Forum: Human Rights Council
Issue: Empowering the LGBTQ+ Community
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“It is an outrage that in our modern world so many countries continue to criminalize people simply for loving another human being of the same sex...Laws rooted in the 19th-century prejudices are fuelling 21st century hate”
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

Introduction

Gender identity, according to the Human Rights Campaign, is the “innermost concept of self as female, male, a blend or neither - how one perceives themselves and what they are called.” There are numerous genders outside the traditional choices of male and female, that individuals identify with. These ‘spectrums’ of flexible gender roles and identities fundamentally showcase the diversity of human potential and behaviour. In an effort to categorise these roles, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community (abbreviated to LGBTQ+) was named, as to be more inclusive of those who do not conform to gender norms.

The United Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), an embodiment for human rights reinforces that everyone has a right to equality, freedom from discrimination and recognition as an individual before the law. Despite the same, violence and discrimination against those with different sexual orientations and identities are redundant today. Profound transphobic and homophobic attitudes, be it due to religion, generational knowledge, societal as well as ethnic stereotypes combined with mediocre legal protection has exposed the LGBTQ+ community to abhorrent violations of their fundamental human rights. People around the world are ostracised for how they look, who they love, and the boundaries of their affections. With an exponentially developing world, cisnormativity and homophobia/transphobia need to be abolished, as it essentially impedes our progress as a society, conforming people to be very narrow-minded and egregiously traditional.
These individuals are discriminated against in institutions like hospitals and schools, in the labour market, and often face contempt in their own families. Generally singled out, they are attacked—beaten, sexually abused, assaulted and killed. In many countries, there are strict laws against cross-dressing; a means to punish transgender individuals for their gender identity and expression. According to IGLA International, in almost 75 countries prejudicial laws still exist that criminalize same-sex relationships—adding to the risk of attack, prosecution, prison time, and even the death penalty (in gravest circumstances).

The intolerance of the LGBTQ+ community stems from transfixed societal stereotypes and prejudices rooted since the beginning of civilised communities. The issues this community faces today stem from these mindsets and threatens the safety of misunderstood individuals. Stagnation in the empowerment of the community can only be alleviated if their human rights are safeguarded and degrading treatment is terminated.

Therefore, addressing the issue of laws criminalizing non-binary genders/sexes and taking actions to combat discrimination and lack of human rights (concerning expression and peaceful assembly) are essential steps to propagate the empowerment of the LGBTQ+ community.

**Definition of Key Terms**

**Agender**

A person who does not conform and exists without the stereotypical system of gender (no alignment to the idea of man or woman). Often known as gender-neutral, genderless or gender neurosis.

**Androgyny**

An expression of gender that consists of masculine and feminine elements. Alternatively, the word is substituted for “intersex” (used as an adjective here), as to represent one with both male and female reproductive parts, in the form of “androgyne”.

**Asexual**

Used as an adjective for not experiencing sexual attraction or lack of interest, or only experiencing the former in certain conditions.

**Bigender**

An individual who displays both masculine and feminine ‘gender-based’ behaviour and activities, and identify as both or more genders. *Different from intersex which refers to one with mixed sexual anatomy, whereas bigender refers is the gender roles and norms.*
Biological Sex

Medical terminology that encompasses of hormonal, anatomical and chromosomal facts used to label one as male, female or intersex. Referred to as anatomical or physical sex, or more specifically as “sex assigned at birth”, which can obviously differ from the chosen “gender” later on.

Bisexual

Typically refers to a person attracted to men and women, but can also refer to an individual who is attracted to their own gender and another gender (considering numerous gender identities). *Different from Bigender, as Bisexual refers to sexual orientation and not gender roles.

Cisgender

A description of gender for when one’s sex at birth and gender identity is aligned with the expected way (for example; if someone was born as a male, and to date identify as a man.) In simpler words, if one is not transgender, they are cisgender (often shortened to ‘cis’.)

Cisnormativity

The mislead belief or assumption that an individual and institution is cisgender, and are superior to trans* identities and invisibility of the trans community.

Cissexism

Preferential treatment to cisgender individuals, with the main idea being that cisgender is right or better than the trans community, and that makes other genders invisible.

Demisexual

The minimal capacity of sexual attraction until a strong spiritual/emotional/physical/sexual connection is formed.

