

RESEARCH REPORT



University of Nottingham Champions Cup '21

SOCHUM



An Introduction to the Council

The third committee of the United Nations General Assembly, Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SOCHUM) focuses on social and humanitarian issues such as; advancement of women, protection of children, protection of indigenous populations, and the right to self-determination, just to name a few.

According to the UN Charter, the General Assembly;

- May consider any issue within the Charter but may not make decisions on international situations or disputes (that is the UNSC's job)
- May discuss the influence or powers of any UN organ established by the Charter or under the GA
- Receive and discuss reports from organizations established by the charter or under the GA
- Approve of the UN budget
- Elect and appoint its own officers¹

It is important to note that while straying far from the mandate will not warrant any loss of points or scores, it may cause the agenda of the council to go astray.

¹ https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/mission-new-york/en/documents/UN_GA_Final.pdf

An Introduction to the Dias

Chair: Elisa

Hello delegates! My name is Elisa Fatini and I am your chair for SOCHUM in the Champions Cup this year. I am currently in my second year of studying Economics at the University of Nottingham (Malaysia Campus). This is my 7th MUN conference and this is only my second time chairing. I am pretty new to this, and I am sure some of you are; so there's no need to be shy!

I want to wish everyone a fruitful conference. I know that speaking up can be daunting but the skills you will learn from delegating in MUN are worth a lot. I certainly have grown more confident and more passionate as I did more conferences. Make the most out of this opportunity to learn about diplomacy, problem solving, public speaking and research skills.

Speaking of research, this research report is just the “starting point” of the issue and you are expected to do further research on the topic and how it relates to your country.

Also, I want to emphasize the importance of sticking to foreign policies. Delegates should learn their country's relations with other countries and act accordingly, regardless of the delegate's personal opinions. By sticking to foreign policies, council sessions would be more interesting.

The co-chair and I are friendly and we are always happy to help. So please feel free to contact myself and Dee if you need help.

My email: elisaf.mfirdaus@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Ditta (Dee) Emeraldalda Prihadi

Being a MUNer since 2018, Dee has seen the evolution of the MUN scene as the community itself has expanded. As more new MUNers register, more world issues arise (not direct statistical factors). While this is officially their second time chairing, Dee hopes to serve appropriately as the co-chair of SOCHUM! Outside of MUN however, Dee likes to make mini webcomics or kicks back to Youtube videos.

As someone raised from a Muslim household and also a member of the LGBTQ community, Dee is very intrigued to see how the delegates of SOCHUM handle either topic at hand. With that being said, they would recommend delegates to consider nuances that will occur whilst remembering that conditions should still be stated in a black-and-white manner. To add on, should the delegates decide to touch on the second topic, do have a balanced conversation to talk about *both* sexual orientation AND gender identity.

Dee also advises that while delegates should always stick to their foreign policy, they must know when is the appropriate time to compromise and negotiate. If you read this, email the co-chair with a picture of calico kittens. After all, Model UN's biggest emphasis *is* diplomacy. You never know who your next ~~best friend~~ ally will be!

Last but not least, do remember that delegates work together for the sake of solving a problem - blocs should not, under any circumstances, be forced. Rather it is recommended forease of discussion and eventually ending with mutual teamwork among the council.

For more information or glory tales of MUN, do not hesitate to contact Dee.

Email: deprihad03@gmail.com

Discord: eh!dee#4933

Position Paper Requirements

Your position paper will contain details regarding your nation's stance, foreign policy, and past actions in terms of both topics. Do also include what you would like to put forward as solutions to the council.

