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### GLOBAL NEWS: HUMAN RIGHT COUNCIL

## HRC votes for second resolution on LGBT

On 26 September, for the second time a resolution on LGBT rights was adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council. Until 2011, LGBT people have been denied explicit mention in official UN resolutions because a heinous coalition of States maintain that same-sex behavior is sinful, criminal and LGBT people are not deserving human rights. This resolution breaks the stalemate between the coalition for universal human rights and the coalition which advocates to maintain medieval values.



### ***A second small step***

The battle to vote on a resolution to adopt LGBT rights as human rights has been going on for a number of years now. In June 2011, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 17/19 (A/HRC/RES/17/19) the first United Nations resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity expressing grave concern at violence and discrimination against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. Its adoption paved the way for the first official United Nations report on the issue prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/19/41). passed by a vote of 2919 with three

abstentions. The current resolution applauds the report issued by the OHCHR and calls for a further report. This resolution passed on a vote of 25/14, with seven abstentions.



## **South Africa backing down under African peer pressure**

However, the battle has been hard. South Africa, which initiated the last resolution, has backed down in her support for LGBT rights. South Africa was the first country in the world to protect LGBT rights in its constitution. Now, South African Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty made clear he felt torn by this

constitutional commitment on one hand and the desire to preserve relationships with other African countries on the other hand. Fellow African States like Uganda and Nigeria have less universal respect for human rights and recently enacted severe anti-LGBT laws. South Africa believes that no person should fear for their safety or be deprived of their dignity because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, Minty said.

But he was angry about some Western nations cutting their development aid to influence African policies and to create division on the African continent. To preserve their African relationships, South Africa amended the resolution to become less powerful by only asking for one new report, while the original proposal called for LGBT rights reports to be produced every two years.

## **Islamic States frame resolution as attack on Islam**

The opponents of the proposal were led by Egypt and other members of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation. They framed the resolution as a form of cultural imperialism and an attack on Islam. We feel there is an attempt to impose uniculturalism that runs counter to religious and cultural practices of some countries, said Saudi Arabia's representative during debate. The language in my opinion, this is a human rights violation. Pakistan was more radical. Their representative said that the wider connotation of the words sexual orientation would be destructive and hostile to the Muslim faith and to Islamic youth.

Sources:

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/lesterfeder/lgbt-rights-resolution-passes-united-nations-human-rights-co#32if3q2>

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2014/09/26/un-human-rights-council-passes-landmark-lgbt-rights-resolution/>

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/discrimination/pages/lgbt.aspx>

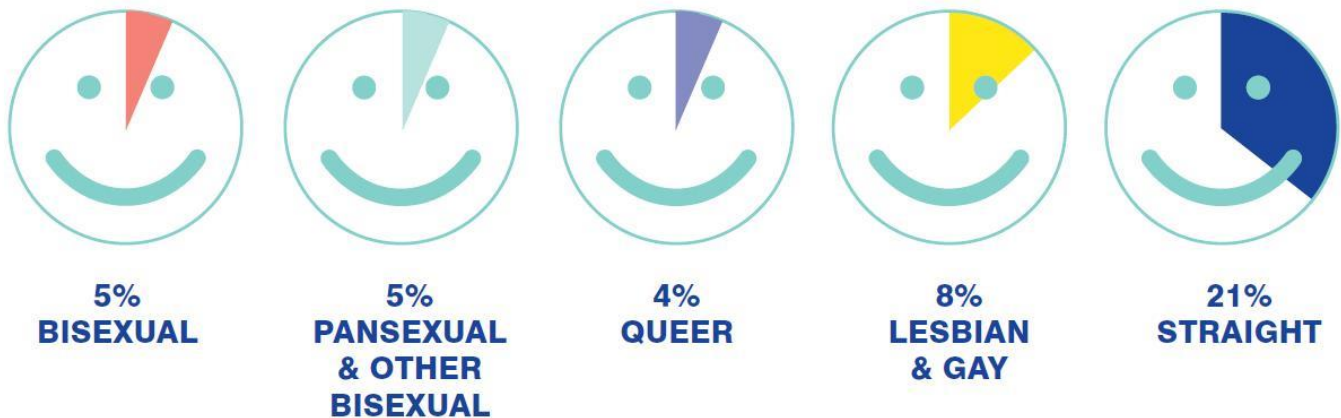
## Bisexual youth needs support and care

To honor Bisexual Visibility Day, the USA Human Rights Campaign Foundation published a research report today which concludes bisexual youth in the country feel significantly less well than both heterosexual and gay/lesbian youth.

