

ASPIRE Guidelines

Guidelines on COVID-19 response free from violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Acknowledge that **LGBT and gender diverse persons are everywhere (and that they are hard-hit by the pandemic)**. Denying the existence of LGBT persons in any society is a violation of their human rights at all times, but it is particularly harmful in times of a pandemic, when understanding the different ways it impacts their lives is the key to effective and efficient responses.

Support the work of **LGBT civil society and human rights defenders (and learn from their significant achievements)**. Civil society organizations are vital to fill in the gaps left by States. A complex system of early warning, sense of community, advocacy and follow-up has been forged over the last five decades. That system is an asset of profound value for the global community.

Protect **LGBT persons from violence and discrimination in the pandemic context (and prosecute perpetrators)**. Pre-existing inequalities are exacerbated in humanitarian settings, putting those who are already most vulnerable at further risk. Government measures to combat the pandemic must be limited to the protection of public health and must not advance anti-LGBT agendas.

Indirect discrimination is a **real and significant risk (and stigmatization against LGBT persons must be prevented)**. Indirect discrimination occurs when an otherwise neutral provision or practice puts a marginalized population at a disadvantage compared to others or impacts them in a way that is disproportional.

Representation of **LGBT persons in the process of design, implementation and evaluation of COVID-19 specific measures is a must (and it needs to be meaningful)**. Policy-makers should not rely on intuitive thinking when designing responses that will impact the LGBT community. Only the effective involvement of concerned populations will create responses with increased positive impact.

Evidence and data concerning the **impact of COVID-19 on LGBT persons must be collected (and States must follow good practices)**. Disaggregation of data is essential to understand how different populations are affected by the pandemic. States also need to ensure that victims of human rights violations perpetrated during the pandemic will have access to redress, including reparations.



Download the full version of the Guidelines at <https://bit.ly/2NaRqxm>



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES

SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS & WORKING GROUPS

#IESOGI