Formatting

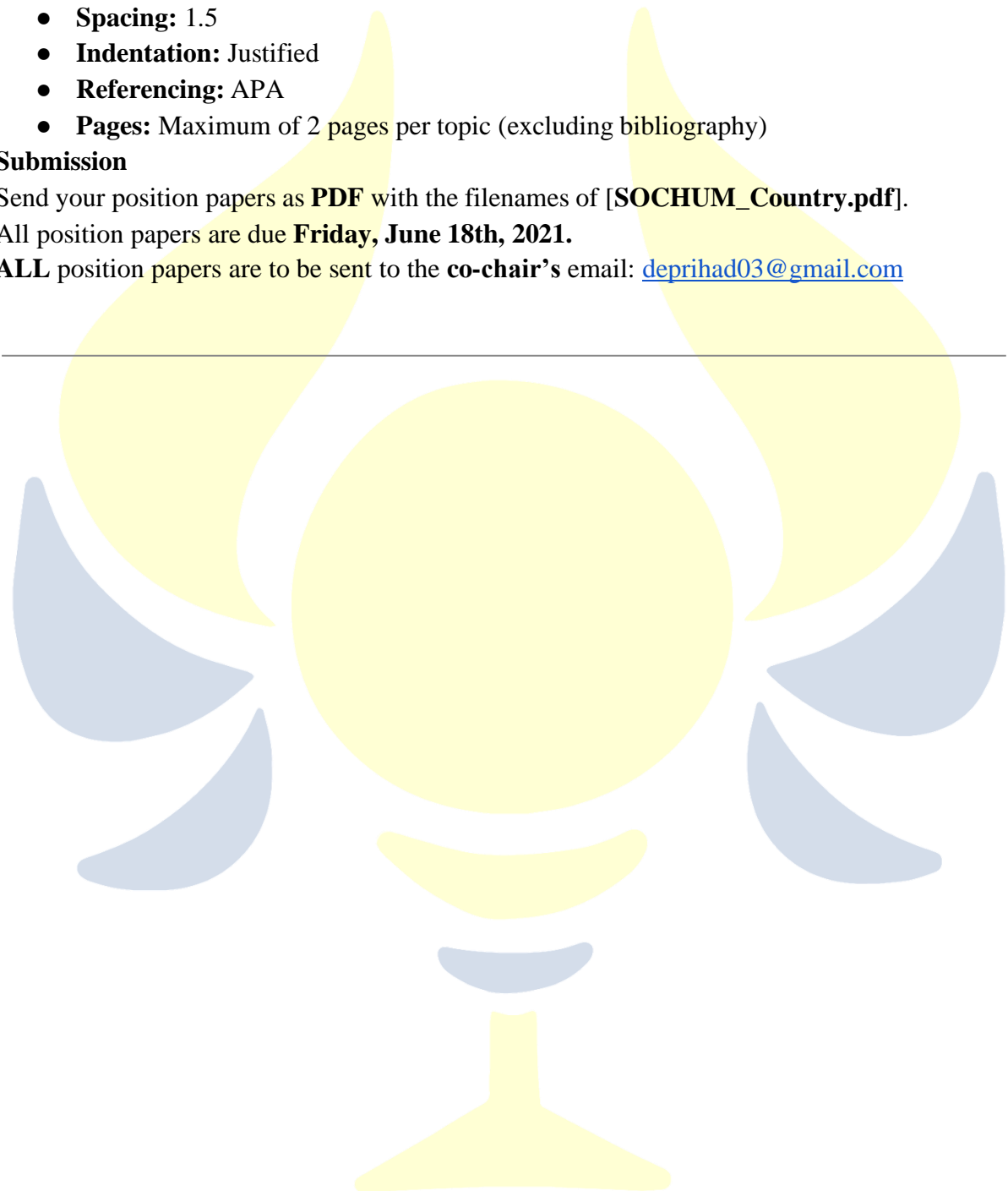
- **Font:** Serif, 12pt
- **Spacing:** 1.5
- **Indentation:** Justified
- **Referencing:** APA
- **Pages:** Maximum of 2 pages per topic (excluding bibliography)

Submission

Send your position papers as **PDF** with the filenames of [SOCHUM_Country.pdf].

All position papers are due **Friday, June 18th, 2021**.

ALL position papers are to be sent to the **co-chair's** email: deprihad03@gmail.com



Topic A: Islamophobia in Global Immigration

Topic Introduction and Background

Islamophobia, coined in the 1990s is defined as “the hatred or prejudice against Islam or Muslims, especially as a political force”². This can result in hate crimes, discrimination, and marginalization of Muslim groups in a society. It can manifest itself on an individual level as well as on an institutional level. In this council, we will focus specifically on islamophobia with respect to global immigration. Immigration is a general term to mean a person settling in a foreign country³; and global immigration, although similar by definition, includes refugees, mass migrations, and forced displacements. Islamophobia is present in the cause and the treatment of global immigrants. We can see this in the form of discriminatory policies, ethnic cleansing, and refugee crises.