### *Bisexual youth four times less happy*

The HRC report, called Supporting and Caring For Our Bisexual Youth (<http://www.hrc.org/biyouth>), is based on one of the largest surveys ever of LGBT youth and a comparison with data from research among youth that does not identify as LGB or T. The survey consisted of 10,030 young people ages 13 to 17.

## HAPPINESS



The report shows a troubling chasm between the experiences of bisexual youth in the USA and other peers. Only five percent of bisexual youth reported being very happy, compared to 21 percent of other youth. Almost a third of bisexual young people said they had been frequently or often harassed or called names at school, compared to nine percent of other youth. When asked if they have an adult family member they can turn to, 44 percent of bisexual youth said they did, compared to 79 percent of other youth.

## ***Biphobia serious problem in families and services***

Bisexual youth remain quite disconnected from the gay and lesbian communities and its services. They are also less optimistic about their futures than their heterosexual peers, less engaged in their communities and schools, and highly susceptible to sexual harassment.

The report also highlights how bisexual youth cannot properly connect with caring parents, teachers, or gay or lesbian support organizations. There is still a high level of biphobia even within the gay and lesbian communities. This raises to question to what extent we can speak of solidarity and an LG -B- T community.

# PERSONAL WELL-BEING

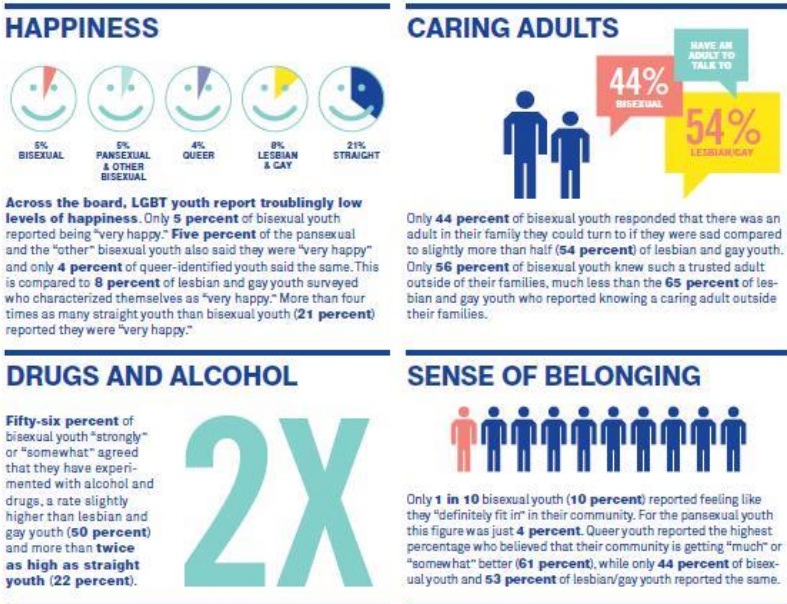
## ***Youth prefer queer to bisexual label***

Many of the young people surveyed said they were potentially attracted to more than one gender. But many also rejected the term bisexual. They preferred to call themselves in different ways, queer and pansexual being popular labels. This is not surprising due to the normative pressures against being bisexual.

## ***Bisexual Visibility Day***

The report was released to honor the 15th Bisexual Visibility Day, which got more attention than in previous years.

The prejudices that bisexuality is only a stage on the road to admitting you are gay or lesbian, or that bisexuals are only discriminated because of the gay part of their existence are slowly getting corrected. The correction is partly due to the growing body of research that shows high percentages of youth being



bisexually attracted.

Source: <http://www.hrc.org/blog/entry/supporting-and-caring-for-our-bisexual-youth>



## Emma Watson calls for men to join the HeforShe campaign

Emma Watson, better known as the character Hermione Granger she played in the Harry Potter films, has held a speech for the United Nations calling for men to stand up for feminism. The moving video of her speech is being shared worldwide.

### ***Strip feminism of prejudiced interpretation***

The young actress calls herself a feminist. In the moving speech for the UN (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-iFl4qhBsE>), Emma Watson states that feminism has too long been seen as a label for "women who hate men". She thinks two things need to change: the label feminism needs to be stripped of this ridiculous prejudice, and men need to get involved. The UN launched a campaign to promote this: the "HeForShe" (<http://www.heforshe.org/>) campaign.

"There is no country in the world where women have the same rights as men. There is no country in the world that can say that have real gender equality. Equality between men and women is a human right."

### ***Men should have freedom to show emotions***

Emma feels men should also have the freedom to show their emotions. "If men do not have to be aggressive than women do not to play submissive."

This is the key to Emma's speech. "I want men to tackle this so that their daughters, sisters and mothers are free from prejudices. But also so that their sons have the chance to be human and sensitive."



Source: <http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2664/Nieuws/article/detail/3752421/2014/09/22/Emma-Watson-zoekt-mannelijke-strijders-tegen-vrouwenhaat.dhtml>

### “Traditional” values groups try to organize lobby to adopt censorship laws

A international forum in Moscow of so-called traditional values groups published a resolution which calls for an organized lobby against human rights through the introduction of censorship laws across the world.

#### **Lobby to promote censorship**

The resolution ([http://cnsr.ru/press-tsentr/novosti-fonda/vozzvanie-/](http://cnsr.ru/press-tsentr/novosti-fonda/vozzvanie/)) calls right wing campaigners

to crush human rights by adoption of legislative bans on all types propaganda concerning homosexual relationships. Supposedly this would be in the interest of children, of course excluding same-sex attracted and gender variant kids.

Bans on gay propaganda and stimulating heterosexual propaganda have been adopted in Russia, Latvia, and Poland and are discussed in several other countries in the region. The social aftermath has already proved to encourage State-supported hate, stereotyping and violence in the affected countries.

#### **Research to serve lobby needs**

The resolution also calls to study the negative social and psychological effects of raising children in same-gender couples. This unscientific and biased research question shows this is not about objective real research, but just collection of arguments to support the planned lobby. In addition to censoring any information about sexual diversity, the forum participants also seek to break up families by banning same-sex adoption.

#### **Russian nationalist bloc offering semblance of credibility**

During the event, mainly US based extremist right wing campaigners met with Russian organizations. The event was hosted by the Russian oligarch Constantin Malofeev which gave the meeting a semblance of religious credibility rather than the extremist lobby that it was. This way, the Russian orthodox church showed its nationalist alliance with the current Russian authorities. The event was co-hosted by Vladimir Yakunin, a close advisor of Vladimir Putin and head of a state-run company. A glowing article on the

#### *Traditional values*

*Here are the values I stand for:*

*honesty, equality, kindness, compassion, treating people the way you want to be treated and helping those in need.*

*To me, those are traditional values.*

*Ellen Degeneres*

website LifeSiteNews reports that in addition to Yakunin, the conference drew a wide range of high-ranking Russian officials, including the vice-speaker of the Duma and the minister of culture.

Sources:

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2014/09/14/moscow-anti-gay-conference-plans-spread-of-gay-propaganda-laws-across-the-world/>

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2014/09/moscow-takes-break-from-ukraine-to-condemn-gays.html>

LOCAL NEWS: UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW USA

## Williams Institute recommends to adopt laws against LGBT bullying

Today the Williams Institute sent a report to the UN on human rights violations in the United States. Based on research and legal analysis, the report suggests the United States is not complying with its international human rights commitments, particularly in the areas of employment, health, youth and violence against LGBT people.

### ***LGBT youth especially vulnerable***

LGBT youth are especially vulnerable group in the United States. Of the estimated 3.2 million LGBT youth in the U.S., half are considered to be at-risk youth. They are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes than youth that identifies as

heterosexual. They are also more likely to self-mutilate, experience depression and engage in suicide.



