**Name: Syed Raza Haider Tirmizi**

**Humraz Male Health Society, Karachi.**

**Humraz Male Health Society is a community based organization working on LGBT issues since 2012 please find feedback from our organization below.**

To inform my report, I am seeking views and inputs from all relevant stakeholders (Member States, civil society organizations, National Human Rights Institutions, United Nations agencies, regional institutions, corporate entities, etc.) and I kindly invite you to consider the following questions:

1. What are the current efforts by States to increase their knowledge of the LGBT population? Specifically, are questions about sexual orientation and gender identity included in government surveys (e.g. the census, national health surveys, income and living condition surveys, or other surveys funded or mandated by the State), administrative records (e.g. birth certificates/birth registries, identity Cards, school records, professional licenses, social security and public benefit records, and other government documents)?

There is no support and acknowledgment from the state of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as it is prohibited to have same sex relationship under Pakistani and Sharia Law(Hudood ordinance). As far as National Health Survey with reference to IBBS 2017 HIV epidemic is increasing in MSM(Gay/Bi-sexual Male) population and Transgender women. But fortunately in May-2018 Transgender Rights bill passed and now Transgender are recognized as third gender in Pakistan. But rest of the LGBIQ issues are still there, a lot of discrimination, violence and rape cases not reported just because of legality.

1. What kinds of data can be collected by government to understand the nature and extent of violence (e.g. through statistics on LGBT-phobic hate crimes and hate speech), discrimination, and disparities in health, education, labour, civic participation, and other important areas?

As mentioned in first question specifically in health HIV epidemic is increasing and it is highlighted and government accept the fact that its increasing in MSM/TG population, but otherwise school based harassment and discrimination cases specially in case of Gay and Trans people is very high and not get reported just because government didn’t want to take any initiative in this regard. In case of employment if it is disclosed most of the work places and employers never encourage to adopt this label.

1. What safeguards are in place, and what safeguards are needed, to protect the human rights of individuals providing personal data as well as individuals collecting such data? This question includes the following:
   1. Safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals who provide data about their sexual orientation/gender identity, and the confidentiality of the data provided by these individuals.
   2. Broader statutory rules or administrative policies to insure transparency and accountability of government institutions such as statistical bodies.

In SOGIE issues there might be some commitments from the government of Pakistan on UN charter and might be signatory for Human right issues to protect SOGIE issues but practically on ground when it comes to Harassments, Violence and other issues there is no support from the government. But few of the Community based organizations working on LGBTIQ issues in Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi Islamabad but all of them are under constant fear to be out to police and get caught that they are doing illegal work. People from SOGIE group wants to report it in some cases but need to do some advocacy campaigns through Community based organizations so it can be reported and complied with facts and fugues regarding the issues on ground with SOGIE.

1. What are the risks associated with the collection and management of data on sexual orientation and gender identity and initiatives to overcome those?

As homosexuality is illegal under Pakistani sharia law and 70 lashes and 10 years of prison under law if get caught under this act. So government is not doing any collection of data but considering the fact that people or community based organization under safety precautions can collect and manage data base through networks but it needs to be safe. So no harm should reach to community people doing this work.

1. Are there circumstances where data collection is ill-advised, such as in countries that criminalize same-sex behavior or where particular government agencies have demonstrated a cause for concern regarding their treatment of issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes as mentioned above that homosexuality act is criminalized under Pakistani Sharia Law and imprisonment of 10 years and 70 lashes if get caught so the chances of getting caught by the police/intelligence agencies but if done with precaution and taking proper safety measures data can be collected with the help of community based organizations as LGBTIQ community already usually seek help from community based organizations but in few cases its not possible to do so.

1. When States engage in data gathering activity, to what extent is civil society able to meaningfully participate in the design and implementation of these programs? This question includes the following:
   1. Do states have policies that guide the process of civil society participation national statistical programs and other State efforts to increase knowledge about LGBT populations?
   2. Does civil society have the capacity, in terms of expertise and technical knowledge, to meaningfully participate in State efforts to gather data?
   3. What constitutes meaningful participation in this area?

In Pakistan there are no state policies or guidelines for civil society to participate in LGBT issues but directly or indirectly Community based organizations in Karachi with the help of Human Rights commission usually participate in civil society meeting and highlights LGBT related issues.

There is no capacity or strong technical support in civil society to facilitate these options but can be possible with the help of community based organization. But needs capacity building in technical issues and knowledge sharing programs.

Community based approach in collaboration with UN agencies and Government will lead to be helpful in this regard.

1. Does the lack of a global classification scheme carry risks that data will not be useful for international comparisons or will not accurately reflect the identities and lived realities of local populations?

It will be more helpful if we see the LGBT dynamics in more local context as well and take measures and actions according to local scenarios but the international context will help and sharing of ideas and strategies will always be helpful for Pakistani context.

Name: Syed Raza Haider Tirmizi

Designation: Program manager Humraz male health society.

Mobile: +923215002008 Skype: raza.tir

Email: [syedraza.tir@gmail.com](mailto:syedraza.tir@gmail.com)