



# Global Youth Consultation

Call for input "IGLYO"

August 2023



IGLYO  
The International LGBTQI Youth and Student Organisation  
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Government of the Netherlands



## 1. What are the challenges the world is facing now, how they will affect the future of human rights, and what future do you want for human rights?

In today's world, the challenges we confront as an LGBTQI youth organisation are multifaceted and deeply concerning. We stand united against the surging tides of populism and authoritarianism that cast ominous shadows over the future of human rights. These forces not only jeopardize the safety and prosperity of young people but also threaten the very essence of diversity and inclusion that our society should uphold.

As we navigate these tumultuous times, it's evident that one of the gravest challenges is the escalating assault on LGBTQI youth. Our communities are being unjustly vilified and subjected to a torrent of hate and violence, fueled by manipulative political agendas and sensationalised media narratives. This hostility doesn't remain confined to mere words; it quickly morphs into real-world violence that infiltrates our schools, homes, and streets, robbing us of our sense of security.

What's particularly concerning is the disheartening practice of scapegoating marginalised groups for political gain. This tactic is accompanied by the deliberate spread of misinformation, sowing the seeds of hatred against LGBTQI youth. This alarming trend threatens the foundational principles of human rights that should unite us all.

These challenges are made even more daunting when we consider the intersections of identities. LGBTQI individuals who also belong to migrant, refugee, gender, ethnic, or national minority backgrounds often find themselves particularly vulnerable. In this complex web of identity, the support systems like family and community that should protect us can swiftly become a double-edged sword. Coming out or being outed can lead to isolation, exclusion, violence, and, in certain communities, even tragic honour killings.

As LGBTQI youth, we confront ongoing obstacles stemming from anti-LGBTQI legislation, harmful rhetoric, and global challenges such as the ramifications of pandemics, armed conflicts, and economic hardships. These factors curtail our access to vital support systems and communities, exacerbating the pre-existing discriminatory tendencies that already plague the job market and educational institutions. Additionally, our right to affirming healthcare is under siege, leading to higher rates of mental health struggles, suicidality, and despair compared to our cisgender and heterosexual peers.<sup>1</sup>

In the face of these challenges, the future of human rights stands at a critical juncture. To safeguard the universality, indivisibility, and inalienability of human rights, it is paramount that political leaders, media outlets, and all stakeholders cease to undermine and vilify the rights of minority groups. To forge an equitable path forward for all youth, we must strive for equal opportunities that transcend the shadow of discrimination. Our identities should never be used as weapons to justify violence, discrimination, or the erosion of our basic human rights.

As we envision the future, we dare to dream of a world where every individual's right to exist authentically, to love openly, and to simply be themselves is celebrated and protected. In this future, the diversity of human experience is cherished, and the rights we hold dear are fortified. We yearn for a world where our sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics are not obstacles, but rather threads that weave the vibrant fabric of human rights for all.

## 2. What are your recommendations to decision and policymakers, including governments, civil society, international organisations, the United Nations, and others, to advance human rights in the future?

### Recommendations for the United Nations (UN):

- Ensure that UN employees, particularly those directly engaging with people, are not only sensitive but also trained comprehensively on LGBTQI issues across various sectors, such as health, education, and refugee protection. This training should encompass cultural competency, intersectionality, and the unique challenges faced by LGBTQI youth.
- Allocate substantial and sustained resources to prioritize the inclusion and support of LGBTQI youth voices. This support should encompass not only funding and assistance but also mentorship, capacity-building, and leadership development, ensuring that these young individuals become effective advocates and agents of change.
- Actively engage with member states and stakeholders through sustained dialogues, workshops, and awareness campaigns to advocate for the repeal and prevention of unjust laws, policies, and practices targeting LGBTQI individuals and youth. Collaborate on innovative solutions, initiatives, and strategies that empower and fully include LGBTQI youth in all aspects of life. Safeguard their rights, including privacy, education, health, bodily autonomy, family, freedom of association, freedom of speech, and all relevant rights. Vigilantly address and respond to waves of criminalization, discrimination, and attacks on the human rights of LGBTQI individuals, with a specific focus on addressing the unique challenges faced by young people.

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<sup>1</sup> Tordoff DM, Wanta JW, Collin A, Stepney C, Inwards-Breland DJ, Ahrens K. Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2022;5(2):e220978. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978

### Recommendations for Governments:

- Enact and enforce comprehensive anti-discrimination laws that specifically protect LGBTQI youth, covering not only overt forms of discrimination but also addressing systemic barriers that hinder their full participation in society.
- Establish dedicated, accessible reporting mechanisms for LGBTQI youth to report violations safely, ensuring that their identities are protected, and appropriate support is provided throughout the reporting and investigative process.
- Develop and implement national action plans that mainstream LGBTQI perspectives and rights across all branches of government, backed by measurable indicators and clear timelines. Prioritize intersectional approaches that consider the unique experiences of LGBTQI youth, especially those from marginalised backgrounds.
- Include comprehensive sexual and gender diversity education in school curricula, promoting understanding, acceptance, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. Provide appropriate training for educators to create safe and inclusive learning environments.
- Invest in mental health services that are culturally sensitive and responsive to the needs of LGBTQI youth, addressing the disproportionately high rates of mental health challenges they face due to societal stigma and discrimination.

### Recommendations for Stakeholders and Civil Society:

- Collaborate with LGBTQI youth organisations to develop and implement comprehensive monitoring and reporting mechanisms that document violations targeting LGBTQI youth. Use this data to create evidence-based advocacy strategies and raise awareness of ongoing challenges.
- Strengthen partnerships between national human rights organisations, regional bodies, and international human rights mechanisms to ensure comprehensive oversight of governments' compliance with international obligations related to the rights of LGBTQI individuals.
- Establish community-led initiatives that provide safe spaces, mentorship, and skill-building opportunities for LGBTQI youth. These initiatives should prioritize economic empowerment, education, and healthcare access, while considering the specific needs of transgender and non-binary youth.