1. Challenges and the Future of Human Rights:

The challenges confronting the global LGBTIQ+ youth community are multifaceted, intersectional, and impactful across stakeholder environments. From the climate crisis and social inequality to technological advancements and global health crises, these challenges have far-reaching implications for the human rights of LGBTIQ+ young people.

LGBTIQ+ young people experience disparities of access to education, healthcare, housing, meaningful political participation, and employment inequality. Their experiences are further impacted by threats of violence, higher rates of homelessness, and regressive legislative action which restricts their bodily autonomy.

Global health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, also have a disproportionate impact on LGBTIQ+ youth. Many LGBTIQ+ young people exist at the intersection of additional healthcare needs and inaccessibility of healthcare. Furthermore LGBTIQ+ young people are impacted by housing insecurity and social isolation brought about by the global health crisis.

The Global Queer Youth Network believes that these challenges among others, if not adequately addressed, will lead to further disparities, discrimination, the erosion, and regression of protections of fundamental human rights. However, they also present an opportunity for us to collectively reshape the discourse surrounding LGBTIQ+ human rights. We envision a future where LGBTIQ+ youth rights are not only safeguarded but expanded upon, with inclusivity, diversity, and sustainable development at the core.

2. Recommendations for Advancing LGBTIQ+ Human Rights: To advance LGBTIQ+ youth human rights the GQYN offer the following recommendations to decision and policymakers, governments, civil society, international organizations, the United Nations, and others:

* Legal Protection: Strengthen and enforce laws that protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals, ensuring they are treated equally under the law. Enforce and enhance international human rights treaties and conventions which support the human rights of LGBTIQ+ young people, ensuring that they are integrated into domestic legislation and upheld effectively. LGBTIQ+ young people must have their freedom of association protected, civil society must advocate for inclusive policies that recognize and address the unique challenges faced by young LGBTIQ+ individuals in areas such as education, healthcare, and employment.
* Youth Empowerment: Empower and enable LGBTIQ+ youth to participate in decision-making processes, enabling them to influence policies that affect their lives directly. Empowering meaningful youth participation by creating and sustaining platforms for meaningful youth engagement in decision-making processes, policy formulation, and implementation at all levels of civil society.
* Comprehensive, Inclusive Quality Education: Develop and implement educational programs that promote understanding, acceptance, and respect for LGBTIQ+ rights and identities. It is imperative that educational programs are not only comprehensive in their content but also in ensuring quality and inclusivity. It is imperative to foster LGBTIQ+ education and awareness in all academic institutions and non-traditional education spaces. Civil society should promote and support the development of comprehensive educational programs which promote human rights literacy, empathy, and cultural understanding for all citizens. These educational programs should contain quality, evidence based, and human rights affirming content that affirm the LGBTIQ+ community globally.
* Promote technological ethics and digital citizenship education: Formulate and implement guidelines and regulations to ensure that technological advancements respect human rights, privacy, and security with a particular focus on the intersections of marginalisation and risk that LGBTIQ+ youth exist within. In the digital age, LGBTIQ youth are particularly vulnerable to privacy and security risks. They require protection of their digital information, the right to privacy, the right to access information and communities which affirm their identities, and the right to freedom of association both online and offline.
* Financial support: Create meaningful systems and services which provide core funding to LGBTIQ+ youth led initiatives globally. Ensuring that these services and programs establish mentorship and development opportunities for LGBTIQ+ youth human rights defenders and their organisations.

3. Commitments and Actions for LGBTIQ+ Young People: As the GQYN we are committed to advancing the human rights of LGBTIQ+ young people, we pledge to lead by example and implement sustainable practices within our organisation that align with global human rights principles. The GQYN affirms its commitment to:

* Advocate for equality: It is imperative to raise awareness about LGBTIQ+ rights and the intersections of marginalisation they experience. We will consult within our communities and collaboratively advocate for legal changes and challenge discrimination through programmes and campaigns. We will advocate for meaningful change at intersections of injustice and instances of human rights violations, discrimination, and injustices.
* Collaborative efforts: The GQYN will collaborate with other organizations, governments, and international bodies to amplify our impact and drive positive change locally, nationally, and globally. In order to ensure meaningful change for all LGBTIQ+ youth we will foster partnerships with fellow youth organizations, governments, civil society, and other international bodies.
* Education and awareness: The GQYN will continue to implement programming which raise the capacity of LGBTIQ+ and non-LGBTIQ+ individuals to understand and act upon the intersections of inequality and marginalisation faced by our global community. We will facilitate the development of initiatives that drive meaningful allyship across civil society and other stakeholder environments.
* Develop supportive networks with an intersectional wellbeing focus: The GQYN will continue to create networks and platforms that provide networking connection, resources, and mentorship for LGBTIQ+ youth. We prioritize the mental health and well-being of the communities we serve and the individuals we interact with. We advocate for the development of support tailored to the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ youth.

The GQYN is committed to working towards a future where the human rights of LGBTIQ+ youth are fully realized, respected, and enshrined within legislative protection. By working together, we can create a world where all young people can live free from discrimination and violence, and where they can reach their full potential.