Potential Causes

Sources of islamophobic sentiments vary from place to place, yet all result in discriminatory policies and marginalization of Muslims. Many academics believe islamophobic sentiments in the western hemisphere were amplified after the 9/11 attacks in 2001 combined with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq^{4 5}. The US involvement in the Middle East damages the American public viewpoint of Islam. In Europe, islamophobia comes from anti-immigrant sentiments⁶. Muslim immigrants make up the largest proportion of total non-European immigrants who have settled in Europe⁵. As of 2016, Muslim migrants constitute 4.6% of total European population⁷. In Asia, the basis for islamophobia is primarily religious supremacy⁸.

² ISLAMOPHOBIA. (n.d.). Lexico Dictionaries | English. Retrieved June 2, 2021, from <https://www.lexico.com/definition/islamophobia>

³ Dictionary, C. (n.d.). *global migration*. Cambridge English Dictionary. Retrieved June 2, 2021, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/global-migration>

⁴ GhaneaBassiri, K. (n.d.). Islamophobia and American history. In *Islamophobia in America*. Palgrave Macmillan. Retrieved June 2, 2021, from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1057/9781137290076.0004>

⁵ Gallup. (2011, December 12). *Islamophobia: Understanding anti-muslim sentiment in the West*. Gallup. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/157082/islamophobia-understanding-anti-muslim-sentiment-west.aspx>

⁶ Perocco, F. (2018). Anti-migrant Islamophobia in Europe. Social roots, mechanisms and actors. *REMHU: Revista Interdisciplinar Da Mobilidade Humana*, 26(53), 25–40. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1980-85852503880005303>

⁷ Europe's growing Muslim population. (2017, November 29). *Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project*. <https://www.pewforum.org/2017/11/29/europes-growing-muslim-population/>

⁸ Cheesman, N. (2017). How in Myanmar “national races” came to surpass citizenship and exclude rohingya. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 47(3), 461–483. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00472336.2017.1297476>

Key Issues

Refugee Crisis

In 2015 and 2016, Europe experienced a surge of refugees from war-torn countries. Over 80% of the refugee population were from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan⁹. European Union policies in accepting migrants are varied between member states, despite the call from many European leaders to create a single unifying set of policies for all member states. Germany, for example, adopted an “open-arms policy”, effectively absorbing a million refugees; the most of all EU countries^{10 11}. This influx of refugees spurred right-wing nationalist political parties as a response. This is not localized to Europe, but also other host countries. The rise of nationalist and religious fundamentalists are correlated with increased hate crimes towards Muslims.

According to the UNHCR, refugees are entitled to safe asylum, physical safety, and equal social and economic rights; on top of the basic human rights like food, water and shelter¹². Many host countries provide the basics yet socioeconomically, refugees and Muslim immigrants tend to face discrimination – especially in housing, education, employment and religious freedom. Moreover, migrant workers tend to be given jobs that are dangerous, laborious, temporary and cheap⁶. Despite the resistance of segregation and demand for better pay and working conditions, islamophobia becomes more systematic as countries adopt policies that emphasise cultural and religious differences. Some examples include restricting outward religious expression (such as wearing the hijab or niqab in public spaces), discrimination in employment and education, racial profiling, and portrayal of Muslims in a negative light by politicians and the media¹³.

Ethnic Cleansing

Ethnic cleansing refers to the targeted expulsion or killing of a particular ethnicity or religious group. Within the context of this topic, the council will focus on expulsion and

⁹ News, B. (2016, March 3). *Why is EU struggling with migrants and asylum?* BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24583286>

¹⁰ von Hermanni, H., & Neumann, R. (2018). ‘Refugees welcome?’ The interplay between perceived threats and general concerns on the acceptance of refugees – a factorial survey approach in Germany. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 45(3), 349–374. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183x.2018.1459183>

¹¹ *Five years later, one million refugees are thriving in Germany*. (n.d.). Center For Global Development. Retrieved June 2, 2021, from <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/five-years-later-one-million-refugees-are-thriving-germany>

¹² Refugees, U. N. H. C. for. (n.d.). *Protecting Refugees: Questions and answers*. UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency. Retrieved June 2, 2021, from <https://www.unhcr.org/en-my/publications/brochures/3b779dfe2/protecting-refugees-questions-answers.html>

¹³ *What is islamophobia?* (n.d.). Retrieved June 2, 2021, from <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/explainers/islamophobia-europe>

killing of Muslims. In the modern times, there have been attempts at ethnically cleansing Muslims from a particular region, regardless of their nativity to their respective regions. The most notable examples to date can be taken from Myanmar and China.

The Rohingya crisis is the persecution of the predominantly Muslim and Hindu community in Myanmar. Myanmar, a mostly Buddhist country, does not recognize Rohingyas as part of the country and neither do they allow Rohingyas to receive Myanmar citizenship¹⁴. Furthermore, August 2017 marks the most violent and widespread movement by the state military to rid of the Rohingyas. The atrocities include burning villages to the ground, raping Rohingya women and children, and mass murders of residents. Approximately 700,000 people fled to Bangladesh in September of the same year¹⁵. As of now, the population of Rohingyas in Myanmar are just over half a million who live in fear of recurring violence¹⁴.

The largest ethnic cleansing movement of Muslims is currently taking place in Xinjiang, China. This northwestern region of China is home to an ethnically Uyghur population whose faith is Islam. President Xi Jinping's sentiment of "religions in China should be Chinese-oriented" catalysed crackdowns in the region¹⁶. Estimates suggest there are approximately 1 million Uyghurs in "re-education" camps, and there are more than 85 camps in the region – most of which were built between 2017 and 2018¹⁷. These camps target specifically the elimination of Muslims altogether. Prisoners are forced to drink alcohol, eat pork, forced sterilisation, tortured, and raped¹⁸. Despite so, 37 countries, including Islamic countries – like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Syria, the UAE, Kuwait and Pakistan – commended China's actions against "terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism"¹⁷.

Discriminatory Policies

As previously mentioned, governments can and have implemented policies specifically targeting Muslims and Islam. Aside for the aforementioned policies under the "Refugees" section, other discriminatory policies include travel/immigration bans and denial

¹⁴ News, B. (2020, January 23). *Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis*. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561>

¹⁵ *Rohingya refugee crisis explained*. (n.d.). Retrieved June 2, 2021, from <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-explained/#RohingyainBangladesh66561>

¹⁶ News, B. (2021, March 26). *Who are the Uighurs and why is China being accused of genocide?* BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-22278037>

¹⁷ Wood, B. (2019, October 7). *What is happening with the Uighurs in China?* *PBS NewsHour*. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/features/uighurs/>

¹⁸ Hancock, S. (2021, February 19). *Gang raped, shackled and broken students: Inside China's 'horrific' Uighur detention camps*. *The Independent*. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/china-uighur-detention-camps-eyewitness-b1804804.html>

of citizenship¹⁹. Furthermore, the racialization of Muslims lead to prejudice based on if an individual “looks” Muslim. The depiction of Islam and Muslims in media, as well as the combination of various socioeconomic inequalities contribute to the prejudice. For instance, in Europe, Muslim immigrants are faced with high unemployment rates, poor education and housing, and high rates of poverty⁶. Combined with the “migrant” status and post-colonial country of origin, the image of Islamic culture becomes intersectional with race and class⁶. “Looking” Muslim in Muslim-minority countries is grounds for discrimination regardless of what an individual’s faith is. For example, Sikhs are often mistaken for Muslims based on their appearance and often are subject to islamophobia²⁰.

Stakeholders

Refugees

Aside from being discriminated against as a Muslim, they are discriminated against as a migrant. Safety is never guaranteed in their home, their journey, nor their destination. Therefore systems must be in place to protect their fundamental human rights.

Victims of ethnic cleansing

Ethnic cleansing is a systemic issue. It is the complete elimination of one’s identity and in complete contradiction to an individual’s basic freedom. To eradicate ethnic cleansing, the perpetrator must be held accountable; and the victims protected from further persecution.

Muslims

Muslims in a non-Islamic country continually face discrimination ranging from racist remarks to hate crimes to violence. Media portrayal of Muslims and Islam influence the way a society views it. With global entertainment and media being dominated by the US and Europe (and local media agencies), it has an influence on the average person’s perception of another group of people.

