

# UN Renews Mandate of Independent Expert on SOGI

[article](#), [protection from violence and hate](#)

## UN renews crucial mandate for protection against violence and discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

In a defining vote, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert focusing on the protection against violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity



**The resolution was adopted by a vote of 27 in favour, with 12 voting against and 7 abstentions.**

The campaign calling on the Council to renew the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on SOGI was supported by 1,312 non-governmental organizations from 174 States and territories.

“This is another historic victory, not only for communities of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, but for humanity as a whole”, said Paula Sebastiao of Arquivo de Identidade Angolano in Angola and Simran Shaikh, Asia coordinator of the Transrespect versus Transphobia Worldwide project, on behalf of **60 human rights groups worldwide**. “Following the call from a record number of organizations from every region imaginable, the UN Human Rights Council has reaffirmed its commitment to combat discrimination and violence on grounds of SOGI and has reminded all states of their obligations towards these communities.”

Created in 2016, the UN Independent Expert on SOGI has been supported by an ever-growing number of States from all regions of the world. The resolution to create and renew the mandate was presented by a Core Group of seven Latin American countries – Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Uruguay.

“The renewal of this mandate demonstrates how **United Nations States’ support for tackling violence and discrimination against people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities has grown tremendously**,” said UN Trans Advocacy Week campaigners. “The Independent Expert is crucial in bringing international attention to specific violations and challenges faced by trans and gender-diverse persons in all regions.”

HRC 2019 29.03.2019 LAST TEMPLATE					
L.10/Rev.1 – Mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity					
NO	AFGHANISTAN	YES	CZECH REPUBLIC	YES	PERU
ABST	ANGOLA	ABST	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	YES	PHILIPPINES
YES	ARGENTINA	YES	DENMARK	NO	QATAR
YES	AUSTRALIA	NO	EGYPT	YES	RWANDA
YES	AUSTRIA	NO	ERITREA	NO	SAUDI ARABIA
YES	BAHAMAS	YES	FUJI	ABST	SENEGAL
NO	BAHRAIN	ABST	HUNGARY	YES	SLOVAKIA
NO	BANGLADESH	YES	ICELAND	NO	SOMALIA
YES	BRAZIL	ABST	INDIA	YES	SOUTH AFRICA
YES	BULGARIA	NO	IRAQ	YES	SPAIN
ABST	BURKINA FASO	YES	ITALY	ABST	TOGO
	CAMEROON	YES	JAPAN	YES	TUNISIA
YES	CHILE	YES	MEXICO	YES	UKRAINE
NO	CHINA	YES	NEPAL	YES	UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
YES	CROATIA	NO	NIGERIA	YES	URUGUAY
YES	CUBA	NO	PAKISTAN		
YES 27		ABST 7		NO 12	

*Results of the vote confirming the renewal of the mandate*

Although the renewal process had to overcome 10 hostile amendments, **the core of the resolution in affirming the universal nature of international human rights law stands firm.**

“The existence of a specific UN human rights mechanism looking at SOGI issues is crucial for our communities to be heard at the global level,” added Ryan Silverio of ASEAN SOGIE Caucus from the Philippines. **“If the world is truly committed to leaving no one behind, it can’t shy away from addressing the violence and discrimination that we face. Laws criminalising our identities and actions are unjust and should no longer be tolerated”.**

The UN Independent Expert on SOGI is tasked with assessing implementation of existing international human rights law, by talking to States, and working collaboratively with other UN and regional mechanisms to address violence and discrimination. Through the work of this mandate since 2016, the impact of criminalisation of same-sex relations and lack of legal gender recognition, the importance of data-collection specific to SOGI communities, and examples of good practices to prevent discrimination have been highlighted globally, with visits to Argentina, Georgia, Mozambique and Ukraine.

**“The extraordinary work of hundreds of human rights defenders and grassroots organisations from all over the world is what made today’s historic result possible”**, said Tuisina Ymania Brown and Luz Elena Aranda, co-Secretaries General at ILGA World. “Their continuous push for change prompted 55 states to support the renewal of the mandate and send a clear message that the Human Rights Council will support protections against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity”.

**We hope that all governments cooperate fully with the UN Independent Expert on SOGI in this important work to bring about a world free from violence and discrimination for all people regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.**

#### **Organisations signing the statement:**

42 Degrees

ABGLT – ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE LESBICAS, GAYS, BISSEXUAIS, TRAVESTIS, TRANSEXUAIS E INTERSEXOS

Accountability International

Amnesty International

ARC International

ASEAN SOGIE Caucus

Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTNet)

Asistencia Legal por los Derechos Humanos A.C. (ASILEGAL)

Asociación OTD Chile

Caribe Afirmativo

çavaria

CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality

COC Nederland

Colectivo Alejandria

Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA)

Conurbanes por la Diversidad- Argentina

Egale Canada

Equality Australia

ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey

Fundación Afrodescendiente por las Diversidades Sociales y Sexuales – SOMOS IDENTIDAD

Fundacion Arcoiris por el respeto a la diversidad sexual

Fundación Reflejos de Venezuela

GATE

Gender DynamiX

GIN-SSOGIE

Haus of Khameleon  
Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia  
Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum  
Human Rights Law Centre  
ILGA Asia  
ILGA World  
ILGALAC – Asociación Internacional de Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales, Trans e Intersex para América Latina y El Caribe  
International Family Equality Day  
International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)  
International Service for Human Rights  
Irantí  
Korean Lawyers for Public Interest and Human Rights (KLPH)  
Las Reinas Chulas Cabaret y Derechos Humanos AC  
LGBTI Support Center  
LSVD Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany  
Namibia Diverse Women's Association (NDWA)  
ODRI Intersectional rights  
OutRight Action International  
Pacific Human Rights Initiative  
People's Matrix  
People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy  
Planet Ally  
Red Latinoamericana GayLatino  
REDTRANS Nicaragua  
RFSL, the Swedish Federation for LGBTQ Rights  
RFSU  
RWS – India's Diverse Chamber  
Stichting NNID  
Synergía – Initiatives for Human Rights  
The International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights  
the Transgender Liberation Front (abbr. TLF)  
Trans Pasefika  
TransAction (Aotearoa / New Zealand)  
Transgender Europe (TGEU)  
Valientes de Corazón Ecuador  
Young Queer Alliance