**Submission to Call for Inputs by Several UN Special Procedure Mandate Holders on the Impact of Covid-19 on Human Rights: Focused on Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Gender Non-Conforming People and Communities**

**June 2020**

*A written submission by RFSL – The Swedish Federation for LGBTIQ Rights*

This report aims to address questions posed by several Special Procedure mandate holders in the recent call for submissions focused on the Covid-19 pandemic and impacts on human rights. This submission is made by RFSL - The Swedish Federation for LGBTI Rights, an ECOSOC accredited organization.[[1]](#footnote-1)

This submission is made based on internal organizational expert analysis, coordinated information and response efforts and analyses made by coalitions to which RFSL belongs, and the so-far published resources, information and briefing notes, as well as those shared by various affected actors in their experiences and responses to the crisis, in addition to RFSL’s direct communication with partners across the world.

While the report is segregated into question answer format, many responses address more than one survey question posed by the different Special Procedures mandate holders.

***Summary Impact on the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Gender Non-Conforming People***

The current public health crisis caused by the spread of COVID-19 has already had a profound impact on the human rights, health, and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex (LGBTI), and gender non-conforming (GNC) people. This community already suffers from higher rates of underlying conditions than the general public, which have shown to exacerbate the morbidity and mortality rate of those contracting COVID-19. These include, but are not limited to, heart disease, cancer, respiratory problems associated with smoking, and compromised immune systems from chronic diseases like HIV. All of this is compounded by stigma, discrimination in accessing healthcare and by healthcare workers, lack of health insurance coverage, and other barriers to accessing health resources. LGBTI and GNC people also suffer from high rates of mental health issues, including depression and anxiety, which are being aggravated by the pandemic and ensuing containment policies[[2]](#footnote-2)

Furthermore, impacts of Covid-19 and policies taken to respond to the crisis, has exacerbated existing inequalities and heightened discrimination in LGBTI and GNC people’s access to and security of housing, employment, education, personal finances, and resources, while exposing them to increased violence and harassment. The crisis has been used by States, authorities, and public figures to undermine the human rights of LGBTI and GNC people, including through rolling back protective policies and using Covid-19 containment measures to target, arrest, and persecute against LGBTI and GNC people. LGBTI and GNC people have also been scapegoated by public and religious figures and blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing animosity, stigma, and even violence against the community.

It is imperative that as response and recovery measures are taken, governments and multilateral institutions maintain transparency, adhere to their human rights obligations, do not side-line civil society involvement, and ensure access to national, regional and international systems of accountability.

**Impact on human rights**

***Please describe whether responses to the pandemic by States, businesses, faith-based organizations or others actors have resulted in a rollback of human rights, including in relation to affirmative action, gender-equality, inclusion of persons with disabilities and LGBT persons, land rights of indigenous peoples’ or access to sexual and reproductive health services?***

A number of State responses have clearly neglected to take a human rights-based approach and instead are taking advantage of the crisis. Countries have used the crisis to further restrict citizens’ rights to assembly, including in Kyrgyzstan[[3]](#footnote-3), Iraq, and Myanmar[[4]](#footnote-4) where all protests and gatherings were banned at earlier stages of the crisis, putting into question the initial motivation behind such policies. States have also used the opportunity to encroach on citizens' right to privacy by introducing surveillance technology on personal devices, such as in Russia and China. For LGBTI and GNC people, who already face increased state surveillance and persecution, such technologies could result in increased arrests and targeting.

Many State responses have also overtly or covertly targeted the LGBTI and GNC community, including an incident in the United States where a homophobic Congressman from Arizona voted against the Families First Coronavirus Response Act because it covered provisions for same-sex domestic partners.[[5]](#footnote-5) In Hungary, where the Prime Minister has taken indefinite control of the country through emergency decree allowing for the complete curtail of human rights and arbitrary arrests, on Trans Day of Visibility (31 March, 2020) the government released a large bill consisting of many legislative proposals, one of these, Article 33, would make legal gender recognition impossible, massively undermining the rights of trans and intersex citizens of Hungary.[[6]](#footnote-6) On 19 May, the bill came into effect, rolling back the rights of trans and intersex citizens.[[7]](#footnote-7) In Poland, legal initiatives to stop abortion and effectively criminalize sexuality education, imperative for the health and wellbeing of LGBTI and GNC youths, by allowing for prosecution of sexuality educators was being pushed forward amidst the pandemic. Though, on 16 April, MPs delayed on the voting of the bill, local civil society activists recognized that the timing of the bill took advantage of the inability for individuals to protest and assemble.[[8]](#footnote-8)

LGBTI and GNC people have also been scapegoated by public and religious figures and blamed for the COVID -19 pandemic, increasing animosity, stigma, and even violence against the community. In Israel, a Homophobic rabbi claimed that the coronavirus outbreak was God’s divine punishment for Pride parades.[[9]](#footnote-9) In the United States, a right-wing conservative and homophobic pastor, blamed the COVID -19 outbreak on ‘LGBT sin’.[[10]](#footnote-10) In the Philippines, a Barangay captain made a group of individuals who identified as LGBTI and had violated quarantine policies “do lewd acts as punishment.”[[11]](#footnote-11)

Furthermore, as highlighted in the LBTI and GNC Statement, asylum seekers and refugees who identify as LGBTI and GNC and are disproportionately at-risk communities, are experiencing this crisis in an acute way. Such communities, who may lack citizenship or legal status, access to information, and are unable to practice safety measures against Covid-19, are already reporting increased sentiments of discrimination, prejudice, and resentment, from the greater public, and fear mass transmission rates and deaths due to overcrowded camps, lack of water, sanitation, and hygiene, decent healthcare, and other inadequate living conditions. Border closures are preventing those facing danger or persecution because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression from accessing safety, while countries are scapegoating immigrants and refugees as vectors of the disease to put in place hard-line migration policies or threaten refoulement.[[12]](#footnote-12)

The United Nations Refugee Agency and International Organization on Migration have also temporarily suspended resettlement processes. All of this is made worse for LBTI and GNC refugees and asylum seekers who will be forced to stay in refugee, detention camps, or hostile host countries, and continue to face homophobic or transphobic violence. In Kenya, countless LGBTI and GNC refugees remain in limbo, having sold their possessions awaiting resettlement. The Washington Post reported, “Wasswa and almost 30 others lived in a safe house in a Nairobi suburb until the pandemic hit. Afraid that their numbers would draw police enforcing social distancing measures, they split into two houses of about 15 each, doubling the amount each had to pay for rent. Almost none had jobs. They said Kenyans won’t hire them either because they are refugees or because they are effeminate.”[[13]](#footnote-13)

A statement issued by the Refugee Coalition of East Africa, based in Kenya, the escalated risks faced by refugee populations due to COVID-19*[[14]](#footnote-14)*:

*“We are often without proper health care and therefore in greater danger if exposed. We have no choice but to remain gathered in large numbers in limited housing or overcrowded camps, and we are not citizens with the benefits of those living in their home countries. Furthermore, we are foreigners, victims of discrimination as migrants and by arousing the resentment of those that are nationals and already have prejudices against us and the allocation of resources toward us. Additionally, we are in constant need, and as the world necessarily focuses its attention on the resolution of this crisis, and as the economic downturn hits those who donate or offer resources, we become easily and quickly forgotten.*

*For those of us who are LGBTQI refugees, the effect is devastating and swift. Many of our population suffer from compromised health conditions, as both our status as refugees and the discrimination against our sexual identity block our access to health care. We in Kenya cannot work legally and are socially isolated, so when the world turns its attention toward the current health crisis, we are inherently left behind. Already, our donor base has greatly reduced, and as many among us fear for their health, they are additionally concerned with a pending depletion of food and other provisions.”*

**Social Protection[[15]](#footnote-15)**

***Has there been any interruption of services, such as the closure of emergency shelters, food banks, or the disruption of health care or psycho-social services that has been of concern?***

Containment policies have triggered a drastic increase in experiences of domestic, family, and intimate partner violence, among a community whose rates of family and domestic violence are higher than the general population. LGBTI and GNC youths and adults who have been forced to isolate in hostile family homes, and who do not have the means to go elsewhere, are at particular risk. Situations are worse in countries where sexual orientation and gender identity and expression are directly or indirectly criminalized, limiting the ability of those experiencing violence or harassment to access justice or support for fear of persecution. State policies limiting movement and assembly and of Covid-19 at large, has hindered the ability of NGOs offering support services and shelters to respond to intimate partner, domestic and family violence cases.[[16]](#footnote-16)

Shelters run by LGBTI organizations servicing this community have also been raided[[17]](#footnote-17), shut down, had to reduce operations or become inoperative or insufficient due to state policies policing public gatherings, limiting social interactions, and cuts in funding.

As outlined in the LBTI Caucus Statement: those who have chronic or other conditions in need of treatment, or who need routine medical care, may find it harder to access medication and medical support, especially in countries which have gone into lockdown, and where access to public and other services are halted. These situations will be heightened due to restrictions on movement and interruptions in public transportation services. Transgender and intersex individuals, who may seek or have particular health needs, such as access to hormonal treatments or gender affirming services, may also face additional barriers, if not a complete inability, to access services due to the pressure on hospitals and medical practitioners to address Covid-19. Of grave concern are older LBTI and GNC people who fall under multiple risk categories, are more susceptible to suffer mortality from contracting the virus, and may not have access to financial security, basic healthcare, or family and support systems to rely on.[[18]](#footnote-18)

A report released by Intersex South Africa, which surveyed its members on the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, highlighted particular experiences of intersex persons to access screening and testing services as well as access to general health services. Respondents also mentioned having fear of going to public clinics and to get needed medication for underlying and chronic health conditions, recognizing the threat of the virus to the community.[[19]](#footnote-19) The organization placed additional concern on mental health and wellbeing, recognizing intersex isolation and the inability to access sensitized and timely care, stating that, “intersex people grow up isolated as a result of  pathologising  medical practices e.g. doctors telling intersex people that “you are the only person like this” and discriminatory social norms and practices that force intersex people to live in shame and secrecy. ISSA is concerned that these feelings of isolation will be further  exacerbated  by the lockdown, especially if members are forced to selfisolate with family members that are not understanding or supportive.”[[20]](#footnote-20)

***Please provide information on implemented and planned adjustments to the social safety net in response to the crisis, to ensure that individuals who lost all or part of their income as a consequence of the pandemic have access to sufficient nutrition, housing, water and sanitation, health care, energy and other essential goods and services? How has the State ensured fair and equitable access to social safety net measures across lines of race, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, membership of indigenous peoples, and others?***

LGBTI and GNC people who face multiple or intersecting vulnerabilities and are most at risk and have faced multiple challenges in accessing medical, social, and economic assistance. This includes LGBTI and GNC people employed in the informal and service sector, trade and blue-collar employment, sex workers, community members with underlying health issues, older LGBTI and GNC people, who may live in isolation and lack family ties and other immediate social support systems.

LGBTI and GNC persons who engage in sex work have faced drastic impacts to their livelihood and wellbeing, have been forced into unsafe situations in order to cope with severe financial instability.[[21]](#footnote-21) Additionally, in places where sex work is fully or partially criminalized, sex workers are unable to access the financial support available to other workers. A report by the International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe, noted that, “The COVID-19 crisis revealed in weeks that sex workers are amongst the populations most disproportionately impacted due to their social and economic exclusion working in a highly criminalized sector...It also proved what sex worker activists have been echoing for decades: sex workers will be the last prioritized population when it comes to providing them with alternative income…”[[22]](#footnote-22) Even in places, such as Greece, where sex work is legalized, financial support is only available for “Greek nationals with a female gender marker in their documents are allowed to work in indoor venues — thus becoming eligible for government support during the pandemic.”[[23]](#footnote-23) This means that trans women sex workers without affirming legal gender recognition, as well as undocumented migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, are not deemed eligible for government financial support.

**Accountability and justice[[24]](#footnote-24)**

***Have persons in situation of homelessness been fined, detained or prosecuted for non- respect of confinement or stay at home orders? How was this issue addressed in your country?***

In Uganda, on March 29th, 23 people were arrested at a shelter housing LGBTI youths, under the guise of coronavirus prevention and breaching social distancing measures[[25]](#footnote-25) The raid was clearly incited by homophobic bias and targeting, the youths remained in prison without bail, amidst outcry by human rights activists concerning Uganda’s overcrowded prisons.[[26]](#footnote-26) Frank Mugisha, of Sexual Minorities Uganda, commented on the impact of Covid-19 and State policies in Uganda saying, "We've had reports of LGBTQI members being blamed for the virus. Due to lockdowns, many people cannot work and pay rent. We know some are being evicted and forced to return to their families who kicked them out. It's causing a lot of anguish."[[27]](#footnote-27)

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights**

1. Do the employment policies associated with the economic recovery plans take into account the specific situation of people working in the informal sector, and the need to improve working conditions in that sector as well as to extend formal social protection to them? Have such policies sought to increase the employability of groups that face specific barriers in their access to employment, for example, through demand-driven skills development and vocational training?

A survey of members who are part of Intersex South Africa revealed that most members relied on the informal sector to make a living, including through such jobs as washing cars, babysitting and street vending. Overall, respondents reported being unemployed, under/skilled, or engaged in part-time work. Overwhelmingly, the respondents were impacted by policies responding to Covid containment, including lockdown measures, and restrictions on unnecessary or non-essential jobs, rendering them with no income and because they are engaged in the informal sector, did not have access to insurance, healthcare, and unemployment benefits.[[28]](#footnote-28) The report highlighted that individuals living in rural areas and township with even fewer access to socioeconomic opportunities would likely face worsened impacts.

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food**

1. What measures did national, federal, provincial or local governments put in place to ensure access to food for the individuals in vulnerable situations such as older persons, children, women, rural communities, LGBT persons, national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic minorities, and indigenous peoples?

In Indonesia, a coalition focusing on crisis management for the LGBTI and GNC community is responding to the disproportionate impacts felt by the transgender community. A civil society organization, Sanggar SWARA conducted a rapid response assessment finding that there were more than 640 transgender in the greater Jakarta area who lost their jobs, leaving them unable to support themselves.[[29]](#footnote-29) The coalition indicated that, there were two basic needs which were not being met but were essential, namely food and sanitation. The coalition identified that, “in a single day, one person spends around Rp. 50,000 for 3 proper meals, soap and clean water,” however trans communities who mostly worked on the streets had been gravely impacted and unable to support themselves. The coalition noted that, “On several occasions when distribution of basic food staples took place, many of them could not access it as they do not have their ID cards, or simply because of their gender identity.”

While government measures were clearly not reaching or barring the most marginalized and impacted communities from accessing food programs and hygiene and sanitary products, civil society addressed the gaps. The coalition mentioned above, and with assistance from UNAIDS, created an initiative to raise funds to distribute food in several aid locations across the greater Jakarta area, with the provision to expand reach.[[30]](#footnote-30)

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing**

* **1) Please elaborate on measures taken by national, federal, provincial or local governments to ensure persons are protected from the virus at their home or place of living**

Policies implemented to contain Covid, including those requiring isolation, especially which penalize non-compliance, do not take into consideration the widespread vulnerability and homelessness among LGBTI and GNC youth and older persons. Young LGBTI and GNC people are up to 120% more likely than their non-LGBTI or GNC counterparts to experience homelessness. Reports from LGBTI and GNC young people across the world indicate experiencing increases in homophobic and transphobic violence, or harassment, including from family members, by being forced into situations of lockdown in hostile environments.[[31]](#footnote-31) Akt, a UK-based organization supporting LGBTQ youth, noted that there has been a very high increase in the need for housing from 16-17 year old LGBTI young people, who need recourse from “hostile or abusive living situations.”[[32]](#footnote-32)

Furthermore widespread shutdowns of assistance programs and shelters catered to young, homeless, LGBTI and GNC people, has increased the vulnerability of this group amidst an increase in need of services and shelter.[[33]](#footnote-33) In the United Kingdom, a Outside Project, the first permanent LGBT homeless shelter based in London, reported In April that the rise in demand was not being met with no increase in support.[[34]](#footnote-34) In the United States, an New York City based non-profit for homeless youth, New Alternatives, reported that one third of their clients are living with HIV, but are experiencing barriers in accessing needed Services. Another non-profit, Courage MKE, reported that although their group home for LGBTQ youth was still operational, necessary items to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 were severely lacking or inaccessible, such as hand sanitizer and hygiene products, and due to prevention measures the group home did not accept food and other donated products.[[35]](#footnote-35)

A report by Intersex South Africa highlighted the concerns facing intersex individuals who might be further isolated

**Questions by the Independent Expert on the human rights of older persons**

**1) Please provide more information on the situation and measures taken in state run or financed facilities with a focus on the needs of older persons with underlying health conditions.**

LGBTI and GNC older persons who have lived through a lifetime of stigma, discrimination, and inability to access to needed health services, live with disproportionate rates of underlying health conditions which have been found to contribute to high mortality rates due to Covid-19. This is especially the case for older transgender people, 25% of whom have reported already living with chronic health conditions.[[36]](#footnote-36)

LGBTI and GNC older persons also live in greater isolation and lack family ties and other immediate social support systems as well as access to governmental support systems. To exacerbate the situation, places where LGBTI and GNC older persons would access support, including physical and mental health support, such as LGBT centers or through services run by non-profit organizations, have been forced to close due to being deemed as non-essential.[[37]](#footnote-37)

**Questions by the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity[[38]](#footnote-38)**

1. **Can you identify good practices in the State interventions in relation to COVID- 19 and LGBT persons? Can you identify good practices stemming from civil society actions? Have lessons been learned from the pandemic on how not to leave LGBT persons behind in emergency situations?**

Some of the community solutions as a result of the pandemic are centered on organizing fundraising initiatives and engaging in communication and information sharing campaigns. Crisis fundraising examples include those with the aim to support at least one month’s rent for some of the members of trans sex workers community, so that they are able to stay at home and not work. Lists of examples of programs and initiatives directed towards this community are collected and made available online.[[39]](#footnote-39) Such initiatives, however, are not sustainable in the long run without direct governmental and other assistance and are hardly enough to cover immediate living costs. In countries where LGBTI and GNC persons are highly stigmatized or criminalized, crowdfunding may only be possible within the community and among allies. This pool of supporters is generally limited and at the moment are also financially compromised.

Organizations are also engaging in extensive information campaigns to reach LGBTI and GNC communities who are difficult to reach and engaging in rapid crisis response strategies across the region to meet the needs of the community. Social media platforms and online channels are being used at platforms to share information, provide online services, gather information and survey communities, and to communicate with the community at large.

LGBTI and other organizations have moved needed services, such as counselling and crisis communication services online. RFSL provides crisis support to LGBTI and GNC individuals through calls or via email. Cases of violence and discrimination are also monitored alongside emerging needs reported by community members. In some cases, volunteers and staff members help deliver food, medicine and other basic supplies to those who are under high risk of contracting COVID-19 with graver health consequences. However, the problem remains that members of the community who do not have access to necessary technology or internet connection, those confined to the same space as their domestic abusers and those, who are not out with their families, will not be able to receive support online.

The Swedish government allocated 100 million SEK additional funds to support organizations working with vulnerable communities, including LGBTI organizations, organizations working to address gender-based violence, and to combat loneliness and isolation of the elderly population.[[40]](#footnote-40) Furthermore, the government absolved civil society requirements to finance 10% of their operational costs in order to receive support from the Swedish Institute for Development Assistance, for the year 2020.[[41]](#footnote-41) The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited local, regional, and international LGBTI organizations to consultations on the impact of Covid to vulnerable communities.

A lesson learned and a need in any emergency and crisis response situation is that community-based organizations must be involved in the design and implementation of policies and programs. This will ensure that the needs of different populations are sufficiently considered and that measures will not exacerbate already existing inequalities and marginalization. Furthermore, governments must invest in food security, economic stimulus and relief packages which reach marginalized and vulnerable populations working and living under precarious conditions. Effective strategies to ensure leaving no one behind and which have both immediate and sustainable impacts on affected communities are those which are guided by affected populations and have strong commitments and leadership from governments which are inclusive and attentive to responses which will not exacerbate existing inequalities. In such crisis situations, the need for philanthropic and institutional partners, UN agencies, and other stakeholders are vital to assist in the response, recuperation, and restoration of communities heavily impacted or marginalized, and without access to state-run assistance programs.

1. ECOSOC accredited organization registered as Swedish Federation of LGBT Rights - RFSL.  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. From the LBTI Caucus statement on COVID-19 -<https://www.rfsl.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/LBTI-Caucus-Statement-Covid19_version3.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Experience shared among RFSL partners and networks [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Experience shared among RFSL partners and networks [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Anti LGBT+ Republican representative opposed coronavirus relief bill because it ‘redefined family’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/coroanvirus-bill-us-andy-biggs-trump-republican-lgbt-abortion-a9410181.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Hungary prepares to end legal recognition of trans people -<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/26/hungary-prepares-to-end-legal-recognition-of-trans-people> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Hungary Votes to End Legal Recognition of Trans People - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/19/hungary-votes-to-end-legal-recognition-of-trans-people> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Polish MPs vote to delay controversial abortion and sex education bills - <https://www.euronews.com/2020/04/16/polish-mps-vote-to-delay-controversial-abortion-and-sex-education-bills> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Homophobic rabbi claims coronavirus outbreak is God’s divine punishment for Pride parades - https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/09/israel-rabbi-coronavirus-pride-parade-gay-god-divine-punishment-covid19-meir-mazuz/ [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *Right-wing pastor blames coronavirus on ‘LGBT sin’, because someone had to we guess* - https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/08/coronavirus-outbreak-blame-lgbt-steven-andrews-right-wing-pastor/ [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Barangay captain makes LGBTQ+ quarantine violators do lewd acts as punishment