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### ***Suicide***

According to the most recent study in the American Journal of Public Health, 23 percent of sexual minority youth compared with seven percent of heterosexual youth had attempted suicide in the last year. This same study also studied suicide attempts that result in serious injury and medical treatment. The study found that sexual LGBT youth were four times as likely as heterosexual youth to commit serious suicide attempts.

### ***More contact with justice system***

LGBT youth come disproportionately in contact with the juvenile justice system. While 7 percent of youth identify as LGBT, almost 14 percent of youth in custody identify as LGBT.

LGBT youth are at higher risk of experiencing bullying, absenteeism, and other school-related problems, as well as depression, drug use, and involvement in certain types of crimes than their heterosexual peers.

## **Family and school high risk areas**

These risks are heightened by a lack of support at home and in school. LGBT youth rate non-accepting families as the most important problem in their lives. With more than 70 percent, LGBT youth score their schools as second on a list of unsafe environments.

This is not only a feeling. LGBT youth are twice as likely to consider dropping out of school and are more likely to end up homeless or in foster care as compared to heterosexual youth. Of the 1.6 million at-risk LGBT youth, just over 1.3 million have never had structured mentorship and just over six hundred thousand have never had a mentor of any kind.

## **Poverty**

The study also found that many LGBT adults are below the USA poverty line. LGBT people are more economically disadvantaged compared to heterosexuals. More than one in four LGBT adults (29%), are likely to have experienced a time in the last year when they did not have enough money to feed themselves or their family. Same-sex couples are more likely to receive financial government assistance than heterosexual couples.



*(Image: homeless shelter for LGBT youth New York)*

Variables that affect poverty such as education, geography, race, and gender, tend to negatively affect LGBT people than heterosexuals.

Children of same-sex couples are especially vulnerable to poverty compared to children of heterosexual couples. Almost one in four children living with a male same-sex couple and 19 percent of children living with a female same-sex couple are in poverty. This is compared to 12 percent of children living with married heterosexual couples. African American children in gay male households have the highest poverty rate (52%) of any children in any household type.

## **Recommendations**

The report is used in the Universal Periodic Review of the USA. The Williams Institute recommends the US federal government and state governments to adopt anti-bullying laws to reduce harassment and violence against LGBT youth in schools, foster care, social services agencies, family court, shelters, and the juvenile justice system. The impact of such measures should be structurally monitored. The authorities should also combat the stereotypes the LGBT youth face.



Sources: <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/international/un-upr-usa-wi-2015/>

Thanks to Andrew Park

## LOCAL NEWS: NEW FOUNDATION

### Document our history now starts fundraising

Yesterday, 28 September, the new foundation “Document our history now” started fundraising. The foundation supports film makers in ASEAN countries (South East Asia) to document LGBT lives and history.



“Document our history now”

(<http://documentourhistorynow.org/>) supports documentary makers, photographers, documenters and journalists in Southeast Asia in their efforts to tell stories and document Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities, individuals and events, along with their history and what they are striving for.

*(Image: Lonneke van den Honnaerd, director of the International Gay & Lesbian Information centre and Archive, IHLIA) introduces the new foundation)*

In countries such as Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines, many women and men are actively working to bring about gender equality. They are promoting the visibility and advocating the interests and the rights of LGBT groups. In many of those countries, however, it is not always possible for LGBT people to express themselves and live their lives openly; sometimes that can even be outright dangerous. Document Our History Now is a foundation that wants to support existing initiatives to document that struggle. Contributions can be transferred at <http://documentourhistorynow.org/about-us/fundraising/>, and film makers in the regions can contact the foundation here <http://documentourhistorynow.org/about-us/blbla/>.

[Join as GALE member](#). Membership is free!

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#### Colophon

LGBT EDUCATION 10

29 SEPTEMBER 2014

Published by the GALE Foundation,  
Supporter of the Global Alliance for  
LGBT Education, [info@lgbt-education.info](mailto:info@lgbt-education.info).

The GALE Foundation is financially  
supported by the Dutch Ministry of  
Education, Culture and Science