Fluid(ity)

Typically used with another term attached, it describes an identity that can change or shift between different identities. For example; gender-fluid, or fluid-sexuality, the former meaning that one can conform to different gender identities, and the latter meaning varied sexuality preferences.

Gay
Primal attraction towards members of the same gender, or used as an identity marker for anyone who is not straight (attracted to the opposite gender). Alternatively, also used as an umbrella term for the queer community, but is considered derogatory.

**Gender**

An individual’s concept of themselves, defined by the environment, family and social interactions, peers, society and education. For example; in traditional society, a male and female's role is defined due to norms but can be changed. Gender roles and stereotypes are not rigid and tend to shift substantially.

**Gender Binary**

The concept that there are only two genders and every individual is either one.

**Genderqueer**

A label used by one who doesn’t identify with the binary of man/woman or an umbrella term for non-binary or non-conforming identities.

**Gender Variant**

One who by nature or choice does not conform to ideal gender-expectations in society. Those who come under this category include cross-dressers, genderqueer, transgender, transsexual and intersex.

**Heteronormativity**

The assumption that all individuals are heterosexual, and that the same is superior to other identities. Typically causes stigmatism of other sexualities; for example, asking a woman her husband’s name upon learning she is married/assumption that all masculine men and feminine women are heterosexual.

**Heterosexism**

Preferential behaviour to heterosexuals, with the idea that it is better or more morally “right” than queer identities.

**Heterosexual/Straight**

An individual who is solely attracted to some members of the opposite gender.

**Homophobia**
An overhead term for a slew of negative actions and emotions (anger, intolerance resentment) one may have against queer identities (generally all LGBTQ+ people).

**Homosexual**

An individual with a primary sexual/emotional/physical attraction to members of the same gender/sex. However, it is often discouraged as it was once used to categorize mental illness.

**Intersex**

Refers to an individual born with a combination of male and female reproductive parts. Other words for the same include “hermaphrodite”, an outdated medical term that is now considered inaccurate and derogatory.

**LGBTQ+**

Stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (a ‘+’ is often added at the end to signify the inclusion of any other identities, which may include gender non-binary, gender fluid/variant, demisexual, pansexual, asexual amongst others.)

**Lesbian**

Women who have a primal attraction (erotic/spiritual/emotional) to other women.

**Pansexual/Queer**

An individual who experiences attraction (sexual/emotional/spiritual) for members of all gender identities and expressions. For example; a pan individual may feel attracted to a transgender or cisgender person, someone who is gender variant or gender binary, to name a few.

**Sex**

Biological characteristics of an individual, determined by genitalia and genetic makeup. Sex assigned at birth is in accordance with the above characteristics but can be changed later through SRS (sex reassignment surgery), that involves the use of alteration hormones and surgery to transition to the preferred sex. Common sex at birth is either ‘male’, ‘female’ or ‘intersex’.

**Sexual Orientation**

The type of attraction one has the capacity to feel for others, generally categorised depending on gender identity and sex of both parties involved in the relationship. *Typical confused with sexual preference.*
Sexual Preference

Types of gratification, sexual intercourse and/or stimulation one like to indulge in. Since its often mistaken with the former definition, it gives off the illusion that one has a preference/option in who they are attracted to.

Transgender

A descriptor for one who has transitioned from one gender/sex to another, and also as an umbrella term whose SAAB (sex assigned at birth) and current gender/sexual identity do not correspond.

Transphobia

Fear/hatred/resentment of the trans community or the concept of gender ambiguity (i.e. androgynty). Transphobes harbour such emotions and other negative attitudes.

Transsexual

An individual who psychologically identifies as a transgender and emulates respective behaviour, and wishes to transform their bodies with hormones and surgery to match their desired sex/gender.

Transvestite

An individual who dresses as the opposite binary gender (binary includes masculine or feminine) for fun, relaxation, sexual stimulation/gratification. Also known as “cross-dressers” in a casual sense. Not a synonym for transsexual, as a transvestite doesn’t necessarily want to transition or emulate trans behaviour.

Background Information

Concerns regarding human rights violations were expressed repeatedly by United Nations human rights bodies from the 1990s. These mechanisms include bodies created to watch states’ compliance with global human rights treaties, in addition to rapporteurs and independent experts designated by UNHRC to inspect and rely on urgent human rights issues. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said, “As men and women of conscience, we reject discrimination in general, and in particular discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Where there is a tension between cultural attitudes and universal human rights, rights must carry the day.” Despite the uptake of awareness across international organisations, hate crimes against LGBTQ+ persons, ranging from brutality, murder, to exclusions in work and schooling institutions.
Intolerance of the LGBTQ+ Community (Worldwide)

Hate crimes against LGBTQ+ individuals hit an all-time high with almost 2343 killings of queer and transgender persons in nearly 69 countries between 2008 and 2018. Along with the former, Transgender Europe’s Trans Murder Monitoring Project announced that 1700 of the above percentile were in Central and South America alone. The IACHR (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights) recorded nearly 770 killings and brutal assaults from 2013 to March 2016, comprising of 594 killings in Brazil. Out of approximately 6,000 hate crimes committed, 20 percent (nearly 1,200) were due to the victims’ sexual orientation, in the United States. As of 2016, 27 trans and nonbinary people were reportedly murdered, making it the most detrimental recorded year for trans victims in the US. 1,341 LGBTQ+ individuals were allegedly murdered between 2007 and 2012 in Brazil, whereas a reported 249 LGBTQ+ persons were killed in the same span in Peru. Additionally, evidence suggests that a lot of these crimes go unreported, as government institution reports are often a source to “out” the person’s sexual orientation, as many police departments or other federal agencies do not have policies in place for the same.

Sexual Orientation Laws

In the past 2 years, significant steps in some states for the repeal of laws criminalizing LGBTQ+ individuals. For example; Section 377 (an article condemning carnal intercourse against the order of nature and traditional society) was annulled, a huge step for their Constitution. Despite the same, such changes are moving at a snail’s pace, with no valid protection against transphobic/homophobic violence in Asia and some parts of Africa. A sizeable variation can be seen in the laws set for the LGBTQ+ community, as most parts of Africa have criminalized and sanctioned sentences from 8 years prison time to the death penalty (in accordance to the colour-coding below). On the other hand, some parts of the Americas and Australia offer constitutional protection or at the very least “broad protection” for LGBTQ+ persons. The obvious differentiation in ideals of LGBTQ+ treatment is disconcerting and should be addressed.

Same-Sex Marriages

Same-sex marriages/sexual relationships have been decriminalized in 27 countries so far, and are recognised as civil unions in a number of Western countries. For example, Denmark was the first country to legalize same-sex marriages, back in 1989. While it has made headway in European democracies like Finland, Malta, and Greenland, it remains illegal in a number of states in the Middle East, some parts of Asia and Africa. The legal conditions of same-sex marriage are disparate. Some have recently amended their federal constitutions to modulate the “definition” of marriage to suit traditional gender norms. E.g Slovakia and Croatia in 2015 and 2013 respectively brought forth changes
to their that including aspects that restricts marriage to a “union of man and woman” only. In some states, these legislations had to be changed due to a public vote. For example; Slovenian voters rejected the Same-Sex, Marriage Act, whereas on the other hand a referendum was legally passed in Ireland, that lead to an overwhelming affirmative response from different regions. Parliaments decriminalized same-sex marriages in 18 countries and prompted court decisions in other. The highest-profile court ruling in the United States, where the Supreme Court legalised same-sex relationships and unions, and the Defence of Marriage Act was deemed unconstitutional.

Trans Visibility

Trans visibility plays a key factor in the LGBTQ+ community, as transgender persons form a large part of the community, and often face the most intolerance. As a transgender person, one does not conform to their assigned gender and often go through changes to conform to an identity of their liking. Since this extremely diverse from traditional gender norms, there are percentiles of transphobes is typically higher than homophobes. According to a study conducted by CNN, 60% of surveyors believe that homosexuality is justified, however being transgender and changing genders is drastic and inhumane. Killings of transgender persons is rising every year, with almost 369 reported killings, 300 aggregate murders over the past decade (Thomas Reuters Foundation).

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

UNFE (United Nations Free And Equal Campaign)

UNFE has significantly brought about awareness and condemn the criminalization of same-sex relationships. It is the largest UN information campaign. As of 2017, it reached 2.4 billion social feeds globally, with national UN Free and Equal campaigns organised in almost 20 countries. Campaign videos rank amongst some of the most viewed UN videos, garnering attention and voice of many celebrities. Primarily meant to be a cognizance platform, it fulfils its purpose and has reached millions of people, wholly supporting the LGBTQ+ community and thus playing a crucial role till present. Awareness if the first step towards action and this campaign continues to attract global digital audiences to the prejudices and intolerance against this community, making it pivotal even in years to come.

IGLA (International Lesbian Gay Association)

The aforementioned organisation was established in 1978 and is known worldwide federation championing for LGBTQ+ rights. Their goal is to work for the equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals to liberate them from all forms of intolerance through world-wide cooperation and mutual support from its members. It achieves the same by state-sponsored surveys addressing issues of homophobia and level of human rights granted. It is considered as an International
Service for Human Rights, and a joint statement by the same was presented at the Human Rights Council, calling for immediate action against LGBTQ+ violence, and condemning the same. The association has nearly 2 million dormant followers, garnering public attention and traction. With the large audience that the organisation derives, it could plausibly have a major role in the necessitated empowerment for the LGBTQ+ community.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The OHCHR has played a pivotal role in the past years which has been deeply engaged and advocated for the decriminalization of the LGBTQ+ community. After primarily addressing the topic in 2011 at the Human Rights Council side-event in Geneva 2010, by High Commissioner Navi Pillay. He propagated the OHCHR’s role in this topic by stating; “Our first task, I believe, is to frame this squarely as a human rights issue and demand that it be tackled as such. As High Commissioner for Human Rights, I have a responsibility to encourage States to promote and protect the human rights of all people without discrimination. Indeed, to believe in human rights is to believe in equality: equal rights for all people, regardless of who they are or where they are from.” (Ending Violence And Criminal Sanctions Based On Sexual Orientation And Gender Identity: Statement By The High Commissioner)

Following the same, the OHCHR has come out with many pressing statements strongly encouraging nations to consider this as a significant humanitarian issue and act for the community’s benefit. This is reflected through their website, that produces special feature stories about the fight for the LGBTQ+ community globally. The organisation has had considerable influence in annulling laws criminalising the community, like the influence on the Anti-Homosexuality Act in Uganda (2014), or the LGBTQ Core Ministerial Event that propogated the Malaysian Court Judgement of negating the criminalization of transgender persons. As such, it is one of the most notable organisations, considering the empowerment of the LGBTQ+ community. Being an institution held in high regard in most member states, it reaches a large audience, and also exerts considerable influence, making it a pivotal organisation.

United States of America

Despite significant homophobia and contempt around the LGBTQ+ community, the Supreme Court in 2015 overturned all b remnant bills criminalizing same-sex unions, and with an end to the DADT, or the military’s Don’t Ask Don’t Tell Policy, which bans the requirement of sexual orientation as a criteria for admission into the military. Additionally, the Obama administration abolished the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage in a very traditional sense, discerning legal union as that of “man and woman.” While the LGBTQ+ rights in the United States have made serious headway in the past years, homophobic and transphobic violence still occurs, with numbers evidently increasing from 2017 to 2019 by 1.3%. In prior years, members of the LGBTQ+ community were banned from places like
schools, refused help in hospitals or government institutions. Considerations like bathroom conditions for transgenders, sex reassignment surgery weren’t discussed, and were in fact shunned. Public spaces like clubs were restricted, and tranphobic/homophobic violence would stem from run-in’s with LGBTQ+ persons. In fact, prominent government officials spoke out against the community, some famous examples being Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who in 2005 vetoed the bill for same-sex marriage in California. In fact, even the current Trump administration has proposed and enforced bans like the transgendrr military ban, which restricts transgnder persons from serving in the US military.

**Middle East**

Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, and Yemen, are countries wherein laws state that a person sexually engaged with the same gender will receive the death penalty. According to the US State Department Country Reports, Saudi Arabia has no established LGBTQ+ organizations. Additionally, reports of social intolerance on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity remain vague due to strong communal pressure not to consider LGBTQ+ matters.