Past Precedences

- UNHCR was formed as a way of ensuring refugees all over the world are receiving basic supplies of food, water, shelter, and medical supplies; and creates a platform on international cooperation on issues pertaining to refugees.

¹⁹ Staff, A. (n.d.-a). American Civil Liberties Union. *American Civil Liberties Union*. Retrieved June 2, 2021, from <https://www.aclu.org/issues/national-security/discriminatory-profiling/anti-muslim-discrimination>

²⁰ Jhutti-Johal, J., & Singh, H. (2019). *Racialization, islamophobia and mistaken identity: The Sikh experience*. Routledge.

- Joint Response Plan is a humanitarian aid plan for Myanmar's Rohingya refugees. Established in 2019, they requested US\$920.5million in aid to help 1.2 million displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh²¹.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. Is a direct interventionist approach towards domestic discriminatory policies the responsibility of international bodies/foreign countries, or is that the responsibility of NGOs and other domestic organisations (or is it both)?
2. What steps can be taken to address the root cause(s) of Islamophobia in respective regions AND globally?
3. What role does the international community play in preventing/deescalating ethnic and religious conflict?
4. Do countries have an obligation in accepting refugees? Why or Why not?
5. How to improve the status and acceptance of refugees in host countries?

Important resources

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10999940701382607?casa_token=ScOLJWPsZK4AAAAA%3AirtFFMvVml3jpnpFmZioGYXyB-cUEpyRvWTwfdWJK_5-I81m6LtqBMHwOd40sY9gjQAz-wK0yaq_Li0

²¹ *Rohingya refugee crisis*. (2017, September 21). OCHA.
<https://www.unocha.org/rohingya-refugee-crisis>

Topic B: Protection Against Violence Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Topic Introduction and Background

Violence and prejudice against the LGBTQ+ community has persisted for centuries, with religion being the most notable and earliest point of reference. With the Bible often interpreted as “*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination*”²², and “*And if a man lie with mankind, as with womankind, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them*”²³, with death penalty being the punishment in the Book of Leviticus itself.

While Western countries no longer criminalize sodomy or any other form of same-sex intercourse - with partial thanks to Directive 2000/78/EC²⁴ - societal prejudice is still rampant in the more conservative communities such as Russia or Poland. It is also worth noting that the AIDs epidemic of the 80s still presents its remnants in modern society, causing people to be conscious of members of the LGBTQ community.

On the other hand, a majority of the countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East still criminalize sodomy and/or homosexuality. This is especially prevalent in more religious nations ("Maps - Sexual orientation laws", 2020).

Key Issues

Conversion Therapy

When homosexuality used to be classified as an illness under the DSM, psychologists founded conversion therapy as a method of behavioural modification to “cure” homosexuality. Practitioners often apply *aversion therapy* or *covert sensitization* as an attempt to prevent children and adolescence from sexual deviation.

Most notable techniques are applied via:

- Exposing patients to heterosexual pornography to promote the appropriate sexual desire
- Asking patients to “imagine vomiting” when having homosexual thoughts
- Administering electric shocks to patients, often accompanied with homosexual pornographic imagery.²⁵

It is notable that conversion therapy was a common option for parents in the USA to send their children into - usually under the guise of a mere summer programme. Due to this, over 700K LGBTQ Americans had gone to conversion therapy (Porter, 2021).

²² Leviticus 18:22

²³ Leviticus 20:13

²⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/78/oj>

If you read this, email the co-chair a picture of zebra doves

²⁵ <https://web.archive.org/web/20180206023332/http://www.drdoughaldeman.com/doc/ScientificExamination.pdf>

Domestic Negligence

As of 2017, it was reported that LGBTQ young adults are at a 120% higher risk of being homeless compared to those who are cisgender and heterosexual ("LGBTQ Youth Disproportionately Experience Homelessness", 2017). It is common for transgender or homosexual youths to be kicked out of their homes upon coming out - hence comprising up to 40% of homeless youths.

Another common form of domestic negligence is emotional abuse - often starting at a very young age, LGBTQ members are often denied their identity from a very young age (often from immediate family members). Usually this develops to further trauma in their lives. It is also often difficult to report domestic abuse because while typical victims can easily be aided and assured by medical providers, transgender individuals often do not get the same treatment (Dottermusch, 2016).

Institutional Violence

As of 2020, over 69 countries criminalize homosexuality and/or sodomy ("Maps - Sexual orientation laws", 2020).

To name a few²⁶:

Country (in no order)	Punishment
Brunei	Death Penalty
Qatar	Death Penalty
Saudi Arabia	Fines/Prison Sentence/Whipping
Singapore	Fines/Prison Sentence/Caning
Jamaica	Prison Sentence + Hard Labour

Stakeholders

Members of the LGBTQ+ Community

As the victims of the situation, it is important to note that although the western media has become increasingly liberal and accepting of the LGBTQ community, they are still disempowered. This may often be because a majority of the concerns focus on the youth (underaged, unable to own property, low chance of having any savings at all) whereas older LGBTQ members, although some may be actively speaking for their rights, tend to blend more easily with the population.

²⁶ http://old.ilga.org/Statehomophobia/ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2011.pdf

Local Law Enforcements

For every law that has passed, enforcements from the police force to the security defence force are responsible for the policing of said law. However, similar to private institutions, individual state law enforcements may police certain laws inconsistently (e.g., only certain states in Nigeria call for death penalties for homosexuality).

It is also worth to note that whatever the UN recommends may not apply appropriately based on certain policies of said individual law enforcements.

Government

Nations' governments will be responsible for enacting laws in order to eradicate violence towards the LGBTQ community. However, as of 2021, every nation is currently occupied with the battle against COVID-19, thus sexuality and gender-based violence may be set aside.

Past Events

- [The reported deaths of 27 American transgender or gender non-conforming individuals in 2021](#)
- [The reported deaths of 26 American transgender or gender non-conforming individuals in 2018](#)
- [The sudden rise of LGBT-free zones in Poland as of 2019](#)
- [Neo-Nazis harassing LGBT marches in Detroit in 2019, wanting to relive the death of an LGBTQ marcher from 2017](#)

Past UN Actions

2011	The UNHRC passed a resolution 17/19 (2011) involving human rights, gender identity and sexual orientation, addressing concerns of violence towards the LGBTQ community, and commissioning the first UN study based on LGBTQ issues. (HRC, 2017)
2012	The UNGA passed a resolution 67/168 (2012) regarding crimes and extrajudicial executions motivated by the victim's sexuality or gender identity. Multiple resolutions then followed
2013	UNGA's UN High Commissioner for Human Rights launched the UNFE ²⁷ campaign to promote understanding of the LGBTQ community. The campaign immediately gained mainstream media exposure. (HRC, 2017)
2014	The UNHRC passes another resolution 27/32 (2014) with regards to gender identity and sexuality based violence and human rights.
	UNGA passes another resolution 69/182 (2014) regarding extrajudicial executions
2015	The UNSC held a meeting addressing the violence directed at the LGBTQ community from the extremist group ISIS. (Broverman, 2015)

²⁷ <https://www.unfe.org>

	The UN member nations committed to ensuring that LGBTQ members do not get left behind upon the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). (HRC, 2017)
	The UNGA released a report A/HRC/29/23 ²⁸ covering sexuality and gender-based violence. This includes guidelines and recommendations for national governments.
2016	The UNGA releases another resolution 71/198(2016) regarding extrajudicial executions.
	The UNGA Secretary-General produced a resolution 71/176 (2016) which explicitly references the increased risk of bullying and cyberbullying should they be perceived as having a different sexual orientation or gender identity.
	The SOGI IE mandate was established by the UNHRC in resolution A/HRC/RES/32/2. The mandate states that SOGI IE will deliver two yearly reports to the UN regarding discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity - one to be presented during UNHRC regular sessions and the other to the UNGA.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer

- Will the increase of support campaigns actually fight against sexuality and gender-based violence?
- Should formal educators be responsible for the exposure of youths to the LGBTQ community
- Are conservative nations expected to compromise their principles just to allow the union and promotion of the LGBTQ community's lifestyle?
- Will the increase of surveillance and laws be plausible considering the budgets of member nations?
- What role does the international community play in order to deescalate the situation?

Additional Readings

- [Gay Men Under the Nazi Regime](#)
- [The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association](#)

²⁸ https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/29/23

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