



HUSMUN 2020
Lockdown Edition

Background Guide

SOCHUM

Universalization of LGTBQ+ rights



Table of Contents

Chair's Letter	2
Committee History	2
Agenda History	2
Agenda Sub-Topics	3
Pioneers and Activists.....	3
Marches and Political Movements.....	4
Psychological Torture	5
Violence and Bullying	5
Bullying.....	5
Violent Acts	5
Honour Killings	6
Questions A Resolution Must Answer	6
Closing Remarks	6
Important Terms	7
Bibliography	8



Chair's Letter

Welcome to HUSMUN 2020! I'm Manas Sadasivuni, an IB DP student taking Math, Economics, and Physics as my Higher Level subjects. I may have been born in Bangalore, but London is my hometown and I loved to spend time in parks and open spaces when I could. I aim to go into the world of finance and if all goes well, that'll start with the BSc Finance at London School of Economics (LSE).

I hope by the end of this conference, we'll have come up with a viable framework to ensure the protection of LGBTQ+ rights across the globe that takes into account all members of the committee. I do not expect complete agreement considering the fact that countries have varying attitudes on this topic, but I look forward to having a respectful and heated debate.

If you have any questions or are looking for a chat, send an email to me at

Committee History

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee is the third main committee of the United Nations General Assembly and has existed since the inception of the General Assembly in 1946. SOCHUM is responsible for passing resolutions to solve various social, humanitarian and cultural issues and has the widest range of topic under its mandate which includes "questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, the treatment of refugees through the elimination of racism and discrimination, the promotion of fundamental freedoms and the right to self-determination, indigenous issues and a range of social matters such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control."

Problems debated in this committee are more difficult to solve compared to other GA bodies as there are genuine ideological differences between countries. Due to this, a resolution must take into account all countries involved.

SOCHUM is also a symbol of the rising influence of developing nations as their membership count has increased significantly. In addition to this, debate has moved from areas of individual rights, a subject preferred by developed countries, onto group rights, preferred by underdeveloped and developing countries. On this note, we move towards the issue of LGBTQ+ rights, specifically their universalisation.

You can view the mandate for the General Assembly here: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-iv/index.html>

Agenda History

While the history of the LGBTQ+ community goes back as far as the 9th Century BC, the first modern-day win for the community occurred in 1791 when France adopted the Penal Code of 1791, thereby legalising same-sex marriage. As France continued to annex territories, this Penal Code was applied to the territories. Throughout the 19th Century, homosexuality



continued to be controversial with a few South American and Caribbean nations decriminalising it while Eastern European countries increasing the criminality of it.

LGBTQ+ activism only began in 1910 with Emma Goldman, who was referred to as “she was the first and only woman, indeed the first and only American, to take up the defence of homosexual love before the general public.” However, the first homosexual rights organisation was founded more than a decade later in 1926 and existed for a few months before disbanding due to pressure from the police.

While an increasing number of countries decriminalised homosexuality in the 20th Century, the Stonewall riots were a stark reminder that while homosexuals were legally recognised, they were still not given equal treatment to heterosexuals in the legal system.

Moving into the 21st Century, the inconsistency between the legal status of the LGBTQ+ in different countries is unexpected. The majority of North and South American countries, in addition to Western Europe, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand allow for marriage or civil unions for the LGBTQ+ community. On the other hand, the majority of African, Middle Eastern and Asian countries have penalties in place or severely limited support.

Agenda Sub-Topics

Pioneers and Activists

In too many places around the world, LGBTQ+ people are among the most persecuted, marginalized and are at severe risk. In over 75 countries, a relationship with someone of the same sex is considered to be a crime. LGBTQ people continue to face threats of violence, discrimination, abuse, blackmail and arrest in their private life and workspaces. The equality and non-discrimination guarantee provided by international human rights law applies to all people, regardless of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity or “other status.” There is no fine print, no hidden exemption clause, in any of our human rights treaties that might allow a State to guarantee full rights to some but withhold them from others purely on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. We must understand that all people should not be discriminated against based on race, colour, caste, gender, religion and it is important to appreciate one’s differences rather than make them feel out of place in the society. People are raised and brought up in different ways and their socio-cultural background plays an important role in the same.