Iraq, Bahrain and Jordan are the only Arab countries where homosexuality is allowed; but there is stigmatism in the Iraqi community, sometimes leading to vigilante persecutions. ISIS, however, strongly condemns homosexuality. Some Arab nations have limited tolerance and legal defence for transsexual and transgender individuals. E.g., the Iranian and Syrian government has allowed sex reassignment surgeries under medical consent.

Some Middle Eastern nations like Turkey and Lebanon, changes in social norms and laws have slowly occurred, and LGBTQ+ rights movements have existed in accordance with a sizeable crusade for lesser intolerance, pluralist autonomy and honour for international human rights.

Israel is a noteworthy exception to the rule, being the most progressive LGBTQ+ rights campaigner and addressing unofficial cohabitation. Same-sex unions are not legal but there is immense public support for conceding and registering same-sex marriages in other countries. Israel also allows transgender individuals to legally change their gender without surgery. Transgender persons can serve in the Israel Defense Forces without reservations.

**Africa**

The African continent is a hotbed for intolerance and homophobic violence, as LGBTQ+ persons continually face arbitrary arrest, are persecuted, face prison time or even the death penalty in many African countries. The Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Bill in Nigeria bans gay marriage and forbids all LGBTQ+ organisations. Those found “guilty” are subject to imprisonment up to 15 years. The Ugandan
law criminalizes the “affirmation or recognition of homosexuality” and can cause life imprisonment for those convicted of the same. Furthermore, both sanctioned homophobic mobs the “license to kill”. Most countries in the continent condemn and deny the existence of transgenders or more diverse gender roles on the LGBTQ+ spectrum.

**Timeline of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Denmark became the first nation to legalise sex marriage, authorizing gay couples and same-sex intercourse. Later, the law was ratified to recognise same sex marriages authorised in other nations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September, 1995</td>
<td>The first time sexual orientation was discussed in the UN, and was debated for the draft of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, 4th Conference for Women.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 December 2001</td>
<td>The Netherlands was the first country to legalise same-sex marriage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December, 2006</td>
<td>The conversation about sexual orientation in the UN expanded to include gender identity, and Norway urged for a press statement against human right on the basis of gender identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12th, 2016</td>
<td>Orlando shooting: The worst attack on the LGBTQ+ community, as a homophobic extremist killed 49 patrons at the inclusive venue.</td>
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**Relevant UN Treaties and Events**

The following is a list of relevant UN treaties, resolutions, and events that have been enacted or attempted to solve the concerned issue.

- Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity, 17 November 2011 ([A/HRC/19/41](#))
Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

With many solutions priorly implemented, large headway has been made in terms of awareness and review of brutality and contempt against the LGBTQ+ community. A number of these solutions bring the gravity of the situation to light and are fundamentally sound, but needs to be reiterated and built upon to bring about concrete change.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN – OHCHR) monitored and showcased the effect of human rights violations on LGBTQ+ individuals, which includes reports by OHCHR field presences. These measures have brought forth concrete proof regarding the intolerance dominant in various regions globally. They collaborated with UN entities (human rights treaty bodies: committees of expert bodies to monitor the competence of human rights) to execute a number of activities with the intent to counter intolerance and violence motivated by antagonism towards LGBTQ+ persons. (OHCHR | LGBT Speeches And Statements)

The result of the same was a Programmatic Overview and a UN Joint Statement, that urged governments to decriminalize same-sex relationships and validate cross-dressers. It aimed to validate sex reassignment surgery, and constitutionalise the presence of genders other than the traditional norms. This was a pivotal step in LGBTQ+ empowerment, as it was a clear statement that reflected upon the UN’s positive reinforcement for the community. THE OHCHR statement and overview was a result of other UN resolutions enacted over the past years (See Relevant UN Treaties and Events). One of the significant steps for the organisation, more of the same needs to be propagated and addressed repetitively for concrete change. ("OHCHR | LGBT Speeches And Statements")

The World Bank adds onto OHCHR’s work elucidating the intolerance and brutality of the community and is continually involved in SOGI (Sexual Orientation-Gender Identity) inclusion, but on a more analytical and operational level. The “Economic Cost of Stigma and the Exclusion of LGBT people” survey enlisted in 2014 scrutinizes the impact of stigmatism and exclusion, violence, loss of rejection,
family contempt and pressures and harassment in school. Each one of these methods of exclusion could have negative undertones on health, education outcomes, and productivity, which were assessed. Similar to prior solutions, it fails to address that a strong and repetitive repeal of unjust anti-LGBTQ+ laws needs to be demanded worldwide.

All of the aforementioned solutions (with one exception), mainly focus on raising awareness with tangible evidence of intolerance, which has admittedly brought light on the LGBTQ+ community, yet does not delve into the ratification of pro-LGBTQ+ laws and nullification of the opposite, a facet that is essential to empower the community by providing and safeguarding their rights.

Possible Solutions

Producing lucrative yet feasible solutions is necessary to ensure quality debate, however, should be realistic for the empowerment of the LGBTQ+ community. Ongoing solutions implemented in the international community mainly focus on the awareness for the repeal of laws criminalizing LGBTQ+ individuals and the communal intolerance/brutality, yet tangible solutions that reflect globally (and not just in certain states) are required. Therefore, here are general solutions that can be considered when creating resolutions.

Primarily, taking a step forward from simply acknowledging violence and hate crimes against the community, these happenstances need to be addressed and action needs to be taken. For such purposes, countries must ensure that their police forces are strengthened, and special divisions are created within such institutions that solely tackle LGBTQ+ brutality and hate crimes. Furthermore, a federal independent think tank (either by country or through international bodies like the UN) should be established, that regulate the activities of the aforementioned special divisions.

Protecting LGBT individuals does not necessitate the creation of a new quota of specific human rights, or the creation of a new global human rights standard. A standard of legal obligations comprising of measures to safeguard all-inclusive rights should be established based on the UDHR and should be approved by international human rights treaties to be followed. The following point could be considered:

- All individuals with no consideration of their sex, sexual orientation or identity are qualified to enjoy protections given by global human rights laws, inclusive of:
  - Right to life
  - Right to security of privacy and person
  - Right of freedom from torture, arrest and detention for sexual orientation or gender identity
  - Right to be free of intolerance
  - Freedom of association, expression and undisturbed assembly
While the aforementioned are feasible solutions towards ameliorating the situation and taking steps towards empowerment, there are other solutions that should be explored. The noteworthy facets of an adaptable solution are specificity, feasibility, and relevance. To be able to propagate all member states into executing one’s solution, it must consider the addressed requirements of equal human rights. Ultimately the solution (once sanctioned) settles the concerned matter through the repeal of specific laws and addresses intolerance, the empowerment of the LGBTQ+ community can make headway.

**Bibliography**


Thomson Reuters Foundation. “Murders of Transgender People Rising Worldwide - Activists.” News.trust.org, news.trust.org/item/20181120075803-0k6vn/


Appendix or Appendices

It is highly recommended to visit a respecteable amount of links provided in the Bibliography, however, if you wish to boost your research, the following are sources that assisted with my research:

I. An elaborated list of all terms relating to the LGBTQ+ community, a good read to understand the gender roles on the spectrum:

http://www.itspronouncedmetrosexual.com/2013/01/a-comprehensive-list-of-lgbtq-term-definitions/

II. IGLA Association Press Statement, State-sponsored Homophobia reports, and Sexual Orientation laws:

https://ilga.org/state-sponsored-homophobia-report

III. Human Rights Commission’s work with the Human Rights Council:

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/LGBT.aspx

IV. The UN’s most constructive report on human right violations on the basis of gender identity:


V. The World Bank: Stats on sexual orientation and gender identity,


VI. All Statements/Panels/Conferences initiated by the OHCHR on the topic:

VII.

Sexual orientation laws organised by the protection of LGBTQ+ individuals and criminalization of same-sex relationships.

VIII.

Same-sex marriages/sexual relationships are legalised in sizeable parts of the Americas and Europe, South Australia, as well as some parts in Asia (like India and Mongolia).
The unshaded regions in the maps above are those with laws that forbid queer/homosexual actions in part or all regions in the country. Most of the unshaded areas fall under two broad categories- some are former colonies in Africa that inherited discriminatory laws from their British/French colonizers but never annulled them, and others are Muslim countries following the sharia law or following Islamic religion as a whole. A number of the aforementioned prohibit sexual relations between men, as for some it is considered as “bestiality” or “sodomy”. The death penalty is levied in 11 countries for same-sex act and applied in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Sudan, and Yemen and parts of Nigeria/Somalia.