

Research Report

Human Rights Council

1 | Measures to address violence and discrimination towards
the LGBTQ+ Community

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
Definition of Key Terms	4
Current State of Affairs	5
Major Countries and Organizations	6
Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue	7
Possible Solutions	8
Bibliography	9

Introduction

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was first established in 2006 as a replacement for the Commission on Human Rights, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The purpose of the UNHRC is to “*promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.*” A commonly referenced document in the HRC is, naturally, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

It is therefore common for HRC topics to revolve around marginalised or mistreated communities, such as racial minorities, the LGBTQ+ community, refugees, and women, among others. Past topics that the UNHRC has addressed include:

- Measures to protect the human rights of Syrian refugees
- Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel
- Discussion on closing the gender wage gap

The LGBTQ+ community has a long history of violence and discrimination based solely on sexual preference and gender identity. It is in direct violation of human rights that thousands of LGBTQ+ individuals are subject to horrific hate crimes every year.

The magnitude and severity of these issues vary, and can be non-violent (workplace discrimination, slurs, hate speech, etc.) to extremely violent (murder, assault, battery, etc.) There are laws in place to address the issue, but this varies extremely from nation to nation. Where some countries have now made gay marriage fully legal, there are other countries wherein having intercourse with someone of the same sex/gender is punishable by *death*.

Definition of Key Terms

LGBTQ+ Community

This is the abbreviation used to refer to individuals who differ from the heteronormative standard; people who identify as anything *other* than cisgender *and* heterosexual*. The acronym refers to *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer*, but the '+' denotes all other genders and sexualities beyond those four (e.g. Pansexual, Asexual, Demisexual, Genderfluid, etc.)

*cisgender-and-heterosexual is often abbreviated as *cisHet*.

Cisgender

This refers to an individual who identifies with the gender assigned to them at birth, and constitutes the majority of the population. It is referred to colloquially as '*cis*'.

Heterosexual

Heterosexual individuals are attracted only to people of the *opposite* sex. It is referred to colloquially as '*straight*'.

Transgender

Transgender is the opposite of cisgender, meaning that a transgender individual does *not* identify with the gender assigned to them at birth. It is referred to colloquially as '*trans*'.

Homosexual

Homosexual individuals are attracted only to people of the *same* sex. It is referred to colloquially as '*gay*'.

Heteronormativity (!!!)

The belief that heterosexuality is the default, preferred, or normal mode of sexual orientation. It assumes the gender binary (i.e., that there are only two distinct, opposite genders) and that sexual and marital relations are most fitting between people of opposite sex.

Queer

This is a blanket term—originally meaning strange or out of the ordinary—that has evolved into a means to refer to members of the LGBTQ+ community as a whole.

AFAB/AMAB

AFAB stands for Assigned Female at Birth, just like AMAB stands for Assigned Male at Birth. It is an abbreviation that conveys the gender that a person was assigned at birth. For example, a woman who is *AFAB*—meaning that at birth, she were assigned female—is *cisgender*, since she still identifies with the gender she was given at birth.

FtM/MtF

FtM and MtF stand for Female-to-Male and Male-to-Female and are used to denote the nature of being trans. A trans woman is MtF, since she was AMAB, and identified as a male, and has transitioned to *female*.

Current State of Affairs

The current state of affairs with respect to the LGBTQ+ Community and the levels of discrimination that they face is complicated and extremely varied. Where in some nations—particularly those in the west—there have been incredible strides made towards equality, including the legalization of gay marriage and the recognition of transgender individuals, there are other nations wherein homosexuality is still punishable by death.

While it can be difficult to gauge the level of respect and advancement that has been achieved with respect to LGBTQ+ rights since it is such a diverse and broad topic, a good indicator is the friendliness and positive legislation on the subject of gay or same-sex marriage.

Major Countries and Organizations

Country #1

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, vim mutat alienum ei, an eos tota dicunt accommodare. Eu invidunt consequat sea. Per te dicunt consulatu, est laoreet scriptorem ex. Ut sumo appetere est, in pro populo oporteat. Vix veniam ubique interesset ne, justo nominati vim ut.

Country #2

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, vim mutat alienum ei, an eos tota dicunt accommodare. Eu invidunt consequat sea. Per te dicunt consulatu, est laoreet scriptorem ex. Ut sumo appetere est, in pro populo oporteat. Vix veniam ubique interesset ne, justo nominati vim ut.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Possible Solutions

Questions to Consider

Bibliography

Use MLA citations