18 June 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 32/2 and 41/18.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global challenge that has exacerbated the inequalities prevalent in all regions of the world. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse (LGBT) persons, who are already victims of violence and discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, have been severely affected by this pandemic. At this critical time, it is especially imperative for States to guarantee that all COVID-19 responses are taking into account the impact of the crisis on LGBT persons.

To this respect, I have developed practical guidelines to help States in effectively fulfilling their obligations to prevent and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on LGBT persons. These guidelines are based on six fundamental actions identified as good practices in designing, implementing and evaluating States’ measures to combat the crisis in order to protect LGBT persons, communities and populations.

I would be particularly grateful if you could disseminate the guidelines widely within your respective governments. For any further question or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Catherine de Preux De Baets, cdepreuxdebaets@ohchr.org or Taro Tanaka, ttanaka@ohchr.org).



Victor Madrigal-Borloz

Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity