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EQUALITY – RESPECT - INCLUSION

Alternative Report on the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons (LGBT) in Togo presented to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), 62nd Ordinary Session, Nouakchott, Mauritania from 25 April to 09 May 2018

Alternative Report to the Togolese State report submitted in accordance with article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights

Submitted by: *Afrique Arc-En-Ciel Togo in collaboration with African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHeR) and Synergía - Initiatives for Human Rights* for consideration at the 62nd session of the ACHPR, Nouakchott, Mauritania. |From 25 April to 09 May 2018.

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Afrique Arc-En-Ciel is a Togolese non-governmental organisation involved in the fight against HIV and the promotion of equal rights for all, including for sexual minorities.

I. Executive Summary

This report examines Togo's compliance with the implementation of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights with regard to LGBT people in Togo. The report concludes that the government of Togo persecutes and tolerates discrimination against people based on their real or presumed sexual orientation and gender identity. By prohibiting consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex and tolerating a climate of impunity for civil servants and private individuals who subject people perceived to be LGBT to abuse, torture and discrimination, the Togolese government is perpetuating violence, discrimination and stigmatisation against its own people.

Article 392 of the Togolese Penal Code stipulates that any indecent or unnatural act committed with an individual of the same sex constitutes an affront to common decency. Any attack on public morality through speeches, writings, images or any other means also constitutes an affront to common decency. Article 393 of the Togolese Penal Code stipulates that any person who commits an affront to public morality is punishable by imprisonment of one (01) to three (03) years and a fine of one million (1.000.000) to three million (3.000.000) CFA francs or one of these two penalties. These articles are contrary to international and regional human rights treaties to which Togo is party as well as the Togolese Constitution with regard to the right to non-discrimination, privacy, liberty and security of the person. These include the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT).

The report provides emblematic cases of violations of the articles of the African Charter and makes recommendations to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the State of Togo to combat the ongoing human rights violations against individuals and groups because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, whether real or supposed, in the country. The provisions of the African Charter infringed during the period under review include articles 2, 3 and 28 (non-discrimination, equal protection of the law and equality before the law), articles 5 and 6 (right to dignity, liberty and security of the person), and article 9 (right to information). The report urges the Togolese government to also consider recommendations and appeals already made by other human rights institutions and organisations concerning universal respect for human rights.

II. Introduction

1. This report is presented as part of the 62nd session of the ACHPR. Togo signed the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter) on 26 February 1982 and ratified it on 5 November 1982. In accordance with article 62 of the African Charter, the Togolese State presents its 6th, 7th and 8th reports on the implementation of the said charter at this 62nd ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) for the years 2010 to 2017. Recognising the efforts of the State, we note, however, that in the violations highlighted no mention is made of those based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It does not duplicate the alternative reports presented on the same country in same context, but instead it provides the usable and available information on the situation of human rights violations in Togo which are not mentioned in the State's report.

2. The content of the report is essentially based on a comparative analysis of the commitments of the Togolese State and the situation of LGBT people in Togo. The rationale for this report is based on the fact that the State did not contact Togolese civil society organisations that represent LGBT people in the process of documenting the State report and to include the concerns of the grass-roots community represented by these organisations for the protection of their rights. Thus, the purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the ACHPR and the State of Togo, the situation in regard to violations of the rights of individuals and groups based on their real or supposed sexual orientation and gender identity. This situation requires that the Commission requests the State of Togo to take specific targeted measures to ensure the protection of human rights for all.

3. However, given the many human rights violations suffered by Togolese LGBT persons, the State's report fails to indicate what measures have been taken to ensure that their rights are protected. The Togolese people continue to be confronted by criminalisation, arbitrary arrest and detention, violence, intimidation and discrimination due to their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity and the state is failing to honour its commitments by allowing these violations to be committed with impunity by state actors and individuals.

4. During the Twenty-Sixth (26th) session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) (Geneva, 31 October - 11 November), the Togolese government only noted all recommendations on violations related to sexual orientation and gender identity. In the combined report to the ACHPR, the Togolese State remains silent on the issue of legal protection of LGBT persons despite the daily violations perpetuated due to the inaction of the State and its representatives, including the arrests of people because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

5. The subdivision of this report follows the articles of the African Charter. The authors chose to describe the human rights situation in Togo (under the instruction of the articles of the African Charter), focusing on the articles violated during the period covered by the combined report until the date of finalisation of this report (April 2018). The report gives examples of cases that have been documented by local activists, national and international organisations. It should be noted, however, that there are more cases of human rights violations based on real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity in Togo that are not included in the report due to a lack of systematic monitoring of documentation and reporting of these cases in the country as well as the victims' fear of reporting these violations. The jurisprudence of the Commission is also invoked in the report to recall previous positions on the subject and enlighten the Commissioners. The report also offers recommendations and addresses questions to the State of Togo.

III. Substantial violations of the African Charter

a. Togolese law and international human rights law.

6. Article 11 of the Togolese Constitution states that: “All human beings shall enjoy equal dignity and equal rights. (...) No person shall be favoured or disadvantaged because of their family, ethnic or regional origin, economic or social status, political, religious, philosophic or other convictions”. In line with the provisions of international law, the country does not derogate from the principle of primacy of international law by enshrining in Art. 140¹ of the constitution the primacy of regularly ratified international standards over domestic legal norms. Togo has signed and ratified several international conventions concerning human rights. Amongst others: the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights², the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)³, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

7. Moreover, it should be noted that under Article 60 of the African Charter “the Commission draws on international law on human and peoples’ rights, including provisions of various Africa instruments relating to human and peoples’ rights, provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the provisions of other instruments adopted within specialised institutions of the United Nations of which the parties to this Charter are members.”

8. However, the fact remains that some Togolese are still victims of various forms of violations and abuses because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, notwithstanding the provisions of Resolution 275 on protection against violence and other human rights violations of persons based on their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity⁴, or Article 2 of ICCPR which provides: “The States parties to the present Covenant undertake to respect and guarantee to all persons within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction the rights recognised in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, notably race, colour, sex, language... or any other situation”. The use of the expression “notably” and the reference in fine “any other situation” clearly show the non-limiting nature of the prohibited grounds for discrimination. However, the Togolese Penal Code of 24 November 2015 qualifies an affront to

¹ Art 140 « Treaties or agreements duly ratified or approved have, from the moment of publication, an authority superior to that of laws, subject, for each agreement or treaty, to its application by the other party »

² 1982

³ 24 May 1984

⁴ <http://www.achpr.org/fr/sessions/55th/resolutions/275/>

public morality in Article 392⁵ as being able to freely choose a sexual partner of the same sex and punishes in Article 393⁶ sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.

9. While we welcome advances in regard to the right to health, especially the inclusion of men who have sex with men (MSM) in national HIV/AIDS response documents, the representation of key populations in the CCM⁷, the various technical groups such as Gender-Human Rights and HIV and their involvement in policy-making in regard to HIV/AIDS; a paradox lies in the fact that despite these various initiatives, the country has nevertheless hardened sanctions against people who have sex with consenting adults of the same sex when the penal code was revised in 2015, thus constituting a violation of the provisions mentioned above and leaving the domain of abuse and violation of peoples' rights on the basis of the real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. There is therefore a contradiction in regard to the extent to which programmes are put in place to reduce the incidence of HIV and, conversely, Article 392 defines issues of affront to public morality which are sanctioned by such provision. Moreover, the security and integrity of human rights defenders working on LGBT issues is threatened in the sense that some of their actions are labelled as homosexual propaganda and therefore reprehensible under Article 394⁸ of the said Penal Code. This is evidenced by the anonymous threats they have received. Among the abuses and violations that have been documented are physical attacks, verbal attacks, cases of arrests and arbitrary detention, eviction from the home, blackmail and extortion by law enforcement and security forces and individuals.

10. In this respect, this report objectively exposes the lack of measures taken by the country to respond to human rights violations and abuses on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity, with the aim of assisting the ACHPR by providing information concerning the status of respect for sexual and reproductive rights, as well as recommendations for its improvement.

b. Violations of the provisions of the African Charter

⁵ **Article 392** : Any indecent or unnatural act committed with a person of the same sex constitutes an affront to public morality.

⁶ **Article 393** : Any person that commits an affront to public morality is punished by imprisonment for one (01) to three (03) years and a fine of one million (1.000.000) to three million (3.000.000) francs CFA or one of these two punishments

⁷ Country Coordination Mechanism

⁸ **Article 394** : A person whom:

- 1) publicly exposes, manufactures or sells publicly objects, images, films, sound recordings or audio visual, contrary to decency;
- 2) distributes or causes to be distributed on the public highway or by post, or door-to-door or electronically all books, brochures, catalogues, prospectus, images, films, sound recordings or audio visuals contrary to decency, with prior consent of the recipients;
- 3) distributes or publicly distributes any incitement to practices contrary to morality by speech, writings or any other means of communication;

is punished by imprisonment for six (06) months to two (02) years and a fine of five hundred thousand (500.000) to two million (2.000.000) francs CFA or one of these two punishments.

(i) Article 2, 3 and 28 of the African Charter

11. Every person has the right to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed in this Charter without distinction of any kind, including race, ethnicity, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status. This provision in Article 2 is a key principle in the fight against discrimination. While Article 3 calls for fair and equitable treatment of individuals in the legal system of a country, and Article 28 an obligation of non-discrimination, it goes without saying, Article 393 of the Togolese Penal Code of 24 November 2015 is inconsistent with the two sections mentioned above. In that respect, the question that we would like to address to the State is the following: *Does the State have the prospect of harmonising national laws, namely the Penal Code with its international commitments, including on the issues of equality and non-discrimination towards LGBT persons?* We therefore recommend that the State:

- **Harmonises the domestic provisions, in particular articles 392 and following of the Penal Code, according to international and national commitments to which the State is party;**
- **Adopts in its legislation a lato sensu conception of the issue of discrimination so as to also prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;**
- **Repeals the provisions of the Penal Code that punish relations between consenting adults.**

12. In regard to precedent, there are specific cases that are of particular interest. In the matter *Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum v. Zimbabwe*⁹, where the Commission has interpreted articles 2 and 3 in broad terms, particularly in regard to sexual orientation, as follows: *“Together with equality before the law and equal protection of the law [as provided for in article 3 of the Charter], the principle of non-discrimination as provided in article 2 of the Charter constitutes the basis for the enjoyment of all human rights ... equality and non-discrimination” are at the heart of the human rights movement. The purpose of this principle is to ensure equal treatment for people irrespective of nationality, sex, racial or ethnic origin, political opinion, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.* Thus, article 393 of the Togolese Penal Code of 24 November 2015 is inconsistent with the articles mentioned above.

13. In addition, at the time of the report submitted by the State of Cameroon in 2005¹⁰, the ACHPR mentioned “intolerance against sexual minorities” as a concern with regard to the conformity of State commitments with the African Charter. Therefore Togo, party to the African Charter, must honour its commitments. To this regard, the worsening of penalties against LGBTI persons that have increased from 1 to 3 years of imprisonment and a fine between 100.000 and 500.000 FCFA under the former Penal Code of 1980, to 1 to 3 years of

⁹ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum c. Zimbabwe (2006) AHRLR 128 (ACHPR 2006), § 169,

¹⁰ African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. Concluding observations and recommendations on the Periodic report of the Republic of Cameroon, 39^e Ordinary Session from 11-25 May 2005, Banjul, The Gambia, paragraph 14. URL: http://www.achpr.org/english/other/Con_Observations/Cameroon/2nd_COs_Cameroon.pdf. 18

imprisonment and a fine between **1.000.000 and 3.000.000 FCFA**, is inconsistent with the commitments of the State.

14. Furthermore, if the same penal code describes discrimination as any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on sex, gender, disability, race, colour, descent or family, ethnic or regional origin, economic or social status, political, religious, philosophical or other beliefs, HIV positive status, the purpose or effect of which is to destroy or compromise the enjoyment or exercise of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the political, economic, social and cultural domains or any other area of public life, it follows that the restriction of the freedom of choice of one's sexual partner by the Penal Code is an infringement of the right to equality and freedom not to be subjected to discrimination in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Art. 7; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 2 and 26. In this regard, we recommend that the State:

- ***Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the same way as other forms of discrimination;***
- ***Ensures fair, just and equal access to the law for all Togolese citizens;***
- ***Reviews the existing provisions to also include discrimination based on real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity as a ground of protection;***

15. In addition, it seems appropriate to stress that in its preamble the Charter reaffirms its commitment to the freedoms and human and peoples' rights contained in the declarations, conventions and other instruments adopted within the framework of the Organisation of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations; we therefore recommend that the State:

- ***Repeals laws criminalising homosexuality, and introduces policies to end discrimination against homosexuals;***
- ***Strengthens measures to prohibit discrimination, including those based on sexual orientation and gender identity.***

(ii) Article 5 and 6 of the African Charter

16. This Article prohibits any form of abusive conduct, the ACHPR in the matter of Curtis Francis Doebbler v. Sudan, mentioned that the designation of an act as a violation of Article 5 would be assessed on a case by case basis. Furthermore, it decided that "torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment must be interpreted as broadly as possible, so as to encompass all possible aspects of mental and physical abuse."¹¹ Nevertheless, two young homosexuals were arrested by a police patrol on the evening of 22 September 2014 in Lomé in the port area when returning home after a party that had attended in fancy dress. The police officer believed that he had arrested them because they might have been criminals in disguise, but it turned out that they had no weapons on them. Detained for 5 days at the police station

¹¹ Curtis Francis Doebbler c.le Sudan, [Communication 236/2000 – 16è Rapport Annuel d'Activité

without a court order, they were paraded in their women's outfits and a police officer even filmed this scene which he was not embarrassed about showing us when we went to enquire about the situation. Another community member reported that a young man who stole his mobile phone blackmailed him because he saw gay videos on the mentioned phone. While he was trying to get his mobile phone back, a fight broke out and they were taken to the police station where the matter took another turn: his sexual orientation became a news item as the blackmailer had flaunted it and the complainant was arrested and detained for 24 hours before being released. On the night of 24 March 2017, a transgender person who was dressed according to her gender identity was arrested and detained for 48 hours at the Agoe police station for cross-dressing although no law bans cross-dressing in Togo. She was subsequently released on payment of an amount of 50.000 FCFA by her family. These situations qualify as arrest and arbitrary detention by the authorities.

17. This broad interpretation is in line with the interpretations of the Human Rights Committee under the corresponding provisions of the ICCPR. This means that the dignity of the human being and the guarantee of his security must be at the heart of the development of laws. In many documented cases, the security and dignity of LGBT persons have been questioned. As an example, on the night of 14 February 2016 at Bè Kpota in Lomé, near the football ground, , an “effeminate” gay man was physically attacked by young people in his neighbourhood while he was going home. We note that these young people whom he recognised threatened to tell the police that he was gay if he ever dared to lodge a complaint. He nevertheless lodged a complaint at the police station; instead of receiving the complaint the police officers lectured him and sent him home, ordering him to behave like a “man”. This specific case calls the attention to unequal protection of the law based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. This situation does not only affect men but also lesbian, bisexual and transgender women who are victims of double discrimination on the one hand as a result of their status as women, and on the other hand, their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression that do not conform to social expectations. For example, a lesbian woman reported having been expelled from the family home because of her sexual orientation in December 2017. On the same month she was attacked by young people in her neighbourhood when she was returning home in the evening. She was beaten and heard her attackers blame her sexual orientation. Our question to the government is as follows: *Are there security and law enforcement awareness programmes on issues of non-discrimination and equality with an LGBT themed component?* We therefore recommend that the State:

- ***Establishes national policies and programmes to raise awareness of the law enforcement and security officials as well as officials of the justice system on the issues of sexual rights, sexual orientation and gender identity and the vulnerability of LGBT groups;***
- ***Establishes a legal framework prohibiting hate crimes including abuses and violations based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.***

(iii) Article 9 of the African Charter

18. The right to information is guaranteed by the African Charter to every individual under its article 9. However, by reading this article in conjunction with article 394 of the Togolese Penal Code¹², we highlight a questioning of the work of civil society organisations working on LGBT/MSM issues in the sense that, by virtue of the implementation of their activities, these organisations will have to share awareness messages that are not heterocentric. Along these lines, an awareness message on the radio dealing with non-discrimination towards LGBT persons was censored in 2013 by the Togolese High Authority for Audio-visual and Communications on the grounds that it was “homosexual propaganda.”

19. In the context of HIV for example, awareness messages for MSM will not be the same as those for heterosexual persons. Beyond the individuals, also organizations and structures working on LGBTI issues are endangered under article 394 mentioned above. Even if in criminal matters provisions must be interpreted strictly, the language of the provisions on public morality constituting an offence under the Penal Code make reference to ‘shameful or unnatural act committed with an individual of the same sex’ and, in this sense, are not defined *stricto sensu*. In the Togolese context no law specifically protects human rights defenders. We would therefore like to ask the State: *To what extent does the government plan to protect human rights defenders, including those working on LGBT issues?* Consequently, we recommend that the State:

- ***Adopts provisions to protect LGBT stakeholders;***
- ***Adopts provision that protect human rights defenders including LGBT activists;***
- ***Ensures a safe and supportive working environment for defenders, especially women and LGBT rights defenders, by removing barriers to their activities and amending relevant legislation.***

20. From a social point of view, there is clear hostility towards LGBT persons. In fact, in a 2015 survey,¹³ Afro barometer estimated at 9/10 or 89% the number of Togolese that would not tolerate homosexuality. This has been widely relayed on social networks. As a result of this, negative attitudes against LGBT were noted. Several movements like “The Martin Luther King Movement” have invited the rest of the population and the government to do the same. This

¹² **Article 394** : Is punishable by imprisonment of six (06) months to two (02) years and a fine of five hundred thousand (500.000) to two million (2.000.000) francs CFA or one of these two punishments and person that:

- 1) publicly exposes, manufactures or sells publicly objects, images, films, sound recordings or audio visual, contrary to decency;
- 2) distributes or causes to be distributed on the public highway or by post, or door-to-door or electronically all books, brochures, catalogues, prospectus, images, films, sound recordings or audio visuals contrary to decency, with prior consent of the recipients;
- 3) distributes or publicly distributes any incitement to practices contrary to morality by speech, writings or any other means of communication.

¹³ Dispatch No. 34, Afrobarometer | 2 June 2015

media campaign played a decisive role in the toughening of sanctions against unnatural acts when the Penal Code was revised in 2015. The government took no action to discourage this campaign of hatred and discrimination against LGBT persons. In these circumstances we recommend that the State:

- ***Sanctions any person whom incites to hatred their fellow citizens, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.***

21. Insults and verbal attacks are commonplace for people expressing an attitude that is perceived contrary to their gender role. For those who dare to resist, it usually ends in a beating. Evictions from the family home, housing refusals and many other restrictions related to sexual orientation, such as refusal of care by some health care providers, have been documented.

22. It was mentioned above the case of a person that was attacked by young people in his neighbourhood Bè Kpota in Lomé, near the football ground on the night of 14 February 2016 when he was returning home. We reiterate that the attackers whom he recognised threatened to tell the police that he was gay if he ever dared to lodge a complaint.

23. Even though nobody has been convicted under the Penal Code on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, the fact remains that the existence of such a law is in contradiction with the international commitments of the State as well as the values of non-discrimination and equality and encourages abuses and violations against a part of the population, evidenced by the cases of abuse and violence documented by LGBTI non-governmental organizations at local level, that is 85 cases in 2016, 115 in 2017 and 29 during the first quarter of 2018 (January through March).

24. It is therefore important to take action to discourage and punish abuses and human rights violations on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity, as recommended by resolution 275. As nothing has been done in this regard since the adoption of the said resolution by the Commission we would ask the State: *What measures have been put in place to ensure implementation of resolution 275 at the level of the internal legal order?*

In this regard we recommend that the State:

- ***Raises awareness on this resolution with human rights stakeholders;***
- ***Takes appropriate measures to implement resolution 275 mentioned above in the internal legal order.***

IV. Conclusive provisions

25. Togo has ratified many legal instruments and strives every day to improve the human rights situation. Nevertheless challenges persist and government priorities seem to be placed elsewhere. Even if the principles of universality, interdependency, non-discrimination, equality and inherence of human rights have been integrated and endorsed by our country, we think that efforts still have to be made so that these principles are truly a reality that is reflected in the legal texts of the country and the situation of all Togolese including those identifying as LGBT or working on this issue to ensure their protection considering that in 2017 five LGBT activist leaders reported being anonymously threatened by telephone.

26. While de facto ignoring and denying the existence of LGBT people in Togo, the State has not taken any measures for the implementation of resolution 275¹⁴ or even its awareness raising at local level. This indicates that it is still in the process of rejecting all recommendations related to the improvement of the living conditions of LGBT people living in the country although these recommendations have been made repeatedly in recent years. We therefore invite the ACHPR to ask the State to make the respect for human rights a reality for all these citizens.

¹⁴ <http://www.achpr.org/fr/sessions/55th/resolutions/275/>

V. About the organisations submitting this report: Afrique Arc-En-Ciel (AAEC)- African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHeR) and Synergía - Initiatives for Human Rights.

Afrique Arc-En-Ciel is a Togolese association involved in the fight against HIV among vulnerable groups ¹⁵MSM-TG and the promotion of respect of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI) at the local, regional and international level. Having legal recognition at the local level, it is distinguished by its actions in the fight against HIV/AIDS and STIs among high risk populations, as defined in the National Strategic Plan for the fight against HIV/AIDS and STIs 2016 - 2020, advocacy and capacity building for the improvement of the socio-legal environment for the wellbeing of LGBTI persons.

AMSHeR is a pan-African coalition of 18 MSM and LGBT-led organisations in 25 countries in Africa, working to promote non-discrimination, especially based on sexual orientation and gender identity and promoting access to health services for MSM/LGBT en Africa. AMSHeR advocates for increased resources, community and strengthening of community structures and the capacity to address these issues. AMSHeR and its members engage in advocacy at the national, continental and global level on legal and political reform, human rights accountability and service delivery.

Synergía - Initiatives for Human Rights is a newly created non-governmental organisation. Although the organisation is new, its team of human rights defenders based in the United States, Latin America and Africa has been a leader on the ground for more than a decade. It seeks to protect and promote human rights for all - in particular those whose rights are most systematically and flagrantly violated, with a series of programmes that address violations motivated by sexual orientation, gender identity and/or sexual expression. It partners with LGBTI civil society organisations and human rights defenders to advocate for the rights of LGBTI persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, West and Central Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa. It combines capacity building and grassroots reallocation in three interrelated and interdependent areas of work: movement strengthening, security and protection, and rights and advocacy.

¹⁵ Men who have sex with men - Transgender