

A Long Journey in the UN Human Rights System: From the Brazilian Resolution in 2003 to the Independent Expert on SOGI in 2016

Timeline SOGI Issues in UN 2003-16

- 2003 Brazilian Resolution on „Human rights and sexual orientation” (L92, 59th Session) in CHR. Unsuccessful no-action motion (In Favour 22, Against 24 and Abstain 6). Full vote postponed by Libyan chair. Never came up for full vote
- 2003 EJE Resolution: First Vote in GA 3rd Committee to include sexual orientation [A/RES/57/214]
- 2003 ILGA decides at Manila world conference to lobby for inclusion of gender identity in future UN Resolutions
- 2004 Dedicated lobbying in Geneva (CHR) by LGBTI Organisations and allies launched
- 2005 LGBTI Federations start applying for official status in NGO Committee
- 2006 First successful vote in ECOSOC (overturning NGO Committee) on new LGBTI Organisation (LGBT Denmark) receiving NGO status
- 2006-7 Yogyakarta Principles developed
- 2006 First meeting of delegation of LGBTI NGOs with the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- 2007 UPR Process starts in HRC
- 2010 UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon talks about SOGI issues at GA Side-event
- 2011 ILGA successful in ECOSOC (overturning NGO Committee) as accredited NG=
- 2011 First HRC Resolution “Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity (Final vote: 23 Yes, 19 No, 3 Abstain, 2 not voting - A/HRC/RES/17/19)
- 2011 First High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity [A/HRC/19/41 - result of 1st HRC Resolution]
- 2012 EJE Resolution: First Vote in GA 3rd Committee to include gender identity [A/RES/67/168]
- 2014 Second HRC Resolution - Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity (Final Vote: 25 Yes, 14 No, 7 Abstain, 1 Not voting - A/HRC/RES/27/32)
- 2015 Second High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council on discrimination and violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity [A/HRC/29/23 - result of 2nd Resolution]
- 2015 Joint UN Agencies statement on Ending violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS Secretariat, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WFP and WHO)
- 2016 (June) SC Press Statement on Orlando massacre includes sexual orientation
- 2016 (June) Third HRC Resolution “Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity” (Final Vote: 23 Yes, 18 No, 6 Abstain - A/HRC/RES/32/2). Includes creation of Independent Expert
- 2016 (July) 29 states launched the Equal Rights Coalition at the Global LGBTI Human Rights Conference in Montevideo (Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, UK, Uruguay and USA)
- 2016 (September) Vitit Muntarbhorn appointed as *Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity*
- 2016 (November) Upcoming vote on Independent Expert in GA (attempting to overrule HRC)

Abbreviations and Actors

UN Human Rights System

- CHR** (53 members in 2006) UN Commission on Human Rights (replaced by HRC in 2006 - was a subsidiary of ECOSOC)
- ECOSOC** (54 members) UN Economic and Social Council (subsidiary of GA)
- ECOSOC-Status** Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
- EJE Resolution** “Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions” Resolution in GA 3rd Committee
- GA** (193 members) General Assembly
- HRC** (47 members) UN Human Rights Council (Subsidiary body of GA)
- NGO Committee** (19 members) Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Standing committee of ECOSOC).
- OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- SC** (5 permanent and 10 temporary members) UN Security Council
- Special procedures** Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups Members with a mandate from the HRC. Examples for thematic special procedures: SR on the situation of human rights defenders, Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity and WG on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice. There also SRs and Independent Experts with Country Mandates.
- Treaty Bodies** Committees of independent experts that monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties. Members appointed by the HRC (Human Rights Committee (CCPR), Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Committee against Torture (CAT), Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED))
- UN agencies** Agencies created by the GA such as UNAIDS, ILO, UN Women etc.
- UPR Process** Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a mechanism of the HRC. The human rights record of every UN member state is reviewed every four years.
- Yogyakarta Principles** (on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)