How do we ensure that the LGBTQ community is not shown any kind of unfairness?

Pioneers and activists together play an important role in supporting the community that could possibly face a lot of criticism. Edith Windsor, Ellen DeGeneres, Martina Navratilova, Richard Isay and many more pioneers once upon a time fought for their rights. A pioneer is a person who is the first to study and develop a particular area of knowledge, culture, transformation, time, etc. that other people then continue to develop, and an activist is a person who works to achieve political or social change, especially as a member of an organization with particular aims. The aforementioned pioneers believed and still believe that it is important to provide a sense of community to all people of the LGBTQ body.



Taking an example from a very common activist/pioneer - In 1981, Czech-American tennis star Martina Navratilova was at the top of her game - she had won Wimbledon twice already and was about to start a record-breaking string of nine Wimbledon final appearances. Then she put her career and celebrity status in jeopardy by coming out, first as bisexual and then as a lesbian. Navratilova estimates that she lost millions in endorsement deals following her revelation. Despite the financial setback, she continued to dominate the tennis court while using her star power to advocate for gay rights. In 1992, she joined other activists in a lawsuit challenging a Colorado amendment that banned extending civil rights protections to gay people.

We all notice how the Lesbian, Gay, bisexual, and transgender people are all clumped under this one umbrella term called LGBTQ community. This generalising has to be stopped and it is important to understand that people may be from any nationality, colour, religion and may support any political groups. But sadly, we set them apart and don't meet up, we don't have a unified political voice, we don't share values, we don't respect each other, and we don't treat everyone equally. How can we call this a community of people?

Therefore, lastly, to conclude we believe it is important for member states and other nations to come together as one and put up a holistically approached framework so as to giving equal opportunities to all people around the world.

Marches and Political Movements

Over the years, we have seen a number of changes been made to the legislation on the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. There have been political activists as discussed above, pioneers who steer the way for other people, marches and other political movements. When people or communities of people are not given equal rights or have been treated with bias, they generally tend to protest or fight for their equality as well. While it has been mentioned in the background guide that the LGBTQ community has been stigmatized a number of times and still continues to be so, it is important to understand the fact that people of the same community have come together in large groups and have also put their interests into marches, parades, and other political movements to enable a sense of equality.

Another lesson that LGBTQ social movements teach us is that diversity and difference within a movement can be challenging but also critical to face and embrace. We have seen that differences in identity and power create divisions and inequalities within the broad movement – for example, in the homophobia and transphobia of some feminists in the 1960s and '70s and in the lack of adequate examination of race and class privilege by many white, gay, well-off, cisgender men in the gay rights movement. We also see, though, that diversity can be mobilized in really important ways – through mass mobilizations that embrace and celebrate difference, through work that draws on intersectional identities, and through coalitional activism. History teaches us that we cannot fully understand and achieve LGBTQ equality if we do not also embrace equality and justice for LGBTQ people of colour, immigrants, and religious minorities, for example.

On June 28, 1969, New York police raided the Stonewall Inn. It was a raid like so many others, but on this night the inn's patrons fought back by hurling rocks and bottles at the police. Over the next week, two additional riots broke out in the neighbourhood in protest. The uprisings



ignited a new atmosphere of militant gay liberation. A new generation of activist organizations emerged, including the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activist Alliance. Like the homophile movement, these new organizations sought to end discrimination against gays and lesbians. Unlike the homophile organizations, however, these advocates for “gay liberation” embraced much more aggressive tactics throughout the 1970s.

Therefore, we must understand that communities such as the LGBTQ have worked hard for their freedom, and only now have countries started becoming more open-minded about the concept of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, leading to the legalisation of the same.

Psychological Torture

The people of the LGBTQ+ community have been stigmatized and demonised for years to the point where many different organisations developed therapy centres to “fix” their sexuality and dysphoria. These therapies include methods like starvