

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

High-level side event of the LGBTI Core Group<sup>1</sup>

### **Violence against LGBTI individuals: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**

**Tuesday, 25 September 2018**  
**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

#### **Topic**

Since the creation of the LGBTI Core Group, almost ten years ago, several positive steps have been taken at the United Nations headquarters to address the human rights of persons based on their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics (SOGIESC). Nevertheless, the violence and discrimination faced by LGBTI persons around the world continue daily in all societies and the UN General Assembly has failed to adequately name and address these violations.

Only one UN General Assembly resolution addressing violence includes explicit reference to sexual orientation and gender identity, while none refer to sex characteristics. The resolution on Extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions urges States to protect the life of all people and calls upon States to investigate killings based on discriminatory grounds. Sexual orientation and gender identity is mentioned as one of these discriminatory grounds.

To highlight the need for more recognition in the UN context of the plight of LGBTI persons, the UN LGBTI Core Group will, once again, organize a high level event during the Ministerial week of the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. The violence that LGBTI individuals continue to face across the world will be discussed with those who have survived, those who have made their stories public and those who can influence national and international policies.

Given the upcoming negotiations in Third Committee, particular focus will be on the need to address extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions perpetrated on the basis of one's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

#### **Date, time and venue**

Tuesday 25 September 2018, 4:30 – 5:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 4  
United Nations Headquarters, New York

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<sup>1</sup> The United Nations LGBTI Core Group is an informal cross regional group of United Nations Member States established in 2008. The group is co-chaired by Argentina and The Netherlands, and includes Albania, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and the European Union as well as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the non-governmental organizations Human Rights Watch and Outright Action International.

## **Background**

Persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) experience human rights violations because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression or sex characteristics. These violations include killings, violent attacks, torture, arbitrary detention, forced marriage, denial of rights to assembly and expression, medical violence and discrimination in accessing health care, education, employment, and housing.

The United Nations has played a central and vital role in recent years in the promotion and protection of human rights for LGBTI persons at international level, including through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council, the Office of the Secretary General, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the actions of agencies, funds and programs.

These developments reflect a deeper rooted process of reform led at the national level in various countries. This has contributed to a better understanding of the challenges faced by LGBTI persons in issues related to human rights, development and peace and security and the need to find specific solutions.

## **Focus and objectives**

This meeting is an important opportunity to recommit to taking action at United Nations headquarters to address the scope and scale of violence experienced by LGBTI people globally and to advocate for action to tackle these human rights violations.

The event will pay particular attention to extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions and the steps that Governments and the United Nations can take to address these human rights violations against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.

The objective will be to show high level political commitment from the members of the LGBTI Core Group and like-minded Member States, to support effective and inclusive policies nationally and internationally and to promote a space for constructive and respectful dialogue.

## **Format**

Participation will be at the highest possible level, including Ministers and high-level officials representing the countries and organizations that are member of the LGBTI Core Group. Ministers of Foreign Affairs will have a speaking role and a prominent seating. The United Nations Secretary General has confirmed to address the event through a video message.

At the beginning of the event there will be a group photo with the ministers attending and other High Level Authorities. The entire event is expected to last approximately 60 minutes. A press statement about the event will also be released.

The event will be moderated by Jessica Stern, Executive Director of OutRight Action International.

During the event National Geographic photographer Robin Hammond, will deliver a key-note speech around one of his latest projects; the powerful photo-series 'Where Love is Illegal'. In addition to his presentation, Kasha Nabagesera, an LGBTI activist from Uganda who was part of his photo-series, will speak about her work and experiences.

The Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions has efficiently highlighted the targeting of LGBTI people in many of her reports and is invited to share her observations and recommendations in this regard.

A member of civil society will be invited to contribute.

### **Provisional outline of the event**

Moderator: Jessica Stern –OutRight Executive Director

- 4:25-4:30pm Arrival of high level participants
- 4:30-4:35pm Family photo (Core Group members, Heads of UN Member States Delegation + other Ministers & Panelists attending)
- 4:35-4:40pm Opening remarks (Vice President Costa Rica)
- 4:40-4:42pm Video message by the UN Secretary-General
- 4:42-4:49pm Intervention by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- 4:50-5:00pm Keynote Address by Robin Hammond
- 5:00-5:13pm Panel with Robin Hammond, Agnes Callamard Special Rapporteur for Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions and Kasha Nabagesera, activist from Uganda
- 5:13-5:40pm Interactive dialogue between panel and UN Member State Ministers
- 5:40-5:45pm Concluding remarks (Foreign Minister of Norway)

### **Background documents**

- Human Rights Council resolution 32/2 on protection from violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (A/HRC/RES/32/2), and Human Rights Council resolutions 27/32 (2014) and 17/19 (2011) on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- General Assembly resolutions 71/198(2016), 69/182 (2014), 67/168 (2012), 65/208 (2010), 63/182 (2008), 61/173 (2006), 59/197 (2004), 57/214 (2002) on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.
- Report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (A/HRC/35/36).
- Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council on “Discrimination and violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity”, May 2015 ([A/HRC/29/32](#)), and Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council on “Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity,” December 2011 ([A/HRC/19/41](#))
- Joint UN statement on ending violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons, endorsed by 12 UN agencies and issued in September 2015, available [here](#).
- Factsheets and other materials produced as part of the OHCHR-led UN Free & Equal campaign for LGBT equality – available at [www.unfe.org](http://www.unfe.org)