**Call for input**

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)?

The government of Uganda has not put up any effort in regards to legal policies to increase public awareness for the existence of LGBT persons and concerns in all its sectors. The government has however put up more discriminatory laws and policies to curtail LGBT persons from enjoying similar rights and freedoms which are enjoyed by the heterosexual community. Some of these laws include the Public Order Management Law, Sexual offenses Bill and the Computer Misuse Act 2011 which all target LGBT activities and persons in the country.

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?

Since government does not recognize LGBT persons in Uganda it’s very hard for it to get data in reference to the level of violence inflicted on LGBT persons in the country by the public and state actors. In many cases even when abused by their partners (Intimate Partner Violence) and from families, community members and the police, LGBT persons are not in position to report such cases of violence inflicted on them for fear of being arrested and subjection to further embarrassment and torture. Given these reasons its very hard to generate reliable data on the nature of violence encountered by the LGBT persons in all sectors of the country.

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.
* Currently there are no safeguards in all government institutions to protect individuals who provide information about their sexual orientation. Many calls have been made to at least provide for such safeguards in the ministry of health particularly in the area of client registration of gender identities but this has been ignored

* 1. Broader statutory rules or administrative policies to insure transparency and accountability of government institutions such as statistical bodies.
* There’s need to conduct stakeholder engagement meetings with key statistical bodies and ministries to ensure the development of flexible data tools that can be used to collection accurate information on LGBT concerns in the country
1. What are the risks associated with the collection and management of data on sexual orientation and gender identity and initiatives to overcome those?

* Ideally in Uganda LGBT Human Rights defenders and other stakeholders engaged in the collection of information and data in regards to LGBT community concerns have been in many cases beaten up, arrested and their information destroyed while conducting their duties in the community. For example, when the Anti-Homosexuality Bill was passed by parliament in 2014, at our organization all information regarding LGBT work was burnt and destroyed as a way of doing away with all implicating evidence of LGBT Advocacy by the organization.
* In order to improve their area of work, there’s need to equip them with digital security tools so as to incorporate digital security techniques into their larger protection plans and see how it fits into their work of data collection
1. Are there circumstances where data collection is ill-advised, such as in countries that criminalize same-sex behaviour or where particular government agencies have demonstrated a cause for concern regarding their treatment of issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity?
* The government of Uganda has continued to express zero tolerance of LGBT persons and concerns and in such areas it’s very hard to ensure effective collection of data in that sense.
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?
* Uganda has no such policies, and thus there is no uniform data in regards to LGBT concerns. Institutions that have been able to collect such data have done it without any input from government and as such use it for personal or independent purposes
	1. Does civil society have the capacity, in terms of expertise and technical knowledge, to meaningfully participate in State efforts to gather data?
* LGBT civil society organizations in Uganda lack capacity to collect data from the community members and this is due to the fear and community hatred towards LGBT persons. In areas where data has been generated have been done by foreign agencies like embassies and international human rights bodies.
	1. What constitutes meaningful participation in this area?
* Meaning participation would ideally call for the engagement of all state and none state actors and LGBT persons. All individuals must be able to give their outright opinions in an open and supportive atmosphere.
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?

In areas where Governments have not been supportive towards LGBT persons and issues that affect them, Global Classification data has been used to develop programs and policies that address the immediate needs of LGBT persons. In this sense Global Classification schemes are very vital in providing reliable data and information on LGBT issues.