

Research Report

Committee: ECOSOC

Issue: Reducing inequalities and discrimination against the LGBT community.

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Introduction:

Under what is known as "sexual and reproductive rights", everyone should have the right to choose: their partner, their way of living, whether to marry or not, having children or not... These choices must be freely available without constraint, and without the fear of violence, threats or legal proceedings.

However, inequalities and discriminations against the LGBT community are a problem that affect every country of the world. People belonging to this community are estimated to be between 3 to 10% of the total population; and these figures, determined by self-declaration, are probably lower than the real number. On a global scale, this is a problem that affects hundreds of millions of people. The particular problems differ between countries, also between local region, the cultural context, the personal situation...

But there is no country in the world where anti-LGBT discrimination is not a problem. Although it is not direct homophobia or transphobia facilitated by the law, more complex and often intersectional problems still exist in the most developed and progressive countries.

The history of LGBT people is very different from one country to another one: in the countries of the West, LGBT rights movement, really started in the 19th century, has been gaining importance after the Second World War, and many countries installed decriminalizing and even protective measures towards LGBT people in the late 20th century and especially in the 21st century. Some countries, such as Vietnam, has never in their history criminalized homosexual relationships, as has been the case in Europe. Unfortunately, in 72 countries, those relationships remain criminal even today.

The only common point of all countries is probably that this history is still evolving. Popular attitudes and governmental policies are constantly in change. And the condition of LGBT people is improving, overall, little by little.

Definitions of key terms:

LGBT: Acronym used to collectively refer to "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender" people.

Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia: acts of rejection and violence against homosexual, bisexual and/or transgender people. These can be instituted by the state, but are also related to social norms and dynamics.

In America, great progress has already been made towards equality for LGBT people. In North America, same-sex marriage is legal in Canada and in the USA, and in several districts in Mexico. Rights in Central America and in South America are more limited, but America still have a total of 10 countries where same-sex marriage is legal. Identity and free expression of gender are legal in 15 countries. South American countries are also affected by a strong evolution, with the population growth and economic strength, which promises big changes in the future.

Organizations involved:

- The International Association of lesbians, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (ILGA), and other activists for LGBT rights associations
- The High Commission for the UN Human Rights

International documents:

- Council Resolution on Rights humans of 17 June 2011, submitted by South Africa, requesting a study on discrimination and sexual orientation (a / HRC / 17/19)
- Report of the High Commission for human Rights of 4 May 2015, on the discrimination and violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (A / HRC / 29/23)

possible solutions:

- Legal issues: decriminalization of relations or the existence of LGBT people; marriage rights and adoption for same-sex couples; legal sex change;
- The legal and social protections against discrimination;
- The right of expression and non-censorship on LGBT issues;
- How to deal with "sources" or "rationale" social homophobia and transphobia (religion, popular myths, stereotypes ...), for example through public education, outreach or other methods ;
- The protection and assistance to LGBT minors, particularly vulnerable;

References:

- Amnesty International
https://www.amnesty.fr/droits-sexuels?gclid=CjoKCQjwzcbWBRDmARIsAM6uChUZQpWwRh37qfPJh7oqRXPuB-cqLhDDWCuK4XAk8 IQsIoOEqIZFoaAnUIEALw_wcB
- Wikipedia: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droits_LGBT_dans_le_monde

- High Commission for Human Rights: [http:// search.ohchr.org/results.aspx?k=lgbt](http://search.ohchr.org/results.aspx?k=lgbt)
- The International Association of lesbians, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex:
www.ilga.org