

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

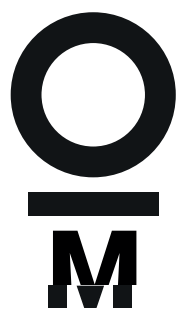
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Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ inclusion; working towards a world where we're all free to be. This does not constitute legal advice, and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter.

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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND LBT+ INCLUSION

**Building participation, research and
action for lesbians, bi women and
trans communities internationally**



A report of the
Out of the Margins
network

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

29 organisations have participated in the Out of the Margins programme and Network at different times. This report is a result of the many individuals at these organisations whose dedication is highly valued. It signals the need for more investment in research and activism representing LBT+ communities globally. We express our particular thanks to individuals from:

Asociación Familias Diversas Argentina (AFDA), Argentina; Black Queer DocX and LEGABIBO, Botswana; Instituto Brasileiro de Transmasculinidades (IBRAT), Brazil; Moli, Burundi; Asociación Organizando Trans Diversidades, Chile; Asociación Mujer y Mujer, Ecuador; Sibumbene Swaziland, Eswatini; TransWave and WE-Change, Jamaica; Kyrgyz Indigo, Kyrgyzstan; People's Matrix, Lesotho; LGBTI Support Center, Macedonia; Association Spectra and Juventas, Montenegro; Lambda, Mozambique; Namibia Diverse Women's Association, Namibia; Women's Health and Equal Rights Initiative (WHER), Women's Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment and Equality – WISE, Nigeria; The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERS), Nigeria; Mas Igualdad Peru, Peru; Russian LGBT Network, Russia; Matimba, South Africa; I Am One, Trinidad and Tobago; Trans Equality Uganda, Uganda; Diversidad e Igualdad a Través de la Ley (Diverlex), Venezuela; Women's Alliance for Equality (WAFE), Zambia; Voice of the Voiceless (VoVo), Zimbabwe.

This report is based on the contributions of the members of this network and was prepared by Dr. Claire House, given their expertise on intersectional feminist and LGBTIQ+ organising globally. Several colleagues at Stonewall contributed to the creation of this report, including Tajah Hamilton, Ross Othen-Reeves, Leanne MacMillan, Alex Long, Prishita Maheshwari-Aplin and Maddy Hartley.

METHODS

This report was based on initial discussions with Network communications leads, and semi-structured interviews on specific projects to gather outcomes and recommendations. Project plans and reports, and relevant external literature were also reviewed. Network members and Stonewall staff fed into outlines of projects, key findings, and recommendations.

The twelve case studies presented in the report are a select picture, as some projects were still ongoing at the time of preparing this report. The case studies were selected based on project completion date and regional and thematic representation. Partners contributed their interview time, and review work, to the case studies presented below, and we offer our special thanks for this.

ABOUT THE OUT OF THE MARGINS NETWORK

Out of the Margins is a programme and Network which builds evidence around, and takes action to reduce, the exclusion of lesbians, bi women and trans (LBT+) communities internationally, using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework. Created by Stonewall, the Network now spans 23 organisations in three world regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Together, the Network:

- Produces evidence to be used for national and international advocacy on LBT+ inequalities;
- Develops coalition working among LBT+ organisations spanning 20 countries;
- Appeals for immediate, coordinated action within human rights systems and in particular through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- Raises the visibility of LBT+ rights issues globally.

The creation of the Network, and support for its research and advocacy work in different phases, was made possible by the generous support of the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Magna Carta Fund. This project grew from a smaller pilot working with a group of 13 LBT+ organisations from across Southern Africa, led by Stonewall and funded by the Baring Foundation.

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ACRONYMS AND TERMS

Cisgender (or cis)	Someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. 'Non-trans' is also used by some people
Cisnormativity	A way of seeing and organising societies which positions being cisgender as normal, natural and healthy – and being different from this as abnormal, unnatural and unhealthy.
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
Deadnaming	Calling someone by their birth name after they have changed their name. This term is often associated with trans people who have changed their name as part of their transition
GEI	Gender Equality and Inclusion
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
Heteronormativity	A way of seeing and organising societies which positions being heterosexual as normal, natural and healthy – and being different from this as abnormal, unnatural and unhealthy
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
Intersectionality	An approach which acknowledges there are various forms of inequality (e.g. those based on race, ethnicity, and/or gender) which can combine in ways that make life harder for people experiencing more than one
LBQ	Lesbians, and Bi and Queer women/communities
LBT+	Lesbians, Bi women and Trans people/communities
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Intersex and Queer people/communities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Self-determination	A principle that people should have the right to define and express who they are, and take decisions about their own lives
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UN	United Nations
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ABOUT THE NETWORK

Out of the Margins is a programme and Network which builds evidence and action on exclusion of lesbians, bi women and trans (LBT+) communities internationally, using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework. Created by Stonewall in 2018, the Network now spans 23 organisations in 20 countries, in three world regions: Sub-Saharan Africa; Europe and Central Asia; and Latin America and the Caribbean. Using a participatory and action research model, the Network:

- Builds evidence to be used for national and international advocacy on LBT+ inequalities;
- Provides a space for coalition-working among LBT+ organisations;
- Appeals for immediate, coordinated action within human rights systems and in particular through the SDGs; and
- Raises the visibility of LBT+ rights issues globally.

Out of the Margins partners were first supported to deliver coordinated research projects in 2019. Each organisation worked with LBT+ communities in different contexts to understand their needs and priorities for change. Projects addressed five thematic areas:

- health;
- education;
- economic wellbeing;
- violence and personal security; and
- civic and political participation.

In 2020-2021, Network organisations were supported to deliver further campaigning and advocacy projects, based on evidence, insights and strategies built through their initial research projects. Projects focused on change for LBT+ communities at local, national, regional and international levels.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report presents some of the work and thinking of the Network, in order to inform advocacy for LBT+ inclusion within the framework of the SDGs. More specifically, it should be of use to LBT+ rights campaigners and researchers, and to a broader audience of LGBTIQ+ and human rights advocates, international development and humanitarian practitioners, and actors in government and international institutions. It collates findings and recommendations in relation to key SDG areas:

- Goal 1. No Poverty;
- Goal 2. Zero Hunger;
- Goal 3. Good Health and Wellbeing;
- Goal 4. Quality Education;
- Goal 5. Gender Equality;
- Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth; and
- Goal 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

This report also outlines several cross-cutting recommendations. Twelve case studies of Network advocacy projects are provided, so that readers can appreciate the breadth of outcomes being achieved by Network members. In terms of methods, the report draws on discussions with Out of the Margins Network leads and semi-structured interviews with members, to gather outcomes and recommendations. Project plans and reports, and relevant external literature were also reviewed.

INTRODUCTION

Why LBT+ rights and development?

There is now a growing range of research and campaigning work focused on LBT+ communities, and LGBTIQ+ communities more broadly. This work has emphasised that these communities have profound and particular social and economic needs, and that their (lack of) rights and inclusion exacerbate these needs.

Issues like poverty; food insecurity; shelter; access to water, sanitation and hygiene; decent work; and healthcare and education might seem like general issues, somehow separate from LBT+ rights. But LBT+ people, as well as broader LGBTIQ+ communities and women, have these needs like everyone else. Moreover, research shows that they have specific concerns that are not being met by general or (seemingly) neutral design and implementation approaches, which can sometimes push LBT+ communities further to the margins. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid much of this bare, showing that pre-pandemic marginalisation of LBT+ communities leave them vulnerable to further social exclusion, impoverishment, discrimination and stigma. It also shows how far we have to travel before LBT+ communities will be fully included in development and emergency assistance efforts.

Multiple marginalisations of LBT+ communities

LBT+ communities are still commonly excluded within LGBTIQ+ movements and systems globally, where a focus on gender equality and intersectionality more generally is still, in practice, highly contested. The work of the Network shows that LBT+ communities are frequently left out in core programming areas, such as:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR);¹
- reducing violence and discrimination;² and
- challenging criminalisation.³

1 Bryan, Nicolette (2019) The Health Seeking Behaviour of LBQ Women in Jamaica: Sexual and Reproductive Health. Jamaica: We Change.

2 Lapina, Veronika (2019) Violent Kinships. Russia: Russian LGBT Network.

3 Ulanmo, Juliet Nnedinma (2019) Political and Civil Participation as a Tool to Combat Exclusion and Entrench the Rights of Lesbians, Bisexual and Trans+ Women in Nigeria. Nigeria: WISE.

IN TERMS OF RESOURCES:

72% of LBQ groups and 75% of trans groups globally had annual budgets of less than USD \$50k in 2020;⁴

Approximately 8% of global LGBTIQ+ funding was targeted towards LBQ women in 2017-2018 (an increase from just 3% in 2015-2016);⁵ and

11% of global LGBTIQ+ funding was targeted towards trans communities in 2017-2018.⁶

Within global feminist movements, too, LBT+ communities still face serious levels of exclusion. This goes back far beyond the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, where lesbian rights began to be seriously discussed for the first time. 25 years later, and not only have lesbian and bi women's demands remained too peripheral (along with other vital feminist issues such as reproductive rights), trans and non-binary people's rights are now the focus of serious concerted attacks by conservative and authoritarian groups. In many contexts, this wider right-wing driven backlash and movement draws support from within some parts of feminism itself; weaponising previously more marginal (if still deep, longstanding and often bruising) divisions within our own communities.⁷

All of this context forms an important backdrop for the Out of the Margins programme and Network. What the work of the Network shows is that, if we truly want a world where no one is left behind – and LBT+ communities are meaningfully included – it's vital we advocate for an intersectional approach, while showing up in ever greater solidarity with one another.

4 All from Saleh and Sood (2020) *ibid*.

5 Global Philanthropy Project and Funders for LBGTQ Issues (2019) [2017-2018 Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities](#) p. 44.

6 Global Philanthropy Project and Funders for LBGTQ Issues (2019), *ibid*, p.45.

7 See for example, most recently: Denkovski, D.; Bernarding, N.; and Lunz, K. (2021) [Power Over Rights: Understanding and Countering the Transnational Anti-Gender Movement](#), Vol. 1. Berlin, Germany: Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy; Martínez, J.; Duarte, A.; MA; Rojas, M. J. (Sentiido) (2021) [Manufacturing Moral Panic: Weaponizing Children to Undermine Gender Justice and Human Rights](#). The Elevate Children Funders Group and Global Philanthropy Project. European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (2021) [Tip of the Iceberg: Religious Extremist Funders Against Human Rights for Sexuality and Reproduction in Europe](#).

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Network makes the following cross-cutting recommendations to government and policy-makers, international institutions, International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), donors and funders, and research institutions:

- Make action for LBT+ inclusion a development priority;

- Urgently address the rise of so-called anti-gender movements internationally and support LBT+ inclusion within gender equality work;

- Provide more support for action on LBT+ (and LGBTIQ+) rights across key (social and economic rights) SDG themes where there is now diverse evidence surrounding needs and effective response – especially Poverty (Goal 1), Health (Goal 3), Education (Goal 4) and Work (Goal 8); and

- Champion new research on key areas, led by global south communities – on areas where there is existing (if still marginalised) research (Goals 1, 3, 4 and 8) while also prioritising emerging areas (e.g., Goals 2. Zero Hunger; 6. Clean Water and Sanitation; and 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities).

The Network also makes the following thematic recommendations to specific audiences:

SDG 1. NO POVERTY

INGOs, donors and grant-making organisations:

- Audit how your poverty reduction and emergency assistance programming, influencing and/or grant-making work is or is not including LBT+ communities. Meaningfully consult with, include, and co-deliver with LBT+ communities when delivering poverty reduction initiatives, including in programme design, delivery and learning.

- Invest in further research and programming to address poverty affecting LBT+ communities. This should include support for LBT-led CSOs to: research and address poverty; pilot and develop new programmes; create partnerships; and develop suitable learning and programme development approaches.

GOVERNMENT AND POLICY-MAKERS:

- Consult on and integrate LBT+ specific economic needs within National Sustainable Development frameworks – both in relation to SDG 1 and the 2030 Agenda more broadly.

SDG 2. ZERO HUNGER

INGOs and donors:

- should support further cross-country research efforts on food insecurity and hunger among people of diverse SOGIESC. This is especially true of the global South, and should be led by global South CSOs and communities.

Government, policy-makers and programme developers and managers

- working to address hunger and food insecurity should consider how their policies and programmes can best reach LBT+ people (and broader LGBTIQ+ communities and women). They should change ‘neutral’ approaches (e.g. using households, families, or particular religious and civic organisations to deliver assistance) to ones that are proactively and consciously inclusive of LGBTIQ+ people and women.

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SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ministries of Health, National Human Rights Institutes and other relevant government departments and units:

Develop policies and legal frameworks that are inclusive of LBT+ communities. Efforts should draw on existing expertise around the wide-ranging health issues experienced by LBT+ communities. This should extend within and beyond HIV/AIDS and broader SRHR services, and include appropriate support for affirmative, non-discriminatory and inclusive mental health and well-being services.

Ensure trans communities have genuine access to healthcare services supporting medical transition. This should include a sufficient range of appropriately-resourced, current, and accessible, publicly-funded clinics, which offer care that is inclusive and non-pathologising.

Develop and support legal changes that outlaw the practice of so-called 'conversion therapy' (which especially affects LBT+ women and children and young people).

Adopt a non-pathologising, self-determination-based approach to legal gender recognition.

INGOs and donors:

consider the needs of LBT+ communities when developing and delivering healthcare-related programmes. These should include, and move beyond, programmes targeting HIV/AIDS related care, prevention and treatment, and broader SRHR goals. Support for LGBTIQ+ CSOs to undertake and lead health-related strategic advocacy and campaigning work that changes the policy and legal landscape should be increased.

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION

Government and policy-makers

Invest in designing public policies which provide clear guidelines to schools concerning inclusion of LBT+ (and broader LGBTIQ+) youth. These should include clear standards, tools and resources for tackling anti-LGBTIQ+ and gender-based bullying, discrimination and harassment in schools, colleges and universities.

Fund LGBTIQ+ CSOs to develop and deliver programmes to educate and empower teachers and schools to create safe and inclusive environments for all children and young people. This should include investing in improving teacher training institutes and providing continuous mandatory education for teachers on LBT+ topics and SOGIESC diversities.

Teachers and schools (and policy-makers and states):

Include and celebrate diversities of, and within, SOGIESC in school curricula and class materials, from elementary school onwards.

Create schools that are safe and inclusive environments in which young LBT+ people can talk openly about their identities and expressions, without fear of experiencing discrimination or feeling unsafe.

INGOs and donors:

Contribute to, and advocate for, a step change in education-focused funding for LGBTIQ+ CSOs, which is still an extremely marginalised funding area, despite clear existence and evidence of need.

Develop and deliver general and targeted international programming serving LGBTIQ+ children and young people. Comprehensive sexuality education, anti-bullying, youth empowerment, and skills, opportunities and entrepreneurship programming should all consider whether it is reaching and serving the needs of LBT+ children and young people in different country contexts.

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION (cont)

International institutions including key UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO and UNDP:

Continue to issue and strengthen visible institutional statements of support for LGBTIQ+ children and young people, and their access to education. This support is more important than ever given the current multi-regional backlash against trans rights and equality. This backlash has included attempts, even in more progressive contexts, to remove resources and policy commitments to address transphobic bullying.

Strengthen country-level investments and assistance for offices and partners in education and civil society to help ensure LGBTIQ+ children and young people can enjoy their right to safe and inclusive education.

SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY

Governments and policy-makers, international institutions and NGOs:

- Acknowledge and address how heteronormativity and cisnormativity commonly exclude and erase LBT+ women and non-binary communities when designing and delivering programmes intended to address systems, structures and norms;

Meaningfully address and prioritise the needs of lesbians, bi women and trans communities in gender equality programming and influencing work. This should include explicitly naming and detailing the needs of LBT+ communities when referencing and using concepts such as ‘all women’, ‘women in all their diversity’, and ‘gender equality and inclusion’.

Specify measures, goals and indicators that describe and track change for LBQ women and trans communities as part of gender equality goals and programmes.

Consider the multiple inequalities and exclusions faced by LBQ women and trans communities when designing programmes and appealing for policies and laws related to:

- child, early and forced marriage and unions (CEFMU); and

- gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence (including by women in same-sex relationships), sexual and family violence; access to SRHR.

Consider repealing laws which limit women’s ability to exercise freedom of choice and consent concerning their own sexualities and relationships.

Multilateral and bilateral donors and grant-making organisations:

Help address the ongoing gap in services by creating new programmes and funds that specifically serve LBT+ communities.

Review existing programmes and funds to assess how well they are delivering change for LBT-led CSOs driving change in the global South and East, and identify improvements to said programmes and funds. LBT+ communities should be meaningfully involved in these reviews.

SDG 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Employers:

Sign up to the UN OHCHR Standards of Conduct for Business,⁸ which commit to five standards for tackling discrimination against LGBTI people: to respect human rights; eliminate discrimination; provide support; prevent other human rights violations; and act in the public sphere.

Implement comprehensive policies and practices that prohibit discrimination, harassment and bullying based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

Support staff to create inclusive and safe environments for LBT+ and broader LGBTIQ+ colleagues, partners and beneficiaries, including through appropriate training, guidance, policies and standards.

Work in genuine partnership with LBT-led civil society organisations and LBT+ communities, especially in country contexts where LBT+ people face profound marginalisation, to deliver community-based and community-led change for employers and communities.

Government and policy-makers:

Change laws and implement public policies to support gender equality and non-discrimination of LBT+ people in employment.

Build evidence, and develop and secure resources, to implement an LBT+ focus in government programmes which promote education, skills-building and employability.

SDG 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Government and policy-makers

Invest in and strengthen comprehensive and inclusive services for LBT+ communities, including in areas of healthcare, education, work and justice.

Repeal laws which limit LGBTIQ+ freedom of expression and other fundamental freedoms, including association and assembly, in accordance with international human rights standards.

Collect and publish data on the proportion of LGBTIQ+ communities subjected to physical, psychological and sexual violence, and who feel safe in the area in which they live – alongside other dimensions of inequality.

Develop policies and provide resources to ensure state institutions function as safe and equitable spaces for all, including for LBT+ communities, and broader LGBTIQ+ communities and women.

Transform policing and justice institutions to ensure fair and dignified treatment by police, and greater access to justice and accountability.

Create National LGBT+ Action Plans which consider the specific needs of LBT+ communities.

Ensure LBT+ rights (and LGBTIQ+ rights more broadly) are priority areas for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Ombudsmen.

Protect LBT+ communities and recognise them as deserving of protections under regional and international human rights standards and mechanisms.

⁸ UN OHCHR (2017) [Tackling Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, & Intersex People: Standards of Conduct for Business](#).

BACKGROUND

This report provides an overview of current advocacy actions and recommendations from the Out of the Margins Network, particularly in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Network represents 23 organisations working for change for lesbians, bi women and trans (LBT+) communities, across 20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Central Asia. Created in 2018, Out of the Margins supported partners to deliver coordinated research projects in 2019, on a participatory and action research model. Projects addressed five thematic areas: health; education; economic well-being; violence and personal security; and civic and political participation.

In 2020-2021, Network organisations were supported to deliver further campaigning and advocacy projects based on their initial research projects. Many focused on achieving change at the national level, using international standards and mechanisms where helpful. Some focused on regional and international level change. Several also focused exclusively on grassroots and local initiatives: on transforming local policies and institutions and supporting communities to campaign on human rights and development issues.

WHY LBT+ RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT?

As campaigners working in this space, we know that LGBTIQ+ people, especially LBQ women and trans communities, are commonly conceived of as somehow separate to issues like food and hunger, poverty, lack of shelter, and development and humanitarian assistance in general. It often feels like the issues of LGBTIQ+ rights and gender equality are set aside in deference to dedicating social and political energy to the kinds of ‘real’ and ‘serious’ material and political questions our societies face globally. But LGBTIQ+ people experience the same issues as everyone else, and often experience them to a greater extent, more severely, and more intractably. Research by the Network and external researchers shows, for example, that:

LGBTIQ+ communities have particular experiences of poverty and are more likely to be food insecure and go hungry than non-LGBTIQ+ communities, especially if they are women, people of colour, and/or living in the global South (see below, pp. 11-12)

People of diverse SOGIESC are at increased risk of homelessness, displacement, and living in unsafe accommodation and situations. They are also more likely to be excluded from humanitarian initiatives focused on shelter, protection and refugees.¹

LGBTIQ+ communities and women, especially trans women, may experience unequal access to water, sanitation and hygiene interventions due to stigma, discrimination, geographic bias, and pre-existing marginalisation.²

¹ Moore, Carla (2019) [Trans Economic Survivability in Jamaica](#). TransWave Jamaica; House et al (2021) ‘Addressing Diversity of Gender and Sexuality’ in InterAction (2021) [Roadmap for Research: A Collaborative Research Framework for Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements Assistance](#).

² UN Human Rights Council (2016) [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation](#) July 2016, A/HRC/33/49; Edge Effect (2020) [Stepping Up: Ensuring Sexual and Gender Minorities are not Left Behind](#); Boyce et al (2018) ‘Transgender-Inclusive Sanitation: Insights from South Asia’ in [Waterlines](#) April 2018, 37(2):102-117.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

People of diverse SOGIESC, especially LBT+ communities, have also been particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been in practice:

- excluded from social assistance and relief efforts led by states, major grant-making organisations, NGOs and communities;³
- targeted by increased police powers;⁴
- experienced increased social isolation and increased needs related to gender-based violence (GBV) and mental health;⁵
- been pushed further into poverty due to existing pre-pandemic marginalisation, including existing economic hardship, discrimination and stigma; exclusion from employment; and high reliance on informal and insecure work.⁶

LBT+ COMMUNITIES ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND - IN SYSTEMS, MOVEMENTS AND FUNDING

Part of the problem for LBT+ communities is that they are also being excluded from international development and humanitarian initiatives.⁷ Practitioners often struggle to understand how issues of gender equality, let alone SOGIESC, might be relevant to their day-to-day and strategic work. If they do understand the issues, they often struggle to get broader and senior buy-in to prioritise them in programming and influencing work.⁸ A further common obstacle is the viewpoint that development and relief resources are limited, and practitioners only have capacity to focus on one or another issue, and not to address inequalities together.⁹

Moreover, within LGBTIQ+ and human rights movements, LBT+ campaigners often find themselves excluded and under-resourced. As research from the Out of the Margins Network shows, the rights and needs of LBT+ communities are often left out in core global LGBTIQ+ funding and programming areas such as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR),¹⁰ reducing violence and discrimination,¹¹ and challenging criminalisation.¹² More generally, research shows that donors and grant-making organisations funding global LGBTIQ+ rights work are still not meeting the needs of LBQ women's and trans rights movements, despite their growing strength, vibrancy and resilience.

3 See Global Philanthropy Project (2021) [Where are the Global COVID-19 Resources for LGBTI Communities?](#) especially pp. 20 -23. On general exclusions see Edge Effect (2020) [Briefing Note: Impacts of COVID-19 on LGBTIQ+ People](#).

4 UN Independent Expert on Protection against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (2020) [Report on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Human Rights of LGBT Persons](#) October 2020, A/75/258.

5 Funders Concerned About AIDS (2021) [Converging Epidemics: COVID-19, HIV and Inequality](#); Frontline Defenders (2020) [LGBTIQ+ and Sex Worker Rights: Defenders at Risk during COVID-19](#).

6 For a good overview of the literature see OutRight Action International (2020) [Vulnerability Amplified: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBTIQ People](#) especially pp. 14-15.

7 Stonewall (2015) [The Sustainable Development Goals and LGBT Inclusion](#)

8 See, for example, APCOM, IPPF, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, UN Women, Asia Pacific Transgender Network, and Edge Effect (2018) [Pride in the Humanitarian System: Consultation Report](#).

9 See, for example, Christoffersen, A. (2020) 'Barriers to operationalizing intersectionality in equality third sector community development practice: power, austerity, and in/equality' in [Community Development Journal](#) 55(1):139-158.

10 Bryan, Nicolette (2019) [The Health Seeking Behaviour of LBQ Women in Jamaica: Sexual and Reproductive Health](#). Jamaica: We Change

11 Lapina, Veronika (2019) [Violent Kinships](#). Russia: Russian LGBT Network.

12 Ulanmo, Juliet Nnedinma (2019) [Political and Civil Participation as a Tool to Combat Exclusion and Entrench the Rights of Lesbians, Bisexual and Trans+ Women in Nigeria](#). Nigeria: WISE.

To give a few examples:

72% of LBQ groups globally had annual budgets of less than USD \$50k in 2020. Globally, 28% of LBQ groups have no full-time staff, and another 25% have just one or two full-time staff members.¹³

75% of trans groups globally had annual budgets of less than USD \$50k in 2017.¹⁴

Approximately 8% of global LGBTIQ+ funding was targeted towards LBQ women in 2017-2018 (an increase from just 3% in 2015-2016).¹⁵

11% of global LGBTIQ+ funding was targeted towards trans communities in 2017-2018.¹⁶

89% of LBQ groups have been formed in the last 20 years, and 61% in the last decade.¹⁷

GLOBAL FEMINISM AND LBT+ RIGHTS

Over the past 45 years, since the first World Conference for Women in Mexico City – and especially since the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action – feminist movements have made significant headway in registering the importance of gender equality within global human rights, development and humanitarian work. In turn, they have helped create more transformative and equitable approaches to global social change. Within this global movement, LGBTIQ+ women and non-binary people – as well as many other historically excluded groups of women, including women of colour, women in the global South and disabled women – have campaigned hard to be heard. In turn, they have also played increasingly important – if still contested – roles in diversifying global feminist movement aims and approaches.

But this work still needs to go far further. Gender equality remains very much marginalised across work on the SDGs and other global platforms for widescale economic, social and environmental action. And within movements for gender equality, LGBTIQ+ women and gender minorities – and other excluded and non-traditional, non-heteronormative women – are still all too often being left behind, and actively excluded. This is a history of exclusion that begins back far beyond the Beijing Platform for Action. Following Beijing, demands to address inequality based on sexual orientation, and to support sexual and reproductive health and rights, at least began to be recognised in mainstream spaces.¹⁸

25 years after Beijing, feminist movements across world regions remain ever more committed to acting in solidarity with LGBTIQ+ rights movements, and vice versa.¹⁹ Meanwhile, intersectionality has become a more widely used – if still contested, and often superficially applied – approach within international human rights, development and humanitarian systems.

At the same time, there is a strong backlash facing our movements. Since the early 2010s, a new wave of conservative, fundamentalist and authoritarian movements have emerged across various countries (especially in Western and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Americas), often attacking both feminist and

¹³ All from Saleh and Sood (2020) *ibid.*

¹⁴ Howe, E., Frazer, S., Dumont, M. and Zomorodi, G. (2017) [The State of Trans Organizing \(2nd Edition\): Understanding the Needs and Priorities of a Growing but Under-Resourced Movement](#). New York: American Jewish World Service, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice and Global Action for Trans Equality, p.16.

¹⁵ Global Philanthropy Project and Funders for LGBTQ Issues (2019) [2017-2018 Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities](#) p. 44.

¹⁶ Global Philanthropy Project and Funders for LGBTQ Issues (2019), *ibid.*, p.45.

¹⁷ Saleh, L and Sood, N, (2020). [Vibrant Yet Under-Resourced: The State of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Queer Movements](#). New York and Amsterdam: Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice and Mama Cash.

¹⁸ See, for example, OutRight Action International (2018) [“We Are Here” is a Love Letter from Our Past](#).

¹⁹ Women’s Rights Caucus (2021) [Feminist Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*](#).

LGBTIQ+ rights issues together. These so-called ‘anti-gender movements’ frame gender as a dangerous ideology that undermines traditional values, families, common sense, and traditional ideas about sex, the body and biology. Anti-gender movements have successfully countered LGBTIQ+ and feminist campaigns in various countries, often on primary concerns such as same-sex partnerships, reproductive rights, inclusive education, and trans rights. They usually overlap with wider political movements of the right, linked to traditional political and religious power, and populist backlash.²⁰

Challenging this wider assault on our communities and rights is as important for feminism as it is for LBT+ and broader LGBTIQ+ movements. As the UN Independent Expert on SOGI, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, has recently summarised:²¹

CONTEXT FOR THE NETWORK AND THIS REPORT

All of this context forms an important backdrop for the Out of the Margins programme and Network. What the work of the Network shows is that, if we truly want a world where no one is left behind, and LBT+ communities are meaningfully included, it’s vital we show up in ever greater solidarity with one another.

The next chapter presents key findings and recommendations from the Network, globally, and across several key SDG areas. The following chapter offers twelve case studies on the work of organisations in the Network to advocate for LBT+ rights and inclusion. It focuses on projects in Peru, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Nigeria.

“Comprehensive and intersectional gender analysis has influenced the interpretation of rights recognized in international human rights law, and many States have adopted gender as a key concept in laws and policies aimed at protecting women and LGBT persons against violence and discrimination.

Nevertheless, within multilateral and regional organisations, among other fora, there are currently narratives that, under different lines of characterization (including the accusation of so-called “gender ideology”), seek to eliminate the gender framework from international human rights law instruments and processes, and national legislative and policy documents. These attempts could impact progress achieved over the last four decades on gender equality and the recognition of sexual and gender-based violence and violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

²⁰ For a useful introduction to anti-gender movements in Europe see Kuhar, R. and Paternotte, D. eds (2017) *Anti-Gender Campaigns in Europe*. Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield.

²¹ UN Independent Expert on Protection against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (2021) [Report on Gender Theory: Background](#) June 2021, A/HRC/47/27.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

CROSS-CUTTING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. MAKE ACTION FOR LBT+ INCLUSION A DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY

Network research and advocacy shows resoundingly that LBT+ communities are being left behind across the board, including within movements for both gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights, and within international development and humanitarian systems more broadly. This makes it vital that actors working in these spaces take action to reach the furthest behind first. The Network recommends:

Grant-making organisations and other donors:

Ensure a far greater level of funding reaches LBT+ specific (and broader LGBTIQ+) communities in the global South, which are addressing the poverty, inequality, work, growth, health, education, shelter, food and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs of marginalised LGBTIQ+ communities and women.

Include a meaningful and detailed commitment to supporting action on SOGIESC inequalities worldwide, when developing and revising internal gender equality and inclusion policies and standards. This must extend to partners and grantees and include methods and measures of success.

Call on applicants to meaningfully incorporate a focus on SOGIESC, as part of or alongside a wider Gender Equality and Inclusion focus, in calls for proposals on general themes (for example general development and research funds, as well as targeted themes such as education and health).

Government and policy-makers, including SDG-related government units, departments, and mechanisms at national level:

Start meaningful consultation with LBT+ (and broader LGBTIQ+) communities around their priorities and needs related to the SDGs, and state-led efforts towards advancing them.

Include an explicit and visible focus on LBT+ (and broader LGBTIQ+ and gender equality) in National Voluntary Review processes and reporting.

Initiate conversations with different Ministries, departments and funds concerning action on LBT+ and broader rights.

Ensure that where national strategies and plans focused on the SDGs and broader development address gender equality, they also outline how they will be inclusive/ address the needs of LBT+ women.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

2. ADDRESS URGENTLY THE RISE OF ANTI-GENDER MOVEMENTS INTERNATIONALLY AND SUPPORT LBT+ INCLUSION WITHIN GENDER EQUALITY WORK

The Out of the Margins Network, which brings together LBQ+ women and trans communities who are all working on gender and LGBTIQ+ equality on an intersectional feminist model, notes the current pushback against gender and trans rights globally. This is well-founded and pointed out as well by the UN Independent Expert on SOGI (see above, pp. X-Y). Opponents of gender and trans rights argue our communities are propagating ‘gender ideology’ and ‘transgender ideology’ internationally. They are challenging progressive movements in what is known collectively as the ‘anti-gender movement’. Often linked to the rise of right-wing populist, religious fundamentalist, and far right actors, this backlash is being experienced in different ways by feminist and LGBTIQ+ activists in the various regional contexts represented by the Network. Numerous members highlighted the divisive effects of anti-gender movements and the wider coalitions that support them in their context, as well as rollbacks (or threatened rollbacks) on rights. In light of these developments, the Network recommends that:

Key external actors with a commitment to feminism and rights-based development (e.g., key INGOs; UN programmes, funds and offices; gender equality and inclusion units and departments within relevant Ministries; UN special procedures; and others): clarify their support for trans communities and LBQ+ women. More broadly, they should champion an inclusive understanding of gender equality and inclusion that moves beyond traditional, outdated and anti-intersectional frameworks concerning women and development.

The Network, Stonewall and partners: create sustainable, strengthened space for solidarity and coordinated action to learn about and address anti-gender movements across countries and regions. This includes support for learning and action across adjacent movements and actors (e.g. with anti-racist movements, progressive faith actors, general human and minority rights groups, as well as broader feminist and LGBTIQ+ movements).

3. PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT FOR ACTION ON LBT+ (AND LGBTIQ+) RIGHTS ACROSS KEY (SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS) SDG THEMES WHERE THERE IS NOW DIVERSE EVIDENCE SURROUNDING NEEDS AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE - ESPECIALLY POVERTY (GOAL 1), HEALTH (GOAL 3), EDUCATION (GOAL 4) AND WORK (GOAL 8).

The research projects of the network – as well as the various important studies conducted on SOGIESC and the COVID-19 pandemic – show clearly that LBT+ communities have particular experiences of poverty, inequality, work, education, and health (including beyond a narrow HIV and SRHR focus). These experiences challenge traditional ideas about basic needs. They also challenge the prioritisation of civil and political rights frameworks within LGBTIQ+ movements. These themes require urgent attention, with a particular need for research about LBT+ community experiences and research which is led from the global South. The Network therefore recommends:

Stonewall, Key INGOs and donors: use their power to advocate for significantly increased support advocacy, campaigning and programming work on social and economic rights areas for LGBTIQ+ communities that remain critically underfunded – including poverty, inequality, work, education and healthcare.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

4. CHAMPION NEW RESEARCH ON KEY AREAS, LED BY GLOBAL SOUTH COMMUNITIES - ON AREAS WHERE THERE IS EXISTING (IF STILL MARGINALISED) RESEARCH (GOALS 1, 3, 4 AND 8) WHILST ALSO PRIORITISING EMERGING AREAS (GOALS 2. ZERO HUNGER; 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION; AND 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES).

Previous Out of the Margins research and advocacy efforts have highlighted the need for much deeper, more impactful LBT-specific research and subsequent action as a result of said research. Additionally, there are several SDG areas where an emerging body of research is already beginning to show that LBT+ communities are experiencing specific and serious issues, and where further research would be especially valuable. In particular, research which is from the global South, which centres LBT+ community experiences, networks, and approaches; and research which is designed to assess the level of need as well as informing responses to said needs. This includes research on:

- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

THEMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

SDG 1. NO POVERTY

Network research shows that LBT+ communities have particular experiences of poverty, including high rates of unemployment and poverty, and lack of access to shelter, food and healthcare. This matches wider findings in various contexts, which show that LGBT+ communities as a whole are more likely to be poor, and that trans and bi communities face specific economic challenges.¹ There is also growing research on LGBTIQ+ communities and:

- lack of safe shelter;² including which considers global South contexts;³
- hunger, food insecurity and nutrition (see next section); and
- on water, sanitation and hygiene.⁴

Studies in the global North have clearly documented the fact that LBT+ people of colour are particularly likely to be impacted by workplace discrimination, poverty, food insecurity, homelessness and criminalisation.⁵ And, as noted above, research on LGBTIQ+ community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic shows it has exacerbated and made visible existing challenges for LGBTIQ+ communities related to poverty and basic needs (see pp. 12). Advocacy by Network members has ranged from campaigning for legal gender recognition in Kyrgyzstan, to developing new policies and networks with employers in Jamaica, to supporting individual empowerment and entrepreneurship in Trinidad and Tobago.

1 Dwyer, E. and Woolf, L. (2018) [Down by the River: Addressing the Rights, Needs and Strengths of Fijian Sexual and Gender Minorities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response](#); UN OHCHR (2018) [Leave No LGBT Person Behind: Statement by Human Rights Experts - 17 May 2018](#).

2 Fraser, B.; Pierse, N.; Chisholm, E.; and Cook, H. (2019) 'LGBTIQ+ Homelessness: A Review of the Literature' in [International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health](#) 16, 2677.

3 House, C. et al (2021) 'Addressing Diversity of Gender and Sexuality' in InterAction (2021) [Roadmap for Research: A Collaborative Research Framework for Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements Assistance](#).

4 UN HRC (2016) [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation](#) July 2016, A/HRC/33/49; Boyce, P. et al (2018) 'Transgender-Inclusive Sanitation: Insights from South Asia' in [Waterlines](#) April 2018, 37(2):102-117.

5 Hunter, L. A.; McGovern, A.; and Sutherland, C. (eds.) (2018) [Intersecting Injustice: Addressing LGBTQ Poverty and Economic Justice for All: A National Call to Action](#) New York: Social Justice Sexuality Project, Graduate Center, City University of New York.

Recommendations

INGOS, DONORS AND GRANT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS:

Audit how your poverty reduction and emergency assistance programming, influencing and/or grant-making work is or is not including LBT+ communities. Meaningfully consult with, include, and co-deliver with LBT+ communities when delivering poverty reduction initiatives, including in programme design, delivery and learning.

Invest in further research and programming to address poverty affecting LBT+ communities. This should include support for LBT-led CSOs to: research and address poverty; pilot and develop new programmes; create partnerships; and develop suitable learning and programme development approaches.

GOVERNMENT AND POLICY-MAKERS:

Consult on and integrate LBT+ specific economic needs within National Sustainable Development frameworks – both in relation to SDG 1 and the 2030 Agenda more broadly.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

SDG 2. ZERO HUNGER

Research by the network shows that LBT+ (and broader LGBTIQ+) community needs related to hunger, food security and nutrition require much further attention and investigation. In Burundi, for example, research by MOLI highlights that LBQT+ people across the board face significant poverty, including lack of food and adequate nutrition.⁶

Research by Trans Wave Jamaica shows 45.7% of survey respondents in their context had been hungry and unable to afford food for more than a day.⁷ These are important findings, especially given that other research on LBT+ communities and food insecurity could so far only be found in the US context. However, this research supports the Network's findings, showing that:

LBQ+ women are around twice as likely as exclusively heterosexual women to report food insecurity in the past 12 months. They are also less likely to access government food assistance programmes.⁸

LBT women are also more likely (31%) than GBT men (21%) to experience food insecurity. Black LGBT adults (37%) are also more likely than white LGBT adults (22%) to experience food insecurity, suggesting black LBT+ adults are particularly at risk.⁹

Trans communities are at particularly high risk for food insecurity, and further large-scale research on these issues is needed.^{10 11}

6 Irankunda, A. (2019) The Impact of Discrimination on the Capacity of LBQ Women to Reach Economic Well-Being in Burundi. Burundi: MOLI

7 Moore, C. (2019) [Trans Economic Survivability in Jamaica](#) TransWave Jamaica.

8 Patterson, J.G., Russomanno, J. & Jabson Tree, J.M. (2020) 'Sexual Orientation Disparities in Food Insecurity and Food Assistance use in US Adult Women: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2005–2014'. [BMC Public Health](#) 20: 1155.

9 Unfortunately, the data is not broken down to this level. Source: Wilson, B. D. M. & Conron, K. (2020). [National Rates of Food Insecurity among LGBT People: LGBT People and Covid-19](#) Los Angeles: The Williams Institute.

10 Russomanno, J. Patterson, J. G. and Jabson J. M. (2019) 'Food Insecurity Among Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Individuals in the Southeast United States: A Qualitative Study' in [Transgender Health](#) 4(1): 89–99; Linsenmeyer, W. et al (2020) 'Nutrition Considerations for Transgender Adolescents and Young Adults: Screening for Disordered Eating and Food Insecurity at a Midwestern Transgender Center' in [Current Developments in Nutrition](#) 4(2): 1130.

11 Linsenmeyer, W. et al (2020) 'Nutrition Considerations for Transgender Adolescents and Young Adults: Screening for Disordered Eating and Food Insecurity at a Midwestern Transgender Center' in [Current Developments in Nutrition](#) 4(2): 1130.

Several studies on LGBTIQ+ community needs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic also show strong connections between marginalisation and hunger, especially in the global South.¹² Several studies also show LGBTIQ+ communities are more likely to be excluded from, or absent themselves from, development and humanitarian relief efforts to target hunger and food insecurity. Factors for this include:

the political approach and/or faith profile of providers; and

the decision to deliver food packages, cash transfers or social assistance to family or household units who may exclude or deprioritise the health and well-being of LBT+ household members.¹³

Recommendations

INGOs and donors: should support further cross-country research efforts on food insecurity and hunger among people of diverse SOGIESC. This is especially true of the global South, should be led by global South CSOs and communities.

Government, policy-makers and programme developers and managers working to address hunger and food insecurity should consider how their policies and programmes can best reach LBT+ people (and broader LGBTIQ+ communities and women). They should change 'neutral' approaches (e.g. using households, families, or particular religious and civic organisations to deliver assistance) to ones that are proactively and consciously inclusive of LGBTIQ+ people and women.

12 See OutRight Action International (2020) [Vulnerability Amplified: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBTIQ People](#); Funders Concerned About AIDS (2021) [Converging Epidemics: COVID-19, HIV and Inequality](#).

13 See for example, Dwyer and Woolf (2018) [Down by the River: Addressing the Rights, Needs and Strengths of Fijian Sexual and Gender Minorities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Network findings on the health and well-being needs of LBT+ communities are wide-ranging and coherent. There is a particular emphasis across the Out of the Margins projects on:

- the complete lack of services for LBT+ communities;
- active exclusion of LBT+ people from institutional healthcare settings, including the refusal of services and denial of care; and
- use of healthcare institutions and instruments to control, violate and stigmatise LBT+ communities.

Campaigning and advocacy responses of the network include:

- Campaigning for adequate and non-discriminatory trans healthcare services in key hospitals and clinics in Rio de Janeiro, Mato Grosso and Ceará states (Brazil).
- Developing a new network of mental health professionals committed to offering inclusive services to LGBTIQ+ communities, and supporting (including through financing) increased access to cervical and breast screening services for LBT+ communities (Jamaica).
- Advocating for a new national law banning on conversion therapy, and establishing a new programme for accrediting mental health practitioners offering affirmative care to LGBTIQ+ communities (Peru).
- Influencing government policy, educating healthcare providers, and ensuring community access to healthcare services and materials (Botswana).

Recommendations

MINISTRIES OF HEALTH, NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTES AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND UNITS:

- Develop policies and legal frameworks that are inclusive of LBT+ communities. Efforts should draw on existing expertise around the wide-ranging health issues experienced by LBT+ communities. This should extend within and beyond HIV/AIDS and broader SRHR services, and include appropriate support for affirmative, non-discriminatory and inclusive mental health and well-being services.
- Ensure trans communities have genuine access to healthcare services supporting medical transition. This should include a sufficient range of appropriately-resourced, current, and accessible, publicly-funded clinics, which offer care that is inclusive and non-pathologising.
- Develop and support legal changes that outlaw the practice of so-called 'conversion therapy' (which especially affects LBT+ women and children and young people).
- Adopt a non-pathologising, self-determination-based approach to legal gender recognition.

INGOS AND DONORS:

- consider the needs of LBT+ communities when developing and delivering healthcare-related programmes. These should include, and move beyond, programmes targeting HIV/AIDS related care, prevention and treatment, and broader SRHR goals. Support for LGBTIQ+ CSOs to undertake and lead health-related strategic advocacy and campaigning work that changes the policy and legal landscape should be increased.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION

Research by the Network shows education can be a hugely challenging space for LBT+ communities, particularly in the global South and East. Together, studies by Matimba (South Africa),¹⁴ AFDA (Argentina)¹⁵ and Spectra (Montenegro)¹⁶ shed light on how prescriptive social norms around ‘normal’ or ‘acceptable’ gendered behaviour for girls, boys, young women, and young men can contribute to unsupportive and oppressive environments for LBT+ (and broader LGBTIQ+) children and young people.

This research also documents high levels of bullying and exclusion experienced by LGBTIQ+ communities. The studies highlight the important role of teachers, principals, school governors, and parents in helping to create inclusive and safe environments for all children and young people, including those who are LBT+. They also emphasise the role these agents play in creating unsafe environments in which bullying, discrimination, harassment and violence go unchallenged and rewarded. For example:

In Montenegro, research found 50% of respondents believe trans people are ‘mentally disturbed’ and 38% believe it is ‘not normal’ for a person to want to change their gender.

In South Africa, the study found seven out of 10 trans and gender-variant children and teenagers have unsupportive teachers at school.

In Argentina, 86% of interviewees responded that there are no representations of family diversity in the school premises (e.g. hallways, classrooms).

Out of the Margins advocacy responses in the area of education included: policy and legal reform, creation of resources for policy-makers and educators, and teacher training.

Recommendations

GOVERNMENT AND POLICY-MAKERS

Invest in designing public policies which provide clear guidelines to schools concerning inclusion of LBT+ (and broader LGBTIQ+) youth. These should include clear standards, tools and resources for tackling anti-LGBTIQ+ and gender-based bullying, discrimination and harassment in schools, colleges and universities.

Fund LGBTIQ+ CSOs to develop and deliver programmes to educate and empower teachers and schools to create safe and inclusive environments for all children and young people. This should include investing in improving teacher training institutes and providing continuous mandatory education for teachers on LBT+ topics and SOGIESC diversities.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS (AND POLICY-MAKERS AND STATES):

Include and celebrate diversities of, and within, SOGIESC in school curricula and class materials, from elementary school onwards.

Create schools that are safe and inclusive environments in which young LBT+ people can talk openly about their identities and expressions, without fear of experiencing discrimination or feeling unsafe.

INGOS AND DONORS:

Contribute to, and advocate for, a step change in education-focused funding for LGBTIQ+ CSOs, which is still an extremely marginalised funding area, despite clear existence and evidence of need.

Develop and deliver general and targeted international programming serving LGBTIQ+ children and young people. Comprehensive sexuality education, anti-bullying, youth empowerment, and skills, opportunities and entrepreneurship programming should all consider whether it is reaching and serving the needs of LBT+ children and young people in different country contexts.

¹⁴ Shimange, Akani (2019) Transgender and Gender-Variant Children and Teenagers Needs Analysis. South Africa: Matimba.

¹⁵ Rivas, Andrea (2019a) The Experience of Families Headed by LBT+ People and their Children in the Argentine Education System. Argentina: Familias Diversas Asociación Civil (AFDA).

¹⁶ Vlahović, Marica and Ulićević, Jovan (2019) Discrimination of Transgender and Gender-Diverse People in High Schools in Montenegro. Montenegro: Association Spectra.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING KEY UN AGENCIES SUCH AS UNICEF, UNESCO AND UNDP:

Continue to issue and strengthen visible institutional statements of support for LGBTIQ+ children and young people, and their access to education. This support is more important than ever given the current multi-regional backlash against trans rights and equality. This backlash has included attempts, even in more progressive contexts, to remove resources and policy commitments to address transphobic bullying.

Strengthen country-level investments and assistance for offices and partners in education and civil society to help ensure LGBTIQ+ children and young people can enjoy their right to safe and inclusive education.

SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY

Goal 5 commits to ‘achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’ and ‘end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere’. This clearly needs to include LBT+ communities, including by addressing violence and discrimination against them. Several key targets and indicators are also addressed through Network research, which documents:

The exclusion of LBT+ communities from SRHR services in various countries, and limits on their abilities to make free decisions about sexual relations and reproductive health care.

High prevalence, and specific experiences, of violence against LBQ+ women and trans and non-binary communities, including intimate partner violence, family violence, sexual violence and police violence.

LBQ+ women’s restricted access to land ownership. This is due to gendered and heteronormative norms around inheritance and ownership, which can leave land concentrated with fathers and brothers, and husbands/heterosexual families.

Exclusion of LBT+ women and non-binary people from ‘full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership’. This is due to gendered barriers to leadership roles, risks related to coming out and living openly as LBT+, and pressure to assume private sphere/family support-related roles.

Wider research also documents LBT+ community vulnerabilities to child, early and forced marriages and unions. Associated violations include rape and sexual assault, including marital rape, forced pregnancy, and family violence. This includes in Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya and Sri Lanka;¹⁷ Bangladesh, India and Nepal,¹⁸ Equatorial Guinea;¹⁹ and Kyrgyzstan.²⁰

17 Human Dignity Trust (2016) [Breaking the Silence: The Criminalisation of Lesbian and Bisexual Women and its Impacts](#) pp. 26-27.

18 CREA (2012) [count me IN! Report on Violence Against Disabled, Lesbian, and Sex-working Women in Bangladesh, India and Nepal](#) pp. 97-100.

19 Obono, T. M. (2019) *Yo No Quería Ser Madre: Vidas Forzadas de Mujeres Fuera de la Norma*. Barcelona/Madrid: Egales.

20 Human Rights Watch (2008) [These Everyday Humiliations: Violence Against Lesbians, Bisexual Women, and Transgender Men in Kyrgyzstan](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

There is also a growing range of studies providing data on targeted or so-called 'corrective' rape and sexual assault of LBQ women and trans communities in different countries, e.g., in Cameroon, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, Uganda and South Africa.²¹ 43 states worldwide have laws which expressly criminalise same-sex sexual relationships between women. This clearly restricts the ability of women to make their own choices about sexual relations.

Recommendations

GOVERNMENTS AND POLICY-MAKERS, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND NGOS:

When designing and delivering programmes intended to address systems, structures and norms, acknowledge and address how heteronormativity and cisnormativity commonly exclude and erase LBT+ women and non-binary communities.

Meaningfully address and prioritise the needs of lesbians, bi women and trans communities in gender equality programming and influencing work. This should include explicitly naming and detailing the needs of LBT+ communities when referencing and using concepts such as 'all women', 'women in all their diversity', and 'gender equality and inclusion'.

Specify measures, goals and indicators that describe and track change for LBQ women and trans communities as part of gender equality goals and programmes.

Consider the multiple inequalities and exclusions faced by LBQ women and trans communities when designing programmes and appealing for policies and laws related to:

- child, early and forced marriage and unions (CEFMU); and

- gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence (including by women in same-sex relationships), sexual and family violence; access to SRHR.

Consider repealing laws which limit women's ability to exercise freedom of choice and consent concerning their own sexualities and relationships.

MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL DONORS AND GRANT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS:

Help address the ongoing gap in services by creating new programmes and funds that specifically serve LBT+ communities.

Review existing programmes and funds to assess how well they are delivering change for LBT-led CSOs driving change in the global South and East, and identify improvements to said programmes and funds. LBT+ communities should be meaningfully involved in these reviews.

²¹ Human Dignity Trust (2016) [Breaking the Silence: The Criminalisation of Lesbian and Bisexual Women and its Impacts](#) p. 24.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

SDG 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal 8 commits to ‘promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all’. The research of the Network makes a clear connection between discrimination against LBT+ communities and their widespread lack of access to decent work.²² The lack of access includes unemployment, as well as work that may be insecure, informal, unsafe and/or poorly paid.²³

The high concentration of LBT+ communities in precarious employment as well as sectors poorly protected by labour rights laws and policies was also highlighted by studies.²⁴ Network research also suggests a gap in LBT+ community access to entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation programming.²⁵ These findings are also supported by external research, which indicates barriers to employment based on sexual orientation and gender identity can hold LGBTIQ+ people – and businesses and societies – back from making the most of their potential and contributing to wider economic growth.²⁶

Recommendations

EMPLOYERS:

Sign up to the UN OHCHR Standards of Conduct for Business,²⁷ which commit to five standards for tackling discrimination against LGBTI people: to respect human rights; eliminate discrimination; provide support; prevent other human rights violations; and act in the public sphere.

Implement comprehensive policies and practices that prohibit discrimination, harassment and bullying based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

Support staff to create inclusive and safe environments for LBT+ and broader LGBTIQ+ colleagues, partners and beneficiaries, including through effective training, guidance and standards.

Work in genuine partnership with LBT-led civil society organisations and LBT+ communities, especially in country contexts where LBT+ people face profound marginalisation, to deliver community-based and community-led change for employers and communities.

GOVERNMENT AND POLICY-MAKERS:

Change laws and implement public policies to support gender equality and non-discrimination of LBT+ people in employment.

Build evidence, and develop and secure resources, to implement an LBT+ focus in government programmes which promote education, skills-building and employability.

²² E.g., Adrian, Tamara (2019) Country Report on Socio-Economic Conditions of the Venezuelan LGBTI Population Living in Venezuela and Abroad. Venezuela: Diverlex Diversidad e Igualdad a Través de la Ley.

²³ Moore, Carla (2019) Trans Economic Survivability in Jamaica. Jamaica: Trans Wave Jamaica.

²⁴ Moore, Carla (2019) Combined Report: Economic Well-being (Including Research Reports From: Burundi, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, St Kitts, St Lucia, Guyana, Belize, Eswatini and Venezuela). Jamaica: Trans Wave Jamaica.

²⁵ International: Julien, Zeleca (2019) Your Story: An Analysis of the Economic Well-Being of Caribbean, African, South American, and Central American Transgender Men and Masculine Presenting LBQ Women. Trinidad and Tobago: I am One.

²⁶ E.g. see Open for Business (2020) [LGBT+ Inclusion and the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and Badgett, L. et al (2014) [The Relationship between LGBT Inclusion and Economic Development: An Analysis of Emerging Economies](#).

²⁷ UN OHCHR (2017) [Tackling Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, & Intersex People: Standards of Conduct for Business](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

SDG 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Goal 16 commits to ‘promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all’. The research of the Network clearly shows that LBT+ communities are experiencing serious and specific barriers to access to justice in various jurisdictions. These barriers are fuelled by social and legal sanctions and stigma related to SOGIESC, and gender inequality. Network findings also apply across various key indicators and targets, including documenting:

- High levels of violence against LBT+ communities, including violence directly fuelled by discrimination and stigma on grounds of gender, and sexual orientation and gender identity.²⁸
- LBT+ communities avoiding reporting experiences of violence and discrimination to police and justice institutions, including for fear of secondary victimisation, and/or poor expectations of justice and accountability.²⁹
- Low levels of service from (and, at times, abuse, harm and neglect within) public services, and poor LBT+ community participation in decision-making at different levels.³⁰

Recommendations

GOVERNMENT AND POLICY-MAKERS:

- Invest in and strengthen comprehensive and inclusive services for LBT+ communities, including in areas of healthcare, education, work and justice.
- Repeal laws which limit LGBTIQ+ freedom of expression and other fundamental freedoms, including association and assembly, in accordance with international human rights standards.
- Collect and publish data on the proportion of LGBTIQ+ communities subjected to physical, psychological and sexual violence, and who feel safe in the area in which they live – alongside other dimensions of inequality.
- Develop policies and provide resources to ensure state institutions function as safe and equitable spaces for all, including for LBT+ communities, and broader LGBTIQ+ communities and women.
- Transform policing and justice institutions to ensure fair and dignified treatment by police, and greater access to justice and accountability.
- Create National LGBT+ Action Plans which consider the specific needs of LBT+ communities.
- Ensure LBT+ rights (and LGBTIQ+ rights more broadly) are priority areas for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Ombudsmen.
- Protect LBT+ communities and recognise them as deserving of protections under regional and international human rights standards and mechanisms.

²⁸ Mudzengi, Carol (2019) Zoom in and Expand: A Closer Look at Violence and Personal Security of LBT+ Persons in Zimbabwe. Voice of the Voiceless.

²⁹ Malelu, Dee (2019) LGBT Access to Justice in Lesotho. People's Matrix Association.

³⁰ Ulanmo, Juliet Nnedinma (2019) Political and Civil Participation as a Tool to Combat Exclusion and Entrench the Rights of Lesbians, Bisexual and Trans+ Women in Nigeria. Nigeria: Women's Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment and Equality (WISE).

OVERVIEW

This chapter highlights a cross-section of the research and advocacy results achieved across the Network within different areas, including health, education, decent work, inequalities, gender equality, violence and personal security, and civic and political participation.

It is organised by region:

- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe and Central Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SDG 3. HEALTH / SDG 10. REDUCE INEQUALITIES

Mas Igualdad Peru

Mas Igualdad delivered a major research project in 2019, which revealed the extent of conversion therapy in Peru and the human rights violations resulting from these practices. Following this study, the group decided to focus on two areas:

1. Advocating for legal change, including a ban on conversion therapies and the inclusion of a new non-discrimination clause on the basis of SOGI in Peru's national mental health law; and
2. Increasing access to affirmative mental health support for LGBTIQ+ communities through new training and programming.

MAS IGUALDAD SUMMARISED THE OUTCOMES:



‘We managed to reach the regional level by engaging with [The Inter-American Commission for Human Rights/ Organization of American States] IACHR-OAS and other organisations [...] to talk about the importance of banning conversion therapies. We worked mostly at the national level through an alliance with a congressman and other organisations in Peru to present a bill to ban and prevent conversion therapies, and to include the protection of SOGI in the protocol of the new mental health law.

We did this through meetings, working tables, and the work of our researchers and advocacy team. Also, at the local and national level we had the opportunity to work with mental health professionals by offering them the course ‘Introduction to the Affirmative Approach’, and by reaching out to them to sign a petition to Congress to debate and approve the bill to ban conversion therapies.’

As part of these efforts, the group created a new directory of mental health professionals qualified to offer inclusive and affirmative support for LGBTIQ+ people. They also developed an application, accreditation and ongoing renewal process to allow the programme to grow. This supported their efforts in seeking signatories to a petition for the government to debate and approve the ban on conversion therapies – which 360 psychologists and psychiatrists signed.

ADDITIONALLY, MAS IGUALDAD HAVE:

Gathered new information on conversion therapy centres and practices, which they will be presenting to authorities as part of their advocacy for a ban on conversion practices.

Created a new online mental health support service, 'Rainbow First Aid Kit'. This is open to all, is run three days a week on their social media, and is staffed by voluntary psychotherapists.

Developed an observatory of discriminatory practices in the teaching of issues around mental health in universities. The aim is to support reporting of cases and to influence curricula change.

Major outcomes are that the SOGI non-discrimination clause has been included in the new mental health law. The bill proposing a national ban on conversion therapies has been presented and will also be presented to the new post-July 2021 Congress. Within the Health Ministry, the Director of Mental Health also participated in the official presentation of the group's 2019 study and promised to include the protection on the basis of SOGI in their policies.

Also instrumental in supporting these outcomes were engagements with the UK Embassy in Peru, the Women and Vulnerable Population Ministry, the Health Ministry, Ombudsman's Office, and mechanisms within the LGBTI Core Group of the IACHR-OAS.

MAS IGUALDAD SUMMARISED THEIR TOP THREE ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PROJECT AS FOLLOWS:

1. Our study was awarded the Poder Award (Power Award), which awards research and initiatives that have the power to impact our society and policies. This gave us press exposure and the opportunity for contact with the UK Embassy and authorities.
2. The award and recognitions helped build our image, and now we are considered a key organisation when it comes to the mental health of LGBTIQ+ people. We get invited to conferences, courses, and worktables within the academic and public sphere. We also have built a stronger mental health team.
3. Our mental health and legal team, in alliance with congressmen Alberto de Belaunde, drafted a bill to ban conversion therapies and to implement the affirmative approach. This is a huge achievement because it means that there is a legal framework that we can use and adjust to tackle a particularly dangerous type of violence that is still prevalent in our country, as revealed by our study.

SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH / SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY / SDG 16. PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Asociación Mujer & Mujer - Ecuador

Building on their 2019 research revealing the unmet, often invisible, health needs of LBQ women in Ecuador, in 2020-2021 Mujer & Mujer focused their advocacy on supporting LBQ women's visibility in healthcare and broader society. They focused especially on articulating their needs within institutions tasked with monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Ecuador. To do this, they worked with various institutions including:

- the National Council for Gender Equality;
- the Ombudsman's Office of Ecuador;
- the Offices of UN Women and UNFPA in Ecuador;
- Latin American and The Caribbean Lesbian Network (LESLAC);
- the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); and
- the LGBTI Stakeholder Group within the UN.

As the group summarised:

“ Although we had included working at the regional level in our advocacy strategy, we didn't expect to participate so actively in those spaces, which was thanks to the leadership we assumed in front of LESLAC and the Civil Society Linking Group at the ECLAC, of which we are the focal point of the LGBTI Group and the Group of countries of the Andean Region as well. Based on these new responsibilities, we were recognized as a referent on LBQ issues in the RSMLAC (Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network) and in the LGBTI Stakeholder Group at the United Nations. Obviously, these spaces for advocacy have allowed us to be present at a dozen international meetings and gatherings organized by the United Nations, the most relevant being the presence of our colleague [...] at the ECOSOC Youth Forum.

At the national level, Mujer & Mujer faced some challenges in engaging with the previous Government and are likely to face further challenges from May 2021, as Ecuador will be governed by a new hard-right Government with a mixed record on human rights.

“ Through our investigation we reached UN Women and UNFPA; with each one of these agencies, we began different but articulated processes. With UN Women, we raised a Shadow Report for CEDAW on LBQ women; and with UNFPA, we expanded our research and got it published. Thanks to this second phase of Out of the Margins, we have systematized the investigative processes that we have carried out in recent years, and we have written documents and reports; one of the most important is 'LBQ Women in the COVID-19 Context'... We continue to collect information with the support of UNFPA and the National Council for the Gender Equality. At the same time, we are disseminating our main findings through webinars, talks or forums on our social networks.

Mujer & Mujer summarised their greatest achievements from the project as:

EXPANSION OF THE RESEARCH '(IN) VISIBILITY AND HEALTH: CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES OF LESBIAN WOMEN IN ECUADOR'

Thanks to strong advocacy carried out with UNFPA Ecuador after we had the opportunity to present our research, developed within the framework of the Out of the Margins project, they agreed to finance an expansion of the research. The final product was featured at a major online event with special guests, including former Minister of Health and Ecuadorian lesbian activist Carina Vance. UNFPA was highly satisfied with the research, so they decided to publish it. So proud!

LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL SURVEY 'VULNERABILITIES OF LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC'

Due to the impact of Mujer & Mujer's activities during 2020, we were contacted by the National Council for Gender Equality, UNFPA and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses to build a survey to identify vulnerabilities of the LGBTIQ+ population in the COVID-19 context. The process took a few months, but we succeeded and finally the survey was officially launched on April 27, within the framework of the Lesbian Visibility Day. Lesbian Pride!

PRESENTATION OF OUR SHADOW REPORT ON LBQ WOMEN IN ECUADOR

Based on the research carried out within the framework of Out of the Margins, we received support from IWRAW to participate in the collective construction of a Civil Society Declaration at the 77th session of the CEDAW Committee. We were one of the three organizations that read the statement online. This advocacy activity was key for Mujer & Mujer, as UN Women Ecuador offered us financial and technical support to prepare our first shadow report, which has really filled us with great pride.

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION

Asociación de Familias Diversas de Argentina (AFDA) - Argentina

BACKGROUND

In 2019, AFDA ran a research project – also supported through the Out of the Margins programme – which explored key issues faced by adults, children and young people in ‘rainbow families’, i.e., families headed by LGBTIQ+ parent(s) or guardian(s), particularly in education. The study drew on semi-structured in-depth interviews with 92 people (75 adults and 17 children and young people). The study found that:

‘The heterosexual nuclear family is usually presented as the only model, not only in the classrooms, but also in textbooks, didactic material and teachers’ discourses, resulting in the invisibility of rainbow families in schools’;

86% of interviewees responded that there are no representations of family diversity in the school premises (e.g. hallways, classrooms);

Most children and young people said that they had no classes, or books, or representations featuring family diversity; and

Argentina’s Comprehensive Sexuality Education Law 2006 has been poorly implemented.

AFDA’s response

AFDA’s advocacy response has been wide-ranging, seeking to influence beyond the Ministry of Education, and to target other Ministries and cross-Government mechanisms for action on education, and broader LGBTIQ+ equality. Their advocacy has reached across national, regional and international arenas.

AFDA interviewed Alba Rueda, the current Under-Secretary for Diversity Policies at Argentina’s Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity, and published a blog based on the interview. Rueda is the first trans woman to serve as government Under-Secretary in Argentina’s history. AFDA Director, Andrea Rivas, described their interview:

“ ‘We talked about LGBT+ students in Argentina and also about Latin America and how social movements can address structures in educational systems, and how it is necessary to have an intersectional dialogue with our young LGBT+ children and youth. Because they need to be more empowered and at the decision table.’

AFDA are also planning a webinar with Under-Secretary Rueda and a representative from the Ministry of Education to discuss the needs of LGBT+ children and young people in education, and to respond to the politicisation of education by conservative movements in Argentina. AFDA have also engaged ODS Argentina, a government unit which coordinates the national and sub-national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, across various Ministries.

They also developed and ran a social media campaign, that AFDA shared with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and others. Additionally, they have also filed an Amicus Curiae brief to the Supreme Court of Argentina, arguing that the Catholic Church should allow changes to certificates of baptism to reflect people’s legal gender.

AFDA has liaised with the Ministry for Women, Genders and Diversity to apply for ECOSOC status at the UN (and will receive an outcome in June 2021). They are also working with the Foreign Affairs Ministry to call for further action on LGBT+ rights issues, including through liaising with various missions and with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights. AFDA sent a report based on their research on LGBT+ rights and education to Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on SOGI.

The Out of the Margins programme has contributed by providing the finances to support staff-time to deliver and strategise. AFDA has also been supported by Stonewall in regard to ERC-related advocacy, where they are both among the current organisational co-chairs. AFDA also participated in meetings and forums held as part of CSW 2021.

SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH

Instituto Brasileiro De Transmasculinidades (IBRAT) - Brazil

IBRAT is a national network of trans masculine activists with members across Brazil. During the first phase of the Out of the Margins programme, IBRAT carried out a participatory action research project investigating access to quality healthcare for trans masculine communities. The study brought together trans activists and healthcare practitioners to share knowledge about challenges for trans masculine communities and to identify opportunities for change in healthcare systems. As the report on this research summarised:

“ In some Brazilian states, such as Rio de Janeiro... most trans men are not able to access a trans-centred health care program... Due to this, since 2012 trans men from the city or state of Rio de Janeiro have been struggling to find proper health care... trans men from Rio de Janeiro have heard, seen or experienced situations in which [healthcare] professionals: refuse to attend to them (religious reasons or others), or see them but mention that they can't help because they are not specialised in trans health care.¹

Following this, IBRAT was supported to develop a public campaign to address the challenges and opportunities identified. To deliver this, they partnered with Change.org, using their petition platforms to call for action on trans healthcare and to support influencing with public officials by extending advocacy trainings to IBRAT members.

As stated in the report: 'We tried to work with the concept of intersectionality, so we tried to work with activists from different regions of Brazil'. Joint campaigns were launched in the states of Mato Grosso, Rio de Janeiro, and Ceará, calling for:

The opening of an outpatient clinic in Cuiabá, the capital of Mato Grosso. Activists delivered 7,000 signatures to the Prosecutor of the Public Ministry of Mato Grosso, Henrique Schneider. IBRAT advised that, although their original request – to open a trans center in Cuiabá – could not go ahead due to COVID-19, the Prosecutor promised to take part in the discussions and accepted their request for training some employees in public health posts in the capital. This same petition now has about 16,500 signatures.

Expansion of healthcare access for trans communities in Rio de Janeiro state, including through strengthened services and/or accreditation at the two relevant clinics in the state. The two petitions (one aiming at strengthened services at the Pedro Ernesto hospital, another at the IEDE hospital) combined have received over 50,000 signatures. IBRAT activists also met with health-care practitioners and policy-makers to discuss their campaign.

The relocation of trans outpatient care in Fortaleza, the capital of Ceara, where it is currently situated within the mental healthcare system. The petition has gained over 6,000 signatures.

Overall, the campaigns have helped IBRAT to engage with new partners and advocacy targets within healthcare systems and relevant government departments, and have helped raise the visibility of their work. Alongside this, they have also been able to attract new members and strengthen the organisation's structure and processes.

¹ Neves, Benjamim de Almeida (2019) Brazilian Research Report (Trans Masculine Community Access to Healthcare). Brazil: IBRAT.

SDG 1 NO POVERTY / SDG 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

TransWave - Jamaica

In 2019, TransWave carried out a first-of-its-kind research project on the economic experiences of trans communities in Jamaica. The study found evidence of high levels of poverty, food insecurity, lack of shelter and lack of access to decent work – all fuelled by inequalities and stigma in relation to gender identity. As TransWave summarised in their advocacy strategy based on this project:

“ ‘In Jamaica, trans people are a part of the most vulnerable groups. They have no legal protection and, due to the often singular focus of both traditional and social media, the community is seen as diseased and criminal. The Trans Economic Survivability in Jamaica [Research] by TransWave through the OOTM Project elaborated on the ills that affect the trans community, including high levels of poverty. If trans people in Jamaica are to survive and thrive, they will need opportunities for employment and standards adhered to in employment settings that will eliminate the threat of stigma and discrimination.’

AS PART OF THEIR RESPONSE, DURING 2020-2021, TRANSWAVE DECIDED TO FOCUS ON THREE THINGS:

1. Awareness-raising and communications in Jamaica and internationally around trans community experiences of discrimination and exclusion in employment:
‘We just finished filming for our YouTube series... and that’s going to be put out, and we’re working on IEC materials as well.’
2. Development of a model anti-discrimination policy that can hopefully be used by employers wishing to follow good practice on trans inclusion, and by trans and broader LGBTIQ+ communities seeking to support inclusion. Policy development was informed by focus groups and academic research.
3. Building relationships with business in different industries and with other stakeholders, including NGOs and Ministries.

TRANSWAVE SUMMARISED THE KEY PROJECT OUTCOMES:

“ ‘The [2019] research has helped us to segue into developing our workplace policy, because one of the core findings of the research that we did through Stonewall was the fact that [...] our unemployment rate is high, among the trans community. So [...] the second phase is to help the discussions around employment for trans people, and what that could look like. So, we’ve developed a policy around workplace inclusion for trans people. And now Trans Wave is currently trying [...] to get meetings with different stakeholders, and from businesses [...] which will continue after the project lifecycle [...] Now we’re going to be working to have companies maybe thinking about incorporating trans specific workplace policies, to improve the environment for trans people, and to actually employ trans people, and ensure that their staff lines are diversified.’

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY / SDG 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Kyrgyz Indigo - Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz Indigo's 2019 research focused on the economic well-being needs of trans communities in Kyrgyzstan and the diaspora, together with their experiences of migration (noting that migration, economic inequality, reliance on informal and insecure work including sex work, and provision of remittances are a strong feature of trans community experiences in the region). They carried out in-depth research with 31 trans community members concerning these issues. Kyrgyz Indigo summarised the findings of their research:

“ The research within the Out of the Margins project showed that trans*² women daily faced discrimination and violence based on gender and gender identity, but they are always excluded from gender agenda in Kyrgyzstan. Another huge problem found by the study is that trans* women are unable to find decent jobs due to their trans* identity.

The group developed an advocacy strategy based on their study. It focused on strengthening inclusion of LBT+ women and on an understanding of discrimination as intersectional, within the National Strategy and Plan for Gender Equality in Kyrgyzstan:

“ For advocacy, we used the recommendations that Kyrgyzstan received within the framework of international agreements: UPR, CEDAW, CERD, which relate to LBT+ communities and problems of discrimination and the data of vulnerability of LBT+ women to gender-based violence and discrimination.

They also chose to focus on legal gender recognition, noting that this strategy ‘aims to provide trans+ people with access to decent work’. This is based on the group’s research (together with Labrys, another key NGO in Kyrgyzstan) which found that: ‘39% of trans people face difficulties in finding employment due to them being unable to access identity documents presenting their correct name and

gender marker.³ As a result, 72% of trans people had experienced informal work (sex work, car washes, construction sites).’ Kyrgyz Indigo explained further:

“ The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted those working in the informal employment sector. People in precarious jobs are dependent on daily income and when lockdown, curfew or quarantine measures were introduced, they lost their income and had no savings. As a result, vast majority of trans people faced hunger and poverty.⁴ This data shows the need to focus on legal gender recognition, that could give the opportunity to trans* community members to change gender marker and find decent work.

Kyrgyz Indigo summarised their biggest achievements through the project as:

“ We submitted the first complaint in the history of Kyrgyzstan from an LGBT+ person to the Constitutional Chamber – this is a great precedent.

We submitted a recommendation list to the Ministry of Health and Social Development about the need to specify action in the National Plan and Strategy for Gender Equality, in the context of the multiple discrimination that is faced by vulnerable women. This was carried out in collaboration with the Coalition for Equality, which unites 30 organisations in Kyrgyzstan and promotes anti-discrimination legislation.

We created unique media products to tackle the lack of interactive information about LGBT+ people in Kyrgyzstan. One of the stories is about a trans* activist who faces threats because of her participation in a women’s rights march. We created two animated story videos, representing the real stories of a lesbian and a trans* woman.

² While the Network research usually uses the term ‘trans’, when directly quoting from partners we have remained true to the language and style they have used.

³ Labrys and Kyrgyz Indigo (2015–2016) [Assessment of the Needs of Transgender People](#).

⁴ Kyrgyz Indigo (2020) [Spotlight Review: LGBT+ Inclusion to Sustainable Development Goals Agenda](#), p. 5.

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION / SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY / SDG 1. NO POVERTY / SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH / SDG 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH / SDG 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Association Spectra - Montenegro

In their 2019 research for Out of the Margins, Association Spectra carried out a study looking at the attitudes and experiences of children and young people in schools, around issues of trans identities and gender diversity. This first of its kind study reached over 600 children and young people. Specific findings included that:

86% of high school students surveyed think men should be masculine, and 88% think women should be feminine.

42% of respondents indicated it was unacceptable for a man not to act masculine and 39% said it was unacceptable for a woman not to act feminine.

50% of respondents believe that trans people are 'mentally disturbed' and 38% believe it is 'not normal' for a person to want to change their gender.

Additionally, 30% agreed with the statement 'transgender people commit a sin if they live in the gender they feel, instead of the gender they were given at birth'.

While 50% of survey respondents said they would be comfortable having teachers address trans people and issues in their class, 33% said they would not be comfortable.

Drawing on findings from the study, Spectra developed a strategy focused on:

achieving broader policy change, engaging schools to create safer spaces and curricula;

offering individual-level support to teachers and students; and

developing stronger partnerships for LGBTIQ+ inclusion and gender equality.

2020-2021 has been a challenging time for LGBTIQ+ and broader equality and human rights movements in Montenegro. The COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the government shift towards the hard-right after the 2020 Parliamentary elections, have limited opportunities for policy engagement on rights issues. However, Association Spectra still managed to achieve significant successes,

particularly in education. Key outcomes included:

New partnerships with educational institutions, including signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with four high schools. Three of the schools are outside of Podgorica, the capital city – one in the South and two in the North of the country (where political and social attitudes are more conservative). Spectra have also cooperated with one university.

Delivery of workshops around LGBTIQ+ issues and education to 15 teachers (in Podgorica) and 43 students (in Podgorica, Kotor, Kolašin and Mojkovac). Delivery of two online workshops for 17 young people. Advising and supporting school staff and students in different setting. Creating a training programme, which will be submitted for accreditation (in the Bureau of Education and Bureau of Social and Children's Protection).

Successful advocacy for the inclusion of trans and intersex issues in Montenegro's new five-year national Gender Equality Strategy, due to be adopted in 2021. This is the first time the policy has been trans/intersex inclusive.

Involvement in drafting the yearly report as part of the National Coordination Team for implementation and monitoring of the 'Strategy for Improvement of Quality of Lives of LGBTI Persons in Montenegro' 2019-2023, and the creation of an Action Plan for 2021.

Engagement with various Ministries in support of LGBTIQ+ inclusion, including the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (who accepted their request to include LGBTIQ+ people in planning concerning culture for that year); the Minister of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media (who will speak at an event of theirs); and the Minister of Justice and Human and Minority Rights.

Spectra summarised:

“Trans and intersex issues are slowly becoming a part of the gender equality narrative. Some of the schools have been responsive, which is a good baseline for future work in the field of education. We have built alliances with many feminist organizations and continue to build cooperation with institutions and other CSOs.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION / SDG 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH / SDG 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Matimba, South Africa

As part of the first phase of the Out of the Margins project, Matimba carried out research on the environment for trans and gender diverse children and young people in schools. This study showed that many schools are, in practice, creating hostile environments for trans and gender diverse youth. This is having a serious impact on their health, safety, well-being and ability to participate and excel in education. Specific findings from the study include:

- Seven out of 10 trans and gender-variant children and teenagers have unsupportive teachers at school.
- 80% of trans and gender-variant children and teenagers are misgendered and dead-named by fellow students and teachers.
- Six out of 10 trans and gender-variant children and teenagers are forced to wear a uniform that does not correspond with their gender identity.
- 78% of trans and gender-variant children and teenagers choose to not use the bathrooms at school unless it is an emergency.
- Three out of 10 trans and gender-variant children and teenagers are only allowed to use the teachers' bathroom.
- 75% of trans and gender-variant children and teenagers use the bathroom that they do not want to use.
- Seven out of 10 trans and gender-variant children and teenagers do not play sports at school.
- Eight out of 10 trans and gender-variant children and teenagers are not comfortable changing in their assigned bathrooms or sport facilities.

Following this, Matimba was supported in phase two to carry out a further research project on access to Legal Gender Recognition for trans youth, also based on frameworks within the SDGs and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In the third phase, Matimba decided to focus on research and

advocacy with the South African Government, in particular the National Department of Basic Education. They conducted a research project on Access to Education for trans and gender variant youth to be used to call for a new national policy framework, to help ensure access to education for trans youth. Matimba noted that, currently:

“ South Africa does not have policies. Most policies in relation to education are guidelines [around issues] like bathrooms, uniforms. Due to the fact that The Department of Education only has guidelines as to what they take and what they don't take [...] School Governing Bodies [can] basically choose if they want to create safe schools for trans kids or not.

Additionally, the current national law on legal gender recognition does not cover issues experienced by minors, which has 'obviously, a ripple effect on how they access healthcare, how they access education'. To advocate for a new legal and policy framework, Matimba worked in partnership with other groups and individuals – and the National Department of Basic Education – to create a Social Inclusion Working Group, which is:

“ a partnership between organisations in South Africa that work with transgender individuals and organisations that work with access to education. The mandate of this Working Group is to develop policy that ensures that schools are trans competent... the formation of the Social Inclusion Working Group has been a pleasant but unexpected occurrence allowing a joint effort in ensuring access to education for trans and gender diverse youth. The piloting of the group was initiated by one of the parents of the youth Matimba works with.

The project has already led to some key outcomes. This includes agreement from the Department of Home Affairs and Department of Justice to amend the national law on legal gender recognition to include issues experienced by trans and gender diverse youth. The Department of Education has also tentatively agreed to implement a new policy framework, subject to evidence and recommendations in the form of a forthcoming research paper from Matimba.

SDG 1. NO POVERTY / SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING / SDG 5, GENDER EQUALITY. SDG 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH / SDG 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES / SDG. 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS / SDG 17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS.

Voice of the Voiceless (VOVO) - Zimbabwe

VOVO's Out of the Margins interventions started with a study that looked closely at violence and personal security challenges experienced by LBT+ communities in Zimbabwe in 2019. They found that:⁵

67.4% of respondents said they had experienced harassment by law enforcement due to their SOGIESC.

32.7% of survey respondents said their SOGIESC had hindered them from accessing social spaces.

27.7% said their SOGIESC had hindered them from political participation.

This echoed a previous VOVO baseline study in 2016, which concluded:

“LBT+ persons in Zimbabwe are disproportionately affected by the conditions in the environment they live in. Many contributing factors such as patriarchy and gender inequality coupled with homophobia, biphobia and transphobia that thrive in Zimbabwe render LBT+ persons second class citizens. There is a lot of policing of women's bodies as well as a prevailing binary take on gender... access to health, access to justice and social inclusion are still challenges... The research conducted under the first phase of Out of the Margins project... reiterated some of the baseline survey findings. There is a continued perception of social and sexual deviancy among the general public about LBT+ persons in Zimbabwe however there is a slight awareness of the existence of other sexual and gender identities.

Based on this data, VOVO developed a strategy based on:

Partnerships with wider equality and justice actors, including Youth for Innovation Trust (YIT), a youth organisation based in Bulawayo.

Creating spaces for solidarity and grass roots strategising, such as through the revitalisation of VOVO's Women's Collective platform. This is a space in which VOVO tries to organise with other marginalised groups of women, including 'sex workers, women in male dominated fields such journalists, women with disabilities, artists, women living with mental illness, and other self-identified feminists.'

Awareness-raising, for example by supporting YIT's online programme '120 seconds of legislation', which raises awareness on different laws in Zimbabwe.

VOVO has, in particular, been organising discussions around the SDGs, and 'how we can tap into the larger conversations and be each other's allies in the different spaces where we have influence as the Women's Collective'. They elaborated:

“‘Because most of the communities we work with do not know about the SDGs – so far, we've done awareness-raising around the SDGs particularly. We also identified a partner organisation [...] which is a youth organization, called Youth for Innovation Trust. They've done quite a lot of work on tech... they also teach young schoolgirls on how to code [...] And we thought it best to come together on SDGs [...] So, it's just been a process where we've targeted a few of the SDGs as part of our working plan and our working strategy, but we've realised we need to talk about all of the SDGs and actually gauge what the community thinks in terms of engagement with the SDGs and which particular ones they identify with. Of course, they have gone on to say that all SDGs apply to them, and to divorce ourselves from any of them would be short-changing not only the movement, but the progress that we want to make as a movement.’

⁵ Mudzengi, Carol (2019) Zoom in and Expand: A Closer Look at Violence and Personal Security of LBT+ Persons in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe: Voice of the Voiceless.

NETWORK ACTION IN FOCUS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Stonewall

In terms of further outcomes, VOVO emphasised that these conversations have been critical in their strategic planning; helping them to get a real understanding of the meaning of the SDGs among communities they work with, and how to hopefully make them work for LBT+ inclusion. They also valued the partnerships they had been able to build with groups and individuals working on different issues. VOVO commented further:

“ ‘The human rights framework has not really been favourable for us here in Zimbabwe... it looks like we’re trying to get them to buy into a Western agenda, whereas the SDGs are more relatable... There were some concerns around it being a UN initiative and therein around LGBTIQ+ being a Western thing. But with the right kind of articulation, we felt that there were some entry points. This was part of a broader conversation with people from Bulawayo; with people thinking that actually it might work. It was one of the observations made by a participant – that economic development and growth is prioritised, but if we look at development rather than growth, it could be something that could be used as an entry point... So, it has been fruitful.’

SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY / SDG 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Women Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment and Equality (WISE) - Nigeria

In the first phase of Out of the Margins, in 2019, WISE delivered a research project focused on LBT+ community experiences in, and attitudes towards, civic and political institutions in Nigeria.⁶ Asking LBT+ individuals for their responses, WISE found:

Almost all respondents (97.5%) said they were 'not satisfied' when asked to select their satisfaction with Nigerian politics.

91% of respondents affirmed that discrimination against voters based on their sexual orientation and gender identity exists.

Overall, WISE found that LBT+ communities are extremely marginalised from formal and national, as well as informal and local, civic and political participation in Nigeria. Based on the study, WISE developed an approach focused on

- educating media/journalists;
- engaging civil society and Government actors focused on in gender equality; and
- bringing LBT+ women together with relevant institutions and leaders.

KEY ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

Engaging the National Union of Journalists/Media through an intensive three-day training on the role of media in equality and the importance of sensitive reporting in shaping issues affecting LBT women. A Plan of Action (POA) was developed to establish a network of journalists dedicated to the promotion of diverse and accurate representation/reporting of LBT women's issues.

Leading up to International Women's Day, a letter was sent to The Ministry of Women's Affairs and Youth Development to embark on a peaceful women's march in commemoration of International Women's Day. The Ministry actively participated in this significant march that attracted quite a number of persons in Kano, Nigeria.

WISE also held a five-day political participation workshop to capacitate LBT women and engage with stakeholders. Various key institutions and organisations were represented, including: National Independent Electoral Commission; National Human Rights Commission; Coalition for the Defense of Sexual Rights (CDSR) and other NGOs; Ministry of Women's Affairs and Youth Development; Law Enforcement Agencies; Nigerian Bar Association/the Judiciary; Religious leaders.

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE RAISED WITH ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- The impact of a non-intersectional, non-inclusive approach to human rights on the lives of diverse marginalised groups of women;
- The importance of non-discriminatory provision of services and access to justice;
- The urgent need to implement a gender-inclusive lens to create effective leadership models;
- The need to work on issues of transparency, accountability, and participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

WISE DESCRIBED THEIR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PROJECT AS:

Stronger networks: The Nigerian Bar Association and Law enforcement Agencies are willing to work with WISE in promoting inclusion via legal representation and access to justice. They are also willing to provide protection for Women Human Rights Defenders in Kano State.

Allyship: At the end of the training, the Nigerian Union of Journalists displayed a deep understanding of diversity in terms of sexual orientation and gender identity, and committed to respecting, promoting, and providing proper visibility for LBT women issues.

Increased interest in political participation: The five-day political participation training for LBT women rounded off with LBT women becoming very vocal about their rights. There was a strong willingness to take up space, with some of the women exhibiting great interest in joining politics. The workshop facilitator introduced them to a network of feminists and women in politics to encourage the pursuit of their political careers.

⁶ Ulanmo, Juliet Nnedinma (2019) Political and Civil Participation as a Tool to Combat Exclusion and Entrench the Rights of Lesbians, Bisexual and Trans+ Women in Nigeria. Nigeria: Women's Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment and Equality (WISE).

SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING / SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY / SDG 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES

LEGABIBO, Botswana

LEGABIBO's advocacy work proceeded from an earlier baseline study, exploring the needs of queer women, and trans and gender diverse communities, when accessing healthcare. Based on this, they developed a strategy focused on government and policy influencing, education of healthcare providers, and ensuring community access to healthcare services and materials – through direct provision and the development of new partnerships:

“ The research done earlier focused on the realities of trans and gender diverse persons and queer women in accessing healthcare. We understood that there is a need for education of healthcare providers pertaining to LBQT womxn's SRHR needs. With this phase of the project, we aim to address the exclusion, discrimination and inequalities faced by LBQT womxn through education of health care providers, engagements with law and policy makers and advocating for availability of LBQT womxn's SRHR programming and packages and acknowledgement of LBQT womxn's sexual health rights. This will help to change hearts, minds and attitudes of healthcare providers to be understanding and welcoming towards LBQT womxn's health and wellness needs.

The group expanded further on their approach:

“ We used participatory approaches where instead of LEGABIBO being the voice of LBQT persons, we created a safe space for the healthcare providers to engage directly with the community itself. We realise that having open dialogues and sharing individual experiences enables people to connect on a human level, and therefore has the possibility of being much more fruitful as opposed to official settings, where people are unable to meaningfully engage because of power dynamics that always come into play in such settings.

LEGABIBO IDENTIFIED THEIR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PROJECT AS:

1. Creating partnerships with CSOs. We have built partnerships with CSOs, like Cancer Association Botswana. Their partnership has already proven to be useful because they have connected us to the Ministry of Health and, going forward, the relationship would address SRH issues LBQT women currently face. Because LEGABIBO does not directly provide STI & HIV services, we have partnered with Bontleng Youth Clinic and Botswana Family Welfare Association to provide these services. These organisations fill the gap in service provision that LBQT women have been complaining about, so we feel like this is a really great achievement. Partnering with CSOs outside the queer space is also a strategic move to give us audiences in spaces where we would not normally have an audience, thereby broadening impact and preparing the community to advocate for legal gender recognition for trans and gender diverse Botswana.

2. Strengthening LBQT movement and providing safe spaces. We were able to have conversations to empower women, and these were a great success. We saw people opening up about their struggles and then making connections between their personal experiences and human rights. The conversation that stood out the most was the one on Sex Positivity – a lot of people shared how:

- *they have not been realising when they violate other people and, sometimes, when they are violated;*
- *they have not understood how SRHR cannot be achieved without body autonomy; and how sex positivity goes beyond sexual intercourse itself and touches on embracing our differences without shaming, and respects other people's choices*
- *how sex positivity goes beyond sexual intercourse itself to also include embracing our differences without shaming, and respecting other people's choices.*

3 Positive reporting and engagement with media. In our engagements we had invited women reporters who were able to hear first-hand about experiences of the LBQT community and understand how harmful, biased and sensationalist stories are to sexual and gender minority persons. These are the reporters we want to continue working with. Some of them wrote articles after our engagements. We also had radio sessions on the right to health, the right to identity, the intersectionality of womanhood and the decriminalisation judgement, and how it links to the right to liberty, privacy, and dignity.

SDG 5. GENDER EQUALITY / SDG 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

THE INITIATIVE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS (TIERS) – NIGERIA

In 2019, TIERS carried out research with LBQ women and non-binary people, focused on issues around violence and personal security. This informed their work in 2020-2021, focused on raising visibility of these issues and creating new community spaces. Three sets of activities were carried out:

Podcast series Q CONVOS. ‘The first episode was released on the 6th of May 2021, and it starred a queer podcast curator, writer and entrepreneur. Discussions on this episode centred around the cases of intimate partner violence in the LGBTIQ+ community and how they are mostly handled with impunity. Episode two featured... [a] writer and clinical psychologist. She shed light on the mental health effects of gender-based violence in relationships involving queer women. The most recent episode talks about how threats to the safety of queer women affects their quality of life.’

Safety and security handbook. This includes insights for queer women in Nigeria on personal and digital security, and how to report any violations to organisations in Nigeria. It contains a short crash course on what queer women can do to keep safe digitally and physically, and how to escalate if any violence happens. It also contains a helpline directory to queer organizations around the country who may be able to help when human right violations occur.

Advocacy and outreach with institutions and CSOs. TIERS presented the National Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, and the Ministry of Justice with copies of the research report and recommendations for addressing violence against queer women. They also plan to meet directly with the National Human Rights Commission, and share research findings and the report with mainstream human rights organizations, women’s rights organizations, and other queer-led NGOs.

TIERS EXPLAINED FURTHER:

“ During the reporting period, we conducted engagements and collaborated with major stakeholders, including the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), State Agencies for Control of Aid (SACA) and the Ministry of Justice. The arrest of 92 persons on the 7th March 2021 in Anambra State presented an opportunity for us to open conversations with the National Bodies, the NHRC and other CSOs about human issues relating to LBTQ women and impunity their violators face.

CONCLUSION

This report provides just a brief snapshot of the work of the Out of the Margins Network member organisations, which are delivering real evidence-based change for lesbians, bi women and trans communities in 20 countries. This includes in some of the most heavily criminalised and stigmatised contexts for LBT+ communities globally. This report also offers just some of the advocacy demands currently coming from the Network, across a select range of issue areas.

The issues covered however, are still extremely diverse. These include issues like hunger, impoverishment, lack of shelter, dispossession from land and property, joblessness, absence of labour rights, poor access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, unmet mental health needs, exclusion in families and schools, police violence and abuse, restrictions on access to justice, and barriers to representation in local, national and global governance. Issues, in other words, that people everywhere face. Issues that define what it means to want a better and more sustainable future.

In conversations informing this report, many in the Network expressed strong consensus that, firstly, they were eager to ensure the continuity of their projects and the broader programme, and keen to see further opportunities to learn, strategise and collaborate across themes and contexts. The second most common recommendation was to work together to address the rise of anti-gender movements in the various regions in which Network members are working, and which affect all of our communities. This shouldn't be a surprise. For those of us really focused on LBT+ community needs and what the evidence tells us, we know it's impossible for our communities to be truly represented in all their diversity, unless we adopt and advocate for an intersectional approach. This means working together across both LGBTIQ+ and feminist movements, while also campaigning for greater recognition within these movements themselves.

The work of the Network also demonstrates the power of investing in evidence-building and subsequent strategy development by LBT+ communities themselves – who are so often excluded from mainstream and more institutionalised research opportunities. The findings and responses that have emerged from this work take us to a wider and unexpected understanding of the challenges facing LBT+ communities internationally. They also involve diverse approaches that are undoubtedly highly relevant for the civil society organisations realising them.

The report also, hopefully, poses a challenge. The Network, just like the LBQ and trans-focused organisations it represents – many of which are small and grass roots – is bringing to light the evidence required about the human rights, development and humanitarian needs of communities that are being not just left behind, but chronically excluded. The distance between these perspectives and the decision-making power commanded by states and the staff of international institutions can be vast. Those with power to bridge this gap, and support further diversity of view and response, must take note.

Stonewall

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND LBT+ INCLUSION

Building participation, research and
action for lesbians, bi women and
trans communities internationally



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Out of the Margins
network