Stonewall

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This resource is produced by Stonewall, a UK-based charity that stands for the freedom, equity and potential of all lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people.

At Stonewall, we imagine a world where LGBTQ+ people everywhere can live our lives to the full.

Founded in London in 1989, we now work in each nation of the UK and have established partnerships across the globe. Over the last three decades, we have created transformative change in the lives of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, helping win equal rights around marriage, having children and inclusive education.

Our campaigns drive positive change for our communities, and our sustained change and empowerment programmes ensure that LGBTQ+ people can thrive throughout our lives. We make sure that the world hears and learns from our communities, and our work is grounded in evidence and expertise.

To find out more about our work, visit us at www.stonewall.org.uk

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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND LGBT INCLUSION

When the United Nations decided to create a set of global goals to end poverty and inequality by 2030, equality groups pushed for the rights and needs of lesbian, gay, bi and trans people to be taken into account. The result, **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, was agreed in 2015 and signed onto by 193 governments on the basis that they apply to everyone, everywhere and will **'leave no one behind'**. Although at Stonewall we think the SDGs could have gone further by explicitly calling for LGBT equality, we recognise their exciting potential to advance equality for all.

The 'leave no one behind' principle is especially relevant for LGBT people, who have been repeatedly left behind by national and international development initiatives. Discriminatory laws, projects that don't acknowledge their specific needs and negative social attitudes have all combined to hold LGBT people back. The impacts of this are felt by LGBT communities in all parts of the world – lower income, worse health, less education, among others. As a result, poverty as a whole will never truly be eradicated until this problem is directly addressed.

We believe this is unacceptable. We are calling for governments and development organisations worldwide to keep their promise and to make sure the challenges facing LGBT people are accounted for in their responses to the SDGs. By doing this, we can help achieve our mission for every person to be accepted without exception.

This short guide demonstrates some of the ways LGBT equality can be achieved. It looks at seven of the 17 goals and highlights the challenges LGBT people face. It then showcases some of the brilliant work that is already being done worldwide to make sure LGBT people are fully included and have their needs met . It also suggests practical actions for organisations working on different development issues.

Whether you work for a charity, a government or a private sector organisation, the goals are a shared responsibility. There are many ways you can take action to include and respond to the needs of LGBT people in international development.

* Throughout this paper, we included case studies and research from a wider range of organisations striving to achieve equality. Organisations use different acronyms and we have remained faithful to these throughout this text. For example, some may use LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi and trans), others may use LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bi, trans and intersex) and others may use LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer/questioning and intersex).

Stonewall International

GOAL 1: END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Target 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures *for all* [...]

Target 1.4 By 2030, ensure that *all men and women* [...] have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property [...]

HOW LGBT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND

Exclusion and discrimination make it harder for LGBT people to earn money, stay secure and pursue their goals. This discrimination takes many forms, from a trans person being limited to insecure and unsafe employment, to a lesbian being refused access to communal land, to a gay or bi man being denied a loan. Many LGBT people are also rejected from the family support that most of us rely on. Formal social assistance can also discriminate by not recognising same-sex couples or parents.

Discrimination can lead to poverty, but the reverse is also true. The poorer someone is, the more they are discriminated against in daily life and the less they can afford the means of escape, such as migration to a safer neighbourhood or more secure accommodation.

Sadly, all of these issues can be compounded by development projects that disproportionately benefit opposite-sex couples, either deliberately or through insensitive design. However, the good news is that when LGBT people are empowered economically, they may also be empowered to challenge discrimination.

EXAMPLE: *LGBT people in the Philippines are often barred from higher education and limited to irregular and low-paying jobs. On the other hand, research shows that LGBT people who are able to contribute to the household are more accepted socially and within families (Thoreson 2011).*

ACTIONS

- Conduct research for a better understanding of how LGBT people are discriminated against economically.

- Make sure private sector development projects are designed to address the economic needs of LGBT people.

- Make sure social assistance programmes (such as cash-transfers) recognise the need of LGBT people and provide assistance for the poorest, in particular by strengthening community feedback mechanisms.

- Support LGBT people to set up their own businesses.

CASE STUDY

Micro Rainbow International (**MRI**) works to tackle LGBTI poverty worldwide. They provide mentoring, skills training and coaching, and facilitate start-up capital for those members of the LGBTI community who want to set up small businesses.

For example, Sreyran, a lesbian from Cambodia, was rejected by her wider community and unable to find employment:

'I was often sick because I didn't have money to buy nutritious food. (...) Luckily, I have been helped by receiving $300 to start my own small business. I have learned important business management skills, such as writing a material checklist, noting daily income and expenses (...)' (Sreyran)

Sreyran's new activity has not just benefitted her economically, but has changed the way her community views her. Neighbours continue to buy her goods and friends have also benefitted from her increase in income, which has led to greater social acceptance:

'With my food cart, I sell beef meatballs and beverages, and I earn $5-7 per day. With my income, I am paying off our debt, sending my brothers to school, helping friends to pay for English lessons, and I am still able to put money aside for future investment in my small business!' (Sreyran)

MICRO RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL
Addressing the situation of poverty of LGBTI people worldwide

GOAL 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Target 3.7 By 2030, ensure *universal* access to sexual and reproductive health-care services […]

Target 3.8 Achieve *universal* health coverage […] *for all*

HOW LGBT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND

Whether it's a clinic that refuses to provide services to men who have sex with men (MSM) or a secondary school that fails to include LGBT topics in its sex education, there are lots of ways that LGBT people are excluded from sexual and reproductive healthcare. This can lead to LGBT people being more vulnerable to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Some great work has been done to address the sexual health needs of MSM, especially needs related to HIV. However, much more is needed, especially to address the needs of trans people and women who have sex with women (WSW).

LGBT exclusion from healthcare is unfortunately not confined to sexual and reproductive health. LGBT people are poorly served across the sector, due to discrimination, lack of awareness by health-workers and inappropriate services. For example, trans people seeking to transition medically can find that provision is either harmful or non-existent. Also, in some societies where women are not allowed to access health services independently of male relatives, lesbian and bi women are at a particular disadvantage. In addition, LGBT people, who face greater mental health care challenges often due to exclusion and stigma from family and wider society, can find a lack of appropriate support.

EXAMPLE: *Research shows that in India MSM are less likely to access critical health services, such as HIV testing, treatment and condoms, due to discrimination by healthcare providers (Lorway et al, 2014). In Lebanon the mental health of MSM was found to be directly shaped by the experience of stigma in their family, and in their schools, universities and work places (Wagner et al., 2013).*

ACTIONS

Make sure all healthcare services, whether general, mental or sexual and reproductive, include LGBT people by:

- Putting LGBT-inclusive anti-discrimination policies in place.
- Training healthcare providers to understand the needs of LGBT people and respond effectively.
- Create outreach health services for LGBT people who are unable to leave their homes, due to discrimination or exclusion.

Develop services that meet the specific needs of LGBT people, including:

- HIV and other STI prevention, treatment, care and support services for all LGBT people.
- Safe-spaces and services that address the wider health needs of LGBT people.
- Services for trans people to transition safely.

CASE STUDY

The Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare (CAMNAFAW), a Member Association of the **International Planned Parenthood Federation** (IPPF), has provided specialised health services, information and counselling to the LGBT community since 2008.

A leading provider of sexual and reproductive health rights services in Cameroon, CAMNAFAW worked to overcome initial resistance and concerns by staff and volunteers by holding discussion forums and training in providing non-discriminatory services for LGBT clients. This helped to change attitudes and build commitment to the project.

CAMNAFAW also held public sessions to address negative attitudes among the community. This approach has enabled them to address a critical gap and become a trusted provider of confidential and inclusive sexual and reproductive health services for LGBT people.

'I loved the quality of the services provided and the warm welcome that we have at the clinic, where we are treated without being judged because of our sexual orientation' (Project beneficiary)

GOAL 4: ENSURE <u>INCLUSIVE</u> AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES <u>FOR ALL</u>

Target 4.5 By 2030 […] ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for […] children in vulnerable situations

Target 4.7 By 2030 […] ensure […] education for […] human rights [&] promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence […]

HOW LGBT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND

In schools and universities around the world, young people are bullied or excluded by teachers and peers, because they are (or are perceived to be) LGBT or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Some find it impossible to continue with their studies and leave prematurely, while others might suffer in silence and get poor results, in turn affecting their future prospects. For some, the impact of all this on their mental health and well-being will last well beyond their student years.

However, when schools and universities promote human rights for all and profile positive LGBT role models, harmful social attitudes can be challenged before they become fixed. All young people are then able to learn in a safe and enabling environment and become equipped for the future.

EXAMPLE: *LGBT youth in Brazil who were 'out' at school suffered the most severe forms of physical violence and social discrimination, and represented the highest number of students who reported suicidal thoughts (Teixeira-Filho et al., 2011).*

ACTIONS

- Provide guidance and training for teachers and counsellors on how to deal sensitively with LGBT students and students who are questioning their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

- Adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

- Make sure that all teaching curricula are LGBT-inclusive and profile positive LGBT role models.

- Make sure that all sexual and reproductive education covers the specific needs of LGBT students and those who are questioning their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

- Promote a culture of non-discrimination and acceptance (in schools, universities and wider society), emphasising that LGBT rights are human rights.

CASE STUDY

In 2014, **UNESCO** and **Plan Thailand** conducted comprehensive research in secondary schools throughout Thailand, discovering high levels of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and a severe lack of policies to tackle the problem. In response, they and their civil society partners (**M Plus Foundation** and **Path 2 Health**) designed a three-year programme to end all forms of gender-based violence, including bullying of LGBT students in Thai schools.

The programme, 'Making Educational Institutions Safe to Young LGBT Students', works at multiple levels simultaneously, by training students, supporting 'champion' teachers, setting up confidential referral systems, and consulting with parents, community leaders and the government.

'The project partnerships, particularly with UNESCO, have created great incitements and opportunities for national level advocacy and policy changes' (Report: *Strengthening Support to LGBTIQ Adolescents*, Plan)

GOAL 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Target 5.1 End *all forms of discrimination* against *all women and girls* everywhere

Target 5.2 Eliminate *all forms of violence* against *all women and girls* […]

HOW LGBT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND

Lesbian, bi and trans women can experience multiple discrimination and violence, because of their intersecting LGBT status and gender. For example, while women in general are taken less seriously than men when reporting crimes to the authorities, they will be taken even less seriously if they are identified as a lesbian or bi.

Sadly, instead of helping, development programmes can reinforce the inequalities that LBT women face, by only providing support to opposite-sex couples and families. In addition, these programmes often work with a narrow definition of 'gender' that is not trans-inclusive. However, Goal 5 calls for an end to all discrimination and violence against women and girls, which includes lesbophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

At the same time, much more needs to be done to tackle harmful gender stereotypes that limit all people from being themselves and pursuing their goals. Gender-based violence is often driven by a desire to punish people who don't conform to gender norms (OHCHR 2011) and, as a result, male and non-binary people who move away from these norms are also targeted.

Countering these problems requires a careful approach: working with the whole community to address gender stereotypes, but also prioritising support for LBT women, as they are most affected by gender-based discrimination and violence.

EXAMPLE: *In 2014, ActionAid surveyed women and girls in nine townships in South Africa, who were mostly lesbian or bi. Only 12% felt safe from verbal and physical abuse in their neighbourhoods and 27% said they never felt safe.*

ACTIONS

- Make sure that all programmes working on gender equality and violence against women and girls address the particular issues faced by lesbian, bi and trans women.

- Make sure that funding grants prioritise organisations led by LBT women.

- Expand the definition of 'gender' used in policies and programmes to become fully trans-inclusive.

- Create programmes that challenge harmful gender norms more widely, through addressing the impact of such norms on male and non-binary people, as well as the wider population.

CASE STUDY

Despite a progressive Constitution that protects the rights of LGBTI people, reported incidents of violence against LBT women in South Africa have increased in recent years. **The Forum for the Empowerment of Women** (FEW) is the only South African organisation with a specific focus on rights of black lesbian and bi women and has a long history of work on hate crimes.

With the support of **ActionAid**, FEW has built the leadership skills and confidence of 450 lesbian and bi activists in 15 townships in and around Johannesburg. Equipped with the right knowledge, tools and resources, these activists have been empowered to challenge discriminatory attitudes in society and push for policy change in their communities and the country as a whole. The approach has included training to monitor the Criminal Justice System, so they are able to demand justice for victims of violence.

At the community level, events such as the annual Soweto Pride and workshops with community members and local officials have helped to increase the visibility of the LGBTI community, build awareness and slowly change attitudes.

'At Vaal Pride this year (…) we are helping to change minds. One parent told me 'coming here has helped me to understand my child' (Ajax Sengwayo, Rainbow Activist Alliance)

GOAL 10: REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the […] inclusion of *all*, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or *other status*

Target 10.3 Ensure *equal opportunity* […] including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices […]

HOW LGBT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND

Discrimination against LGBT people is often reinforced by laws, policies and practices that either fail to take LGBT needs into account or deliberately exclude them. These laws, policies and practices reinforce negative social attitudes, and encourage backlash against the LGBT communities calling for equality.

Globally, the list of discriminatory laws and policies is vast. It includes:

- Requiring trans people to undergo forced sterilisation before they can change their legal gender
- Failing to provide opportunities for trans people to change their legal gender
- Making same-sex relations illegal
- Forbidding LGBT groups to form non-governmental organisations and publicly campaign for their rights
- Excluding same-sex couples and trans people from accessing social services

Goal 10 calls for everyone to take a stand and promote full equality. In particular, Target 10.2 prohibits exclusion on the basis of '**other status**' - a catch-all term meaning that whatever your status, whether you are LGBT, disabled, a migrant or part of any other protected group, the SDGs apply to you. In support of this idea, the UN has made it clear that LGBT people must be afforded dignity and human rights (UN Human Rights Council Resolution 17/19).

EXAMPLE: *Sex with someone of the same sex is illegal in 75 countries, and punishable by death in 10. Just 55 countries recognise trans peoples' rights to change their name and gender on official documents.*

ACTIONS

- Fund LGBT groups working for an end to discriminatory laws, policies and practices.
- Support campaigns, led by LGBT groups, that call for an end to discriminatory laws and policies.
- Make sure everyone in your organisation understands that the phrase 'other status' in Target 10.2 includes LGBT people and puts it into practice.
- Make sure that your development partners (whether public, private or third sector) do not discriminate, in line with Target 10.2.

CASE STUDY

The Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice directly funds and builds the capacity of grassroots organisations in 55 countries, in order to advance LGBTQI human rights and racial, economic and gender justice worldwide.

As one of Astraea's grantee partners, **Santamaría Fundación** in Colombia has been strengthened in its work to document human rights violations against trans people, using this data to advocate for changes in policy and practice.

Like many trans-led organisations, Santamaría Fundación has great difficulty accessing core funding. However, with Astraea's support, SMF provides legal support to hundreds of trans women who have experienced discrimination or violence, enabling them to submit official complaints. In 2010, their advocacy, together with other LGBT organisations, led to the creation of an LGBT-inclusive National Police Directive.

In 2015, they succeeded in getting the Attorney General's Office to establish a committee that will investigate and prosecute LGBT human rights violations in regions where high rates of homicides and violent cases have been documented by SMF and others. Santamaría Fundación also developed a safety protocol, which provides members and staff with strategies to protect themselves in case of violence or other emergency.

"[We must] strengthen the potential of trans women leaders in our community, so that we can all know and defend our rights!" (Coordinator, Santamaría Fundación)

GOAL 11: MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access *for all* to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services […]

HOW LGBT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND

The high rate of LGBT homelessness is directly linked to discrimination. Rejected or abused by family and bullied by friends, many LGBT people are forced to leave home. Prejudice from landlords can also mean that many LGBT people find themselves on the streets.

While homeless, LGBT people, particularly young people and the elderly, are more vulnerable to physical violence, sexual abuse and physical and mental health problems. A lack of appropriate support services and poor understanding of their needs by providers can lead to them being unable to get help. In some Northern countries, this problem has been worsened by budget cuts to important services in a way that particularly impacts LGBT homeless people.

EXAMPLE: *Studies from Italy, Turkey and Uganda uncovered high rates of LGBTI homelessness. They discovered that assumptions of heterosexuality made by housing providers contributed to young LGBTI people being turned away from accessing housing services (Botti and D'Ippoliti 2014, Biçmen and Bekiroğulları2014, Nyanzi 2013).*

ACTIONS

- Support and train local government and housing associations to take account of the specific needs of LGBT young people.

- Provide specialist services, such as safe houses, for LGBT groups at risk of homelessness, particularly young people and the elderly.

- Provide affordable and non-discriminatory housing options for LGBT people.

- Take account of the needs of LGBT communities for safe housing.

CASE STUDY

For over 25 years, **The Albert Kennedy Trust** (AKT) has supported young LGBT people in UK cities, who are struggling with homelessness or living in a hostile environment.

Responding to the fact that one quarter of the UK's youth homeless population are LGBT, AKT provides them with financial assistance and emergency accommodation. In 2013 alone, they secured 7,790 nights of accommodation for LGBT youth, who would have been forced to sleep on the streets without their support.

AKT runs the UK's two first LGBT-specific safe house projects, as part of their 'Purple Door Project', delivering emergency accommodation and assisting the journey of LGBT youth into independent living. They also provide mentoring and life-skills training for LGBT youth and advise mainstream services on how to meet specific LGBT needs.

'I was kicked out by my Mum on my 16th birthday (...) so I called [AKT] and was offered an appointment with Michael, who gave me advice and information and filled in hostel and housing application forms for me (…) He said there were some AKT carers who lived near my college (…) Things have been really great since then.' (Zeph, AKT beneficiary)

GOAL 16: PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Target 16.1 Significantly reduce *all forms of violence* and related death threats

Target 16.3 […] Ensure equal access to justice *for all*

HOW LGBT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND

Any form of violent attack against anyone is unacceptable, but LGBT people in many countries face the additional challenge of police and security services refusing to take their reports of violence seriously. In some contexts, the police and security services that are meant to protect instead attack and harass LGBT people, especially where there are discriminatory laws in place.

Where LGBT people cannot rely on the state's protection, they do not report violence and death threats for fear that they themselves might be arrested. Homophobic, transphobic and biphobic attitudes in the media and legal system, along with laws that prevent civil society groups from speaking out, mean that LGBT people are highly vulnerable to fundamental human rights abuses.

However, when police and security services are trained in how to deal sensitively with LGBT hate crime, it can then be possible for them to provide the proper support.

EXAMPLE: *One third of trans people in the EU have experienced violence or were threatened with violence in the last five years. About two fifths of trans people who were victims of violence in the last 12 months said they had been violently attacked three times or more in the same year (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights 2015).*

ACTIONS

- Make sure that all programmes working on policing, the criminal justice system and/or civil society actively address LGBT hate crime.

- Provide training on sensitivity and effective response to LGBT discrimination and hate crime for police, security services and the criminal justice system, or support those groups already providing such training.

- Build the capacity of police and/or LGBT groups to document instances of hate crime against LGBT people.

CASE STUDY

Through USAID, **Women's Empowerment for Change** (WE-Change) worked with the Jamaica Constabulary Force to facilitate seven training sessions for just over 214 participants on the duty of police to treat the LGBT population as equal citizens before the law. It is expected that these sessions will significantly impact the way police officers discharge their duties.

The training programme is a key component of WE-Change's wider work as an affiliate of **J-FLAG** (a human rights organisation based in Jamaica) to empower the Jamaican LGBT community and shift the attitudes of wider society.

The long-term impact on how police secure justice for all is not yet documented, but some participants have already demonstrated a shift in their opinions of how to treat the LGBT community. One officer shared the commitment of her and her colleagues to remember the training and put human rights principles into practice when engaging with LGBT people:

'I know that all the officers here (…) will remember what they have learnt here today, when they have to deal with members of diverse groups' (Training Participant)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO MAKE SURE LGBT PEOPLE ARE NOT 'LEFT BEHIND' IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Fund local LGBT groups and support them to address the needs of their communities.

Inform staff and delivery partners about the Sustainable Development Goals and the principle of 'leave no one behind', along with training and support to make sure they take appropriate action.

Use LGBT-specific indicators and gather data to monitor properly the impact of your programme on LGBT people.

Put in place clear LGBT-inclusive policies for staff and beneficiaries. Make sure that your partners (whether public, private or third sector) have also adopted such policies.

Highlight success stories where LGBT individuals and groups have been included, and share good practice.

Always consult with local LGBT groups in both the design and implementation of any support programmes, to make sure their needs are met and no harm is done.

Empower LGBT people to hold their governments and other service providers to account.

You can learn more about Stonewall's work to promote LGBT-inclusive development and the Sustainable Development Goals at www.stonewall.org.uk/our-work/international-work-1

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