015, to conceptualize measuring LGBTI inclusion. This expert meeting, which was convened just prior to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is designed to ensure that LGBTI issues are addressed as part of the new 2030 sustainable development agenda. Following this meeting, UNDP is proposing to develop an LGBTI Inclusion Index. This initiative will support the collection and analysis of existing data and centralize efforts to generate new data on LGBTI inclusion to increase the evidence base on priority dimensions of LGBTI inclusion and inform policy, programs and advocacy.
- UNDP has made notable contributions to the realization of young LGBTI people's rights by working in partnership with governments, youth organizations, civil society, human rights defenders and LGBTI people themselves. This work builds on the UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017. UNDP and UNESCO recently launched the [*Purple My School: Creating Safe Space for LGBTI Students*](#) initiative that aims to create safe spaces for LGBTI students across Asia and the Pacific.
- Examples of publications based on the above work include:
 - o [*“Discussion Paper on Transgender Health & Human Rights”*](#) (2014) on the health and human rights issues that impact trans people and influence their social marginalization;
 - o UNDP prepared the Background Paper for the Expert Group Meeting on Measuring LGBTI Inclusion: Increasing Access to Data and Good Practices and Building the Evidence Base (2015).
 - o Being LGBT in Asia produced Country Reports: Indonesia, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Cambodia, China, Thailand, Mongolia, Nepal – A Participatory Review Analysis of the Legal and Social Environment for LGBT persons and Civil Society.
 - o The regional LGBTI study - *‘Leave no one behind: Advancing social, economic, cultural and political inclusion of LGBTI people in Asia and the Pacific’* was developed, which illustrates the range of measures taken in Asia and the Pacific to advance social, economic, cultural and political inclusion of LGBTI people.
 - o *The Blueprint for the Provision of Comprehensive Care for Trans People and Trans Communities in Asia and the Pacific* outlines the priority health care needs and human rights issues for transgender people in the Asia Pacific region. The Blueprint aims to strengthen and enhance the policy-related, clinical, and public health responses for trans people in the region.
 - o *Report of the Asia-Pacific Consultation on School Bullying based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression, 15-17 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand*, documents the Asia-Pacific Consultation on School Bullying on the

Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression held from 15-17 June in Bangkok, Thailand. More than 100 participants took part in the consultation, including delegations from 13 Asia-Pacific countries, comprising education and other ministry officials, national civil society organisations, academic institutions and UN agencies, as well as regional and global education and development partners

- [“Guía de incidencia política para conseguir una ley de identidad de género”](#) (2014), an advocacy guide for civil society on obtaining gender identity laws;

Examples of analysis, research and integration within the development agenda:

- UNDP has begun a multi-country legal and policy review on legal gender recognition in Asia and the Pacific in the context of human rights. The project will comprehensively review laws, regulations and policies in relation to legal gender recognition. This will include looking at the implementation and impact of laws and policies in practice, within the broader context of human rights for transgender people. The eight countries in this review are India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, and may also include Malaysia and Fiji.
- Together with UNAIDS, UNDP provided assistance to the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Argentina Federation of Lesbians, Gay, Bisexuals and Trans (FALGBT), to develop *Pride in the Workplace*, a study on workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Argentina.
- UNDP supported the Ministry of Labour of Argentina in its preparation of the study *Inclusion of Trans People in the Labour Market*.
- As a member of the Urban Health and Justice Initiative in Boca Chica, the Dominican Republic, UNDP supported the *Situation Analysis of HIV/AIDS in the Municipality*.
- UNDP in Brazil has drafted and disseminated the *Manual for the Promotion of Rights of LGBT Persons at the Workplace*.
- UNDP in Nicaragua prepared a desk review for the development of a protocol on access to justice for LGBTI people.
- UNDP supported the preparation of the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) document [Call to Action: Addressing the Health Needs of Men Vulnerable to HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#).
- UNDP has also supported relevant research, such as a study to explore [HIV testing and infection rates among women in Southern Africa](#) who have sex with women, who are often assumed to be at no or very low risk for HIV infection and, consequently, rarely included in HIV prevention efforts.
- UNDP partnered with the Williams Institute on ‘Surveying Nepal’s Sexual and Gender Minorities: An Inclusive Approach’. The survey instrument was designed to develop best practices for gathering data.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Sexual and reproductive health and rights, supporting community empowerment, reduction of HIV risk in key populations including young key populations:

UNFPA works in contexts where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people and sex workers face legal, institutional and cultural barriers as well as stigma and discrimination in their access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. UNFPA integrates HIV responses for key populations within its broader mandate through four strategic areas: advocacy and policy dialogue, capacity development, generation of

evidence and knowledge management and service delivery in low income countries. This includes:

- Human rights based integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to reduce HIV risk and vulnerability including reducing sexual transmission of HIV and other STIs.
- Partnering with community-led organizations or networks, organizations of people living with HIV (PLHIV), key populations and other key stakeholders to support policy analysis, develop recommendations and advocate for the SRHR of PLHIV and key populations as part of the SRHR and HIV agendas;
- Supporting initiatives to reduce violence and stigma against key populations including the stigma index tool, in-reach training, community-led violence reduction initiatives, integration of key populations into the broader gender based violence strategies and campaigns, and reducing police and client violence;
- Tailored, non-stigmatising and non-coercive condom and lubricant programming for sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people and people who use drugs, including within closed settings, to improve access, uptake and consistent use;
- Working with partners to reduce HIV-related and other forms of stigma, and eliminate related discrimination, including contributing to advocacy to remove punitive laws and practices around HIV transmission, sex work, drug use or homosexuality that block effective responses and access to justice;
- Strengthening municipal-level human rights based programmes serving the needs of sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people and people who use drugs, and ensuring viable, sustainable and capable community-led organizations at the municipal level consistent with micro-epidemic and investment approaches;
- Strengthening the capacity of community-led networks and organizations of sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender people for advocacy, design, implementation and monitoring of SRH and HIV programmes, and facilitating their full engagement in national policies, programmes and resource allocations to better meet their specific needs.

Specifically, this has included:

- Working with the Global Forum on MSM and HIV (MSMGF), the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), and the Transgender Reference Group and their networks and organizations and providing financial support and/or technical assistance, supporting their inclusion in global, regional and national advocacy, policies and programmes;
- Joint programming initiatives with UNDP on HIV and sex workers, MSM, transgender people, people living with HIV and people who use drugs at municipal level;
- Implementation of the SRH/HIV linkages tool including men who have sex with men, transgender people and sex workers;
- Roll out of the Sex Workers Implementation Tool, addressing the prevention and treatment of HIV and STIs, violence, community empowerment, community-led services, condom and lubricant programming, and programme management for female, male and transgender sex workers. Publication of a similar tool for working with men who have sex with men, and development of tools for transgender people and people who use drugs;
- In partnership with the UNAIDS Secretariat and PACT (a coalition of 25 youth organizations addressing HIV and SRH) targeting access to SRH services for adolescents and young people, including young key populations, in priority countries;

- Contributing to advocacy and emergency responses to human rights violations against key populations.
- Development of UN for All workshop and resources for further sensitisation of UN staff on acceptance and support for LGBTI staff members.
- Contribution to and endorsement of the Joint UN Statement on ending violence and discrimination against LGBTI people.
- Co-facilitation of a concurrent session with the International AIDS Society Conference, Vancouver, Canada 2015 on strengthening services for transgender people.

UNFPA, in partnership with UNAIDS Cosponsors and the Secretariat, donors, researchers and, MSMGF, NSWP, the Transgender Reference Group, and organizations involving young key populations, donors and researchers, supports the development of state-of-the-art technical guidance, research and tools addressing the HIV response among female, male and transgender sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender people. This includes:

- the [Lancet Special Issue on HIV and sex workers](#), with specific papers on male sex workers and transgender sex workers, community empowerment and human rights;
- Monitoring and evaluation [operational guidelines](#) on HIV and sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender people for national, subnational and service delivery application;
- Contribution to development and implementation of civil society partnership strategy for key populations;
- Development of technical briefs addressing HIV and young key populations – young people who sell sex, young men who have sex with men, young transgender people and young people who use drugs;
- UNFPA also promotes the implementation of the UNESCO guidelines on comprehensive sexuality education, which underscores that sexuality cannot be understood without reference to gender and that diversity is a fundamental characteristic of sexuality.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

International Protection:

- In 2012, UNHCR issued [Guidelines on International Protection No. 9](#) for people seeking refugee status due to a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It provides legal interpretative guidance for governments, legal practitioners, decision makers and the judiciary, as well as UNHCR staff carrying out refugee status determination under its mandate.
- UNHCR has also established a [web page on its refugee –related information portal, Refworld](#), with legal, policy and operational guidance material UNHCR and others have developed on this topic, including legal documents related to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), case law, tools, country specific information, UNHCR policy documents related to SOGI, as well as other relevant policy documents related to SOGI, such as the Yogyakarta Principles (2007). UNHCR’s technical guidance in this area include:
- "[Need to Know Guidance: Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Intersex Persons in Forced Displacement](#)" (2011), which provides practical guidance to staff on a range of issues to consider when working with LGBTI persons of concern to ensure the rights of LGBTI persons of concern to the Office are met without discrimination.

- ["Resettlement Assessment Tool: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Refugees"](#) (2013), which assists UNHCR staff and other stakeholders working with and assessing claims and resettlement needs of LGBTI refugees.
- UNHCR's 2012 "[Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers and Alternatives to Detention](#)" and the recently published "[Detention Monitoring Manual](#)" both contain sections specifically dealing with issues of detention for persons with a minority sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
- In 2014 UNHCR began a global mapping exercise to identify organizational strengths and gaps in the protection of LGBTI people. The analysis of this global exercise will be issued in 2015. The conclusions will help UNHCR develop and enhance relevant training, toolkits and other resources to support the respective operations in protection of LGBTI person of concern.
- UNHCR developed, jointly with IOM, a comprehensive training package on the protection of LGBTI persons, which has been piloted in Africa, MENA and HQ. The training materials will be made available to all UNHCR staff and humanitarian partners later this year through the Global Learning Centre's web portal "Learn and Connect".

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Rights of LGBTI youth and children:

- UNICEF's work on the rights of LGBTI youth and children forms part of its equity strategy through which the organisation aims to accelerate progress so that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination.
- After a thorough review of results achieved and a vigorous discussion on future goals, UNICEF developed a new strategic plan for 2014–2017, which was approved by the UNICEF Executive Board in September 2013. Equity is placed at the heart of the Strategic Plan and requires UNICEF to focus on the most disadvantaged children, families and communities.
- Issues affecting LGBTI children and their parents are cross-cutting and relevant to all areas of UNICEF programming. Guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – which guarantees the rights in the Convention to all children without discrimination of any kind - and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), UNICEF's programming supports laws, policies and practices that promote healthy and safe development for all children and adolescents, including LGBTI. Experience from some areas of programming has shown that it can be counter-productive to establish special separate programmes for only 'some' children (for example children affected by HIV and AIDS); Rather, UNICEF has had more success with focusing on the rights of all children and adolescents as central to all programming, along with emphasis on inclusion throughout regular programming which can prevent stigma, violence and abuse, and promote tolerance and inclusion.
- In light of the organisation's strengthened focus on equity, UNICEF offices have identified patterns of discrimination to be significant bottlenecks to the realization of children's rights.
- In 2014, at least 11 UNICEF country offices were working on LGBTI issues, and/or with LGBTI adolescents and young people.
- Since 2013, UNICEF has an LGBTI working group focussed on opening up policy and programming as part of the agency's equity agenda. This has led to:
 - o A [March 2014 statement on anti-homosexuality laws](#)

- A November 2014 [current issues paper](#) on eliminating discriminations against children and parents on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The paper consists of a executive summary and a section on context and considerations that inform the summary.
- Liaison with UNAIDS and close collaboration with key country offices to formulate plans, i.e. Uganda and Nigeria
- Live-streamed global all staff meeting with UNICEF’s Deputy Executive Director in May 2014, which aimed to:
 - Raise awareness on the issues faced by LGBTI adolescents and children, or living in households with LGBTI persons, including on terminology;
 - Reinforce UNICEF’s commitment to work to protect all children from discrimination, including those who identify as LGBTI, and to work with governments to safeguard their youngest citizens from violence or threat of reprisals for exercising their equal rights;
 - Discuss how UNICEF can address issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity as part of the commitments to equity, social inclusion and upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- UNICEF has included a staff training module on LGBTI persons as part of diversity/tolerance training.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Rights of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and girls:

- In 2014 UN Women established a joint Policy/Programmes internal working group on the rights of LGBTI persons. This has led to:
 - An analysis of UN treaty body and Universal Periodic Review recommendations on the rights of LGBTI persons;
 - UN Women key messages on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity;
 - Meetings with regional directors to obtain updates and chart a way forward;
 - Formation of an internal community of practice on the rights of LGBTI persons;
 - A seminar on UN Women’s accountability for the rights of LGBTI persons and gendered concepts of sexuality;
 - Mapping of Annual Country Reports (2011-2014) to assess progress and gaps for remedial action;
 - Reflection of LGBTI concerns in 2015 Country Strategic Notes in the context of addressing intersecting discrimination.
- A number of UN Women country offices have since 2013 worked on the rights of LGBTI persons to:
 - Strengthen the capacity of LGBTI civil society organizations in Brazil;
 - Raise awareness and increase commitment to end violence against women and girls, including against LGBTI persons in South Africa;
 - Funding, technical and capacity development support to civil society, including LGBTI organizations, to lobby for policy change in Fiji;
 - Improve knowledge and awareness on how to end violence against women and girls, including for lesbian, bisexual and transgender women in Malawi;

- Capacity building of gender equality advocate groups, including LGBTI associations, to engage in policy dialogue with the government in Viet Nam.
- In 2015 UN Women will use its key messages on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity as a basis for developing a definitive position statement on the rights of LGBTI persons and will furthermore develop a guidance note for Country Offices on this issue, in close collaboration with UN agencies, academia and civil society organizations.
- The rights of lesbian, bisexual transgender and intersex women were highlighted at the last Commission on the Status of Women and reflected in the Beijing+20 review report.
- In addition UN Women is taking steps to finalize a brief on the rights of LGBT persons for field staff and will be analyzing SOGI constitutional provisions as part of the management of its [gender equality constitutional database](#).

UN Specialised Agencies

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Employment discrimination:

- ILO's project [Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation: Promoting Rights, Diversity and Equality in the World of Work \(PRIDE\)](#) seeks to identify good practices and discrimination faced by LGBT people under each of the four pillars of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. It seeks to:
 - Identify the gaps and shortcomings in legal provisions and their application which lead to discrimination in the world of work for LGBT persons, and record positive legal systems where such rights are protected (Fundamental Principles and Rights);
 - Identify 'good practice' workplaces where diversity and tolerance for LGBT persons is promoted (Employment Promotion);
 - Assess whether social security instruments such as medical care, pension entitlements and other benefits are available to LGBT workers on the same terms as other workers (Social Protection); and
 - Assess the extent of governments', trade unions' and employer organizations' knowledge and capacity to raise LGBT issues in tripartite social dialogue fora and collective bargaining processes (Social Dialogue).
- A fifth component on HIV and AIDS is also included in the project to address the challenges that LGBT persons face in this regard.
- As of November 2015, research is complete in Argentina, Hungary and Thailand; final reports are being reviewed in Indonesia and Montenegro; and research is on-going in Costa Rica, France, India, and South Africa,
- A '[For Information' paper](#), outlining the preliminary results of the PRIDE project at that time was put before the 319th Session of the ILO's Governing Body in October, 2013.
- On 15 May, 2015 the ILO marked International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia by launching the reports for [Argentina](#) and [Thailand](#), and by presenting an [issue brief](#) on the findings of the research globally to-date.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Violence including bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression in education:

- UNESCO's work on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression focuses on preventing and addressing homophobic and transphobic violence including bullying in educational institutions, in relation to the broader 'Teaching Respect for All' initiative, and linked to quality learning initiatives such as comprehensive sexuality education.
- In December 2011, UNESCO convened the first-ever UN international consultation to address homophobic bullying in educational institutions. The findings were summarized in the 2012 publication "Good Policy and Practice in HIV and Health Education – Booklet 8: Education Sector Responses to Homophobic Bullying". This publication has been translated into Chinese, English, French, Italian, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.
- In 2012, UNESCO and the International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) Committee created a lesson plan for teachers and educators comprised of four activities to discuss homophobia and transphobia in primary and secondary schools. The Lesson Plan is also available in French, German and Chinese, and locally adapted in "Lesson Plans for teaching about sexual and gender diversity" for Thailand.
- In 2013, UNESCO launched the three-year project "Education and Respect for All: Preventing and Addressing Homophobic and Transphobic Bullying in Educational Institutions". The project supports regional and country-level activities in Asia-Pacific, Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to improve the evidence base, document and share best practice for action, raise awareness and build coalitions, and implement school-based interventions to prevent and address homophobic and transphobic bullying. The project will conclude in 2016 with an international ministerial meeting to catalyse responses by Member States to violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression in education. Within the framework of the project various activities were implemented at regional and country levels. In 2015, progress has been made towards the implementation of various initiatives at regional and country levels including the below examples.
- Improving the evidence base and documenting best practice:
 - o Completion of a study on sexuality, diversity and violence in schools in five Southern African countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland;
 - o Publication in collaboration with Plan International of a study on Bullying targeting secondary school students who are or are perceived to be transgender or same-sex attracted in Thailand;
 - o Survey to expand the knowledge base and use the results for action planning for the integration of SOGI-related issues into the national manual on sexuality and HIV prevention for pupils and the guidelines for teachers produced by the ministry of education in Viet Nam;
 - o UNESCO is currently developing the first United Nations global report on the status of education sector responses to violence including bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. The report will be launched on the occasion of the IDAHOT 2016.
- Raising awareness and building coalitions:
 - o To mark the celebration of Human Rights Day 2014 (10 December) and of the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a seminar was

- organized at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris to discuss LGBT children and young people's right to education;
- Regional consultations on education sector responses to violence based on sexual orientation and gender expression/identity in educational institutions took place in Latin America and the Caribbean in October 2014 (involving 9 countries) and in Asia-Pacific in June 2015 (involving 13 countries);
 - Event to celebrate IDAHOT. In 2014 the School Rainbow campaign in Bangkok was jointly launched by UNESCO, UNAIDS, Youth LEAD, Youth Voices Count and APCOM – more than 2,000 students and educational staff were organized to chalk rainbows around school gates in Bangkok in a sign of support for sexual/gender diversity. In 2015 the Bangkok Art & Culture Centre was lit in rainbow colours. In China UNESCO Beijing launched the *Be Myself* social media campaign, to encourage young people to be their true selves, to respect differences and be kind to each other. Over 800,000 people viewed the campaign;
 - *#PurpleMySchool* social media campaign. UNESCO has partnered with UNDP in the “Being LGBT in Asia” initiative. The massive *#PurpleMySchool* campaign was launched in June 2015 to promote safe spaces for LGBTI students in schools by calling for students, parents, teachers, and schools themselves to show solidarity through images that feature the colour purple. Images are posted on the campaign website, a Facebook page or via Instagram. The campaign will run until Human Rights Day, on 10 December 2015;
 - UNESCO's Director General Irina Bokova was one of the 12 heads of United Nations entities to endorse an historic statement to call on States to act urgently to end violence and discrimination against LGBTI adults, adolescents and children, released on 29 September 2015.
- Supporting the implementation of country-level activities addressing violence based on sexual orientation and gender expression/identity in education:
- National strategy workshop and training of trainers on promoting LGBT education in China, May 2013;
 - Press conference on university textbooks in China, October 2014, to release a ground-breaking report, “Homosexuality Contents in University Textbooks” by the Gay and Lesbian Campus Association of China (GLCAC), calling for the revision of the textbooks that wrongly portray LGBT people in China;
 - As a result of the regional meeting organized in June 2015 in Bangkok, China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand have formed Technical Working Groups. They are composed of representatives from government, civil society organizations, and academia to agree on actions to be taken to implement the national action plan drafted during the meeting.

HIV prevention targeting MSM and Transgender people in Asia Pacific

- Studies to strengthen further understanding on MSM and transgender communities in Bangladesh (2011), Cambodia (2008), Lao PDR (2008) and Thailand (2012). Forthcoming activities include a regional report on strategic information for young people from key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure, and operational guidance on the collection and use of strategic information for young people from key populations. In Myanmar, UNESCO conducted in 2015 two cross sectional surveys among young (18-28 years) men who have sex with men in order to identify the risk and protective factors influencing them in relation to HIV transmission. The results are being used in the

planning of the next Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) in Myanmar on men who have sex with men, and provide important information for government as they review their National Strategic Plan.

- Support for the development and use of peer education materials for MSM and transgender people in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, and Thailand.
- Reviews of the human rights situation of sexual minorities in Samoa and in six Insular Southeast Asian countries (2010). In Asia-Pacific, with other UN partners, UNESCO has supported a review of laws and policies that impact on access to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services for young people, including young men who have sex with men and young transgender people.
- Thailand's first ASEAN LGBTIQ Film Festival to tackle stigma through creative media – short films was organized by the Thailand Network of People of Sexual Diversity with support from UNESCO in 2012. UNESCO also provided support to the &PROUD LGBT film festival, the first LGBT film festival in Myanmar.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Health:

- The support of WHO to Member States is founded on the principle that all citizens should have equitable and equal access to health services.
- With regard to all citizens' right to equitable and equal access to health services, WHO provides leadership in developing evidence-based policy options; in providing technical support to Member States and in helping to build institutional capacity; in shaping the research agenda to stimulate the generation, translation and dissemination of information on access to health services; and in monitoring and reporting progress towards universal health coverage.
- A key tool to monitor health coverage and outcomes is the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Currently undergoing revision towards the 11th edition, this revised edition will reflect the contemporary context for healthcare and access including a proposed new chapter on "sexual health".
- In 2002, WHO published the report "[Defining sexual health](#)" from a technical consultation, which included a number of guiding principles for successful programme interventions, such as the importance of an affirmative approach to sexuality, not one based on fear, autonomy and self-determination, non-judgemental services and programmes, and explicitly noted the importance of considering sexual orientation in the design of health programmes Box 2: Guiding principles for successful programme interventions in sexual health.
- In 2010 WHO issued "[Developing sexual health programmes: A framework for action](#)" that recommends the repeal of discriminatory laws and the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation that includes grounds of sex and sexual orientation.
- In 2011, WHO/HIV issued guidelines on [Prevention and Treatment of HIV and other STI among men who have sex with men and transgender people](#), which formed the basis for the joint UN and civil society tool on [Implementing Comprehensive HIV and STI programmes for men who have sex with men](#).
- In 2012 WHO/PAHO issued the statement "[Cures for an illness that does not exist](#)" on the lack of medical justification and the threat to health and well-being of "therapies" to change sexual orientation with recommendations for Governments, academic institutions, professional associations, the media and other stakeholders.

- In 2013, the Directing Council of WHO/PAHO adopted a [resolution on addressing the causes and disparities in health service access and utilization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans persons](#).
- In 2012, WHO/HIV issued guidelines on [Prevention and Treatment of HIV and other STI for sex workers in Low-and Middle –Income countries](#), which formed the basis for a WHO/HIV 2013 tool on [Implementing comprehensive HIV/STI programmes with sex workers: practical approaches from collaborative interventions](#), both of which address the situation of men who have sex with men and transgender sex workers.
- In 2014, WHO/HIV issued revised consolidated guidelines on "[HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations](#)" recommending, inter-alia, to decriminalize same-sex behaviour and non-conforming gender identities, and legally recognise transgender people. In 2015, a supplement to these guidelines provided a [Tool to set and monitor targets for HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care](#) to support national programme managers to plan and measure disaggregated response for the five key populations.
- In 2015, WHO/HIV published a [Policy Brief on Transgender people and HIV](#) which was the first specific document issued for this population, which provided a basis also for the jointly developed [Blueprint for the Provision of Comprehensive Care for Trans People and Trans Communities in Asia and the Pacific](#).
- In 2015, WHO/HIV published four technical briefs on HIV and young key populations (including young men who have sex with men, young people who inject drugs, young transgender people, and young people who sell sex).
- In 2015, WHO published the report [Sexual health, human rights and the law](#) highlighting the relationship between sexual health, human rights and the law.

World Bank

Economic development:

- The World Bank [advocates, publicly](#) and through its technical policy dialogue, for countries to address the cost of discrimination on societies and economies, including on grounds of sexual orientation. President Kim recently launched a video with a strong message against the social exclusion of LGBTI populations. Discussions during both Annual Meetings and Spring Meetings are including systematic engagement with civil society and LGBTI groups.
- The World Bank approaches exclusion based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) through its commitments on gender equality and social inclusion. The links between gender equality and development are well established in the WDR 2012. Social inclusion is important for extreme poverty because some groups are over-represented among the poor. It is important for shared prosperity, because social exclusion is not just about poverty but also about lack of opportunities and not being treated with dignity. The main strategic contributions and priorities for The World Bank Group are to expand the evidence base on the links between LGBTI exclusion and development through research and applying knowledge to project design.

Research and Data:

- The World Bank, with a grant from the Nordic Trust Fund, has carried out an assessment of the [Cost of Homophobia](#) using India as a case study. The report was launched in October 2014 at World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings and was published in December 2014.

- The World Bank is currently collecting socio-economic and experience of discrimination data among 1,000 sexual minority respondents, also in India.
- Developing Quantitative Data on the Economic Dimensions of LGBT Exclusion: This activity is financed by the Nordic Trust Fund. It encompasses a specialized survey designed to capture the development outcomes for LGBTI populations in the Western Balkans.
- Global Adaptation of “In Her Shoes” to illustrate discrimination against LGBTQI people. “In Her Shoes” is a global training and sensitization program on gender-based violence (by the Gender Based Violence Prevention Network) based on the latest research and data (both qualitative and quantitative). It has been used to train public officials and development practitioners in Latin America and Africa. This activity will design an adaptation of the In Her Shoes based on original qualitative data collection about stigma and discrimination faced by LGBTQI populations in Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Applying Knowledge to Project Design:

- Specific examples of projects addressing LGBTI issues as part of their overall objectives are more common in the health sector. The Bank is providing support to improve the design and implementation of comprehensive HIV interventions for high risk MSM (male sex workers) through existing operations (Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Nepal), country-level analytics (Nigeria, Niger, Gabon, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Togo, Kenya, Pakistan, India, the Philippines and other countries), and regional or global level knowledge products (such as collaboration with UNAIDS on the Key Populations Left Behind in Africa). The Bank is working in partnership with PEPFAR and UNAIDS in Eastern, West and Central Africa to support governments to improve the scale, quality, targeting and coverage of HIV services for sex workers and their clients through integrated technical assistance and a capacity building program geared to provide the tools for designing, implementing and evaluating effective HIV programs for sex workers and their clients as well as promoting cross-country knowledge exchange on effective approaches.
- Examples of development initiatives focusing on sexual orientation and gender identity include:
 - [Philippines Country Gender Assessment](#) from 2012 which included an analysis of challenges specific to the LGBT population;
 - [Development Policy Loan to the State of Bahia](#), Brazil, of July 2014, which addresses violence against marginalized populations including sexual minorities;
 - World Bank-funded [PNPM Peduli project](#) in Indonesia which empowers marginalized communities including sexual minorities.
 - The Country Partnership Framework for Uruguay included special consultations with LGBTI and the preparation of a note suggesting entry points in the portfolio.

Other UN Entities

UNAIDS - the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS²

UNAIDS is a partnership of 11 UN organizations (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank) that leads UN efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. UNAIDS fulfils its mission by uniting global efforts, speaking out in solidarity, mobilizing political, technical, scientific and financial resources, empowering agents of change with strategic information and evidence, and supporting inclusive country leadership.

UNAIDS released a new strategy - [2016–2021: *On the Fast-Track to end AIDS*](#). It aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and incorporates human rights based approach to development. The strategy recognizes sexual and reproductive health and rights issues, including a call for comprehensive sex education to encouraging the removal of 'punitive laws, policies and practices that block an effective AIDS response, including travel restrictions and mandatory testing, and those related to HIV transmission, same-sex sexual relations, sex work and drug use.' The strategy maintains the vision of: *Zero new HIV infections, Zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.*

Advocacy and speaking out in solidarity:

- UNAIDS is one of 12 UN agencies endorsing a joint statement on *Ending violence and discrimination against LGBTI people*.
- UNAIDS is engaged in diplomacy and monitoring of the situation of LGBT people and HIV responses in countries where new laws have been adopted or proposed. This includes statements and high-level advocacy by the UNAIDS Executive Director, RST Directors and UNAIDS Country Directors.
- UNAIDS has engaged as a “friend of the court” or *Amicus Curiae* in several high-level cases in 2015.

Mobilizing political, technical, scientific and financial resources:

- Technical submissions or statements before the Human Rights Council and UN treaty-bodies (eg Right to life to affordable medicines; statement in support of OHCHR's report on discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity at the HRC's 29th Session; submission in support of OHCHR's upcoming report on civil society space)
- Technical assistance and high-level political engagement in countries on issues related to upcoming legislation such as criminalization, mandatory testing, travel restrictions, and more.
- In partnership with PEPFAR and the Elton John Foundation, supporting the creation of a new fund to support access to health care by LGBTI people in select countries.

Convening stakeholders and partners:

- March 1 is now [International Zero Discrimination Day](#).
- Together with OHCHR, facilitated the first dialogue between UN human rights mechanisms, the Inter-American and African Commissions on Human Rights on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity (Banjul, Nov 2015).
- UNAIDS Country Offices (UCOs) routinely convene representatives from the gay/MSM and transgender communities for consultations.

² UNAIDS means the UNAIDS Secretariat unless otherwise noted.

Role of the UN in combatting violence and discrimination against individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity – programmatic overview (25.11.15)

- Facilitated a dialogue on harmful punitive laws: UNAIDS, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Members of Parliament from Kyrgyzstan.

Empowering agents of change with strategic information and evidence:

- In partnership with the Global Workforce Alliance (GWA), supporting a multi-disciplinary platform to catalyze partnerships to eliminate HIV-related discrimination in health care.
- Dissemination of *Equal Eyes*: a curated compilation of stories that highlight successes and challenges facing LGBTBI people.

Supporting inclusive country leadership:

- UNAIDS has engaged extensively with stakeholders in-country to support the development of concept notes to the Global Fund that includes activities related to human rights and stigma & discrimination.

Joint UN initiatives

UN For All

UN Cares, the UN system-wide workplace programme on HIV, has created a training project called "UN for All: Dignity and inclusion in the UN system workplace." The purpose of the learning modules is to help foster a fully inclusive UN system workplace, and it includes a specific learning module on inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in the UN Workplace. So far about 210 UN staff from 94 countries and about 30 United Nations entities have been trained to facilitate the UN for All learning modules for their colleagues. Country-level implementation will begin in late 2015 and will continue into 2016. Information about the UN for All project is available on the [UN Cares website](#).

Contact List		
Focal Points on Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity		
<i>Agency</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>
ILO	Edward Lawton Andrea Davila Julia Faldt Jessica Wan Shauna Olney	lawton@ilo.org davila@ilo.org faldt@ilo.org wan@iloguest.org olney@ilo.org
OHCHR	Charles Radcliffe Michael van Gelderen	radcliffe@un.org mvangelder@ohchr.org
UNAIDS Secretariat	Richard Burzynski Patrick Eba (human rights) Hege Wagan (trans* people)	burzynskir@unaids.org ebap@unaids.org waganh@unaids.org
UNDP	Clifton Cortez	clifton.cortez@undp.org
UNESCO	Christophe Cornu Yong Feng Liu Christopher Castle Nuria Chat	c.cornu@unesco.org yf.liu@unesco.org c.castle@unesco.org n.chat@unesco.org
UNFPA	Alfonso Barragues Jenny Butler Tim Sladden Ilya Zhukov	barragues@unfpa.org butler@unfpa.org sladden@unfpa.org zhukov@unfpa.org
UNHCR	Scott Pohl	pohl@unhcr.org
UNICEF	David Anthony Amaya Gillespie Ken Legins Nicola Brandt Nicolette Moodie	danthony@unicef.org agillespie@unicef.org klegins@unicef.org nbrandt@unicef.org nmoodie@unicef.org
UN-Women	Beatrice Duncan Vivek Rai	beatrice.duncan@unwomen.org vivek.ra@unwomen.org
WHO	Rajat Khosla Rebekah Thomas Andrew Ball	rhr_me@who.int thomasre@who.int balla@who.int
World Bank	Maninder Gill Maria Beatriz Orlando Renaud Seligmann	mgill@worldbank.org morlando@worldbank.org rseligmann@worldbank.org