Regarding the Call for Inputs for the Report of Mr. Victor Madrigal-Borloz that will be presented to the 50th session of the Human Rights Council to the question of health and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) including in the context of sustainable development, Sarajevo Open Center[[1]](#footnote-0) (hereinafter SOC) is providing you following inputs for Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter BiH):

## Research: understanding the health care needs of LGTBI and GNC people

## Does the State (or other stakeholders) gather data, including data disaggregated by sexual orientation and/or gender identity, on:

Official Public Health Institutions and Ministries of BiH does collect data on access to and/or delivery of health services, the number of new HIV infections, access to sexual and reproductive health care, and coverage of essential health services, suicide mortality rate, coverage of treatment interventions for substance use disorders and harmful use of alcohol. However, data is not disaggregated by sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

## What steps have been taken to research and understand the health care needs of LGTBI and GNC people of all ages at the national level?

BiH and its institutions have not conducted specific research on the needs of LGBTI and GNC people in the context of health care needs. On the other hand, SOC as an NGO that works on advancing human rights, especially the position and human rights of LGBTI people and women in BiH conducted few publications on this topic:

-Publication “From Support to Acceptance: Toolkit for inclusive psychological, psychotherapeutic and other forms of comprehensive support for LGBTI persons“[[2]](#footnote-1)

-Publication „Bodies that Transcend the Binary 2: Research on human rights of intersex children in the healthcare system of Bosnia and Herzegovina“[[3]](#footnote-2)

-Publication „Between the Sexes and Reality: Handbook for Medical and Healthcare Professionals on the Treatment of Intersex Persons“[[4]](#footnote-3)

-Publication „Medical Aspects of Gender Reassignment: Manual for medical professionals and healthcare workers on providing services and support to trans persons in the transition process“[[5]](#footnote-4)

-Publication „Right of LGBT Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Health“[[6]](#footnote-5)

## Is this data analyzed through an intersectional lens, such as by disaggregating data by sexual orientation and/or gender identity, as well as intersecting identities including social or geographic origin, ethnicity, socio-economic status, nationality or migration status, minority, disability, and indigenous or other identity or status?

Data is not disaggregated by sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

## Inclusion: LGTBI and GNC people in the decision-making process

## What measures have been put in place to consult with and include persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in law and policy making in relation to the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and in relation to realising the SDGs?

BiH didn’t include LGBTI persons in consulting prior the adopting law/s and policy making in relation to the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and in relation to realising the SDGs

## To what extent are persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity included in policies and practice around sexual and reproductive health care?

These targeted groups are included into the policies regarding HIV prevention and treatment. In that light, there exists 17 Public Centers for voluntarily, free and anonymous testing on HIV in BiH. It is important to stress out that most of these Centers have not provided/or were limited services during COVID-19 Pandemic.

## What support or technical assistance is needed to ensure that the health care needs of persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity people are comprehensively addressed and included in relevant laws, policies, and practices?

BiH is generally homophobic society lacking of Laws, By-Laws, Policies, Strategies, Action Plans that would improve LGBTI human rights. Only political support could help improving LGBTI human rights. However, we are lacking of that support right now. Political support that we receive can be seen as minor and marginalized having the general political context in mind. For example, a draft on Action Plan for Improving LGBTI Human Rights in BiH for period 2021-2023 was never officially adopted. This Action Plan contains specific actions regarding health care needs of trans persons.

## What are the main barriers, in law or practice, for persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to receive care that meets their physical and mental health needs and rights?

Please see answer 2.3.

## Access: ensuring that LGTBI and GNC people have access to health care

## What measures have been taken to ensure access to affordable non-discriminatory health care services for persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

These targeted groups are included into the policies regarding HIV prevention and treatment. In that light, there exists 17 Public Centers for voluntarily, free and anonymous testing on HIV in BiH. It is important to stress out that most of these Centers have not provided/or were limited services during COVID-19 Pandemic. (PONOVIO ODGOVOR 2.2.)

## What policies or programmes exist to address the mental health care needs of persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, specifically around depression and anxiety, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse?

There are no official policies nor programmes to address the mental health care of LGBTI persons.

## What policies or programmes exist to assist the health care needs of persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity following the experience of assault or gender-based violence?

There are no official policies nor programmes to address this issues.

## Have adequate human and financial resources been allocated to implement those policies and/or programmes?

N/A

## Training and Education: health care professionals and educational institutions

## Are sexual orientation and gender identity, and the specific health needs of persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity , included in training and education of health care professionals?

Since we lack of policies, programmes and strategies regarding health issues of LGBTI persons in BiH, it reflects on not conducting official training and education of health care professionals. However, SOC did organize trainings for psychologists, psychiatrics and social workers.

## What measures are being taken to provide age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education inclusive of sexual and gender diversity in educational institutions?

These measures are not being taken in BiH so far.

## Are evidence-based and up-to-date guidelines that include SOGI issues available? How are they used to influence health related decisions on policy, programming, services including diagnostic manuals, and practices within the health care institutions?

N/A in BiH

## Sustainable Development Goals

## Where the State measures its progress against SDG3, does it make reference to the health outcomes and needs of persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

SOC is not familiar with this specific topic.

## Does the State measure progress against any of the following SDG3 indicators for persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity? If so, please comment on whether health outcomes are improving or declining:

Please find charts with answers on the links provided down below.

* + - Indicator 3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations; <https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/3-3-1/>
    - Indicator 3.4.2: Suicide mortality rate; <https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/3-4-2/>
    - Indicator 3.5.1: Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders; <https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/3-5-1/>
    - Indicator 3.5.2: Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol <https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/3-5-2/>
    - Indicator 3.7.1: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods, including lesbian and bisexual women, and trans persons; <https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/3-7-1/>
    - Indicator 3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women and trans men in that age group, particularly among LBT and GNC young individuals; <https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/3-7-2/>
    - Indicator 3.8.1: Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population); <https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/3-8-1/> and

Indicator 3.8.2: Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income. <https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/3-8-2/>

1. https://soc.ba/en/about-us/ [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. https://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Od-podr%C5%A1ke-do-prihvatanja.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. https://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/HRP53-FINAL\_web.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. https://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Prirucnik\_interspolnost\_za-web.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. https://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Medicinski-aspekti-prilagodbe-spola\_Prirucnik.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. https://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Zdravstvo-za-web.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-5)