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/257292-barangay-captain-lgbtq-quarantine-violators-lewd-acts-punishment?utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Echobox&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2rmpgvXONFYLN43XwAmCoF5JWN_t2NNee3xsf4FbB795Zb-E6GvR5g0gM#Echobox=1586261742> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. LBTI Caucus Statement [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. ‘We were so ready’: LGBT refugees in Kenya live in fear as global resettlement is put on hold - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/kenya-coronavirus-lgbt-refugees-resettlement/2020/05/26/3550cd0c-83ef-11ea-81a3-9690c9881111_story.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Kenya: LGBTI Refugees and Covid-19 - <https://equal-eyes.org/database/2020/3/17/kenya-lgbtqi-refugees-and-covid-19> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. This section also directly addressed the questions for the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food.  [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. From the LBTI Caucus statement on COVID-19 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. LGBT Shelter Residents Arrested - <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/03/uganda-lgbt-shelter-residents-arrested-covid-19-pretext> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. From the LBTI Caucus statement on COVID-19 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. ISSA Covid Lockdown Report -<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:f7854084-d984-47f2-b1e4-d554b20781fe#pageNum=5> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Issa Covid Lockdown Report - <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:f7854084-d984-47f2-b1e4-d554b20781fe#pageNum=5> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Sex Workers Struggle to Survive the <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/04/sex-workers-struggle-survive-covid-19-pandemic> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. ICRSE Policy Brief on Covid 19 - <https://www.sexworkeurope.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/files/Policy_brief_ICRSE_COVID19.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Trans sex workers being barred from Covid/19 financial support / <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/26/trans-sex-workers-legal-gender-recognition-covid-19-financial-support/> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. This section directly answers questions posed by Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Special Rapporteur on right to adequate housing [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Uganda LGBT Members Denied Bail After Public Gathering Arrest - <https://www.voanews.com/africa/19-uganda-lgbt-members-denied-bail-after-public-gathering-arrest> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Uganda LGBT Shelter Residents Arrested on COVID-19 Pretext - <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/03/uganda-lgbt-shelter-residents-arrested-covid-19-pretext> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Arrests, evictions and scapegoating: Coronavirus takes a toll on LGBT+ Africans - <https://news.trust.org/item/20200416163459-i4xo8> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. ISSA Covid Lockdown Report - <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:f7854084-d984-47f2-b1e4-d554b20781fe#pageNum=4> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Supporting Transgender People During the Covid 19 Pandemic <https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/april/20200406_transgender_covid19> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Supporting Transgender People During the Covid 19 Pandemic <https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/april/20200406_transgender_covid19> [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Covid 19 Forced me Back Home Where I am Unwanted <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-52835114/lgbt-covid-19-forced-me-back-home-where-i-m-unwanted> [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Homelessness charities say “high volume” of LGBT youth at risk during pandemic

 - <https://www.newstatesman.com/spotlight/coronavirus/2020/04/homelessness-charities-say-high-volume-lgbt-youth-risk-during-pandemic> [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Corona Virus Pandemic a Perfect Storm for LGBTI Youth / <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/coronavirus-pandemic-perfect-storm-lgbtq-homeless-youth-n1176206> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. <https://www.newstatesman.com/spotlight/coronavirus/2020/04/homelessness-charities-say-high-volume-lgbt-youth-risk-during-pandemic> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Corona Virus Pandemic a Perfect Storm for LGBTI Youth / <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/coronavirus-pandemic-perfect-storm-lgbtq-homeless-youth-n1176206> [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. The Cost of Covid to LGBT Older Adults / <https://www.lambdalegal.org/blog/lgbt-older-adults-seniors-elders-coronavirus> [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. The Cost of Covid to LGBT Older Adults / <https://www.lambdalegal.org/blog/lgbt-older-adults-seniors-elders-coronavirus> [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. All previous sections of this submission lend to the mandate of the Special Procedure on prevention against violence and discrimination on the basis of SOGI [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. <https://www.redumbrellafund.org/covid-initiatives/> [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. <https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2020/05/100-miljoner-till-insatser-for-manniskor-i-sarskild-social-utsatthet-och-mot-aldres-ensamhet-under-coronapandemin/> [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. <https://www.regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/regeringens-arbete-med-anledning-av-nya-coronaviruset/for-civila-samhallet/> [↑](#footnote-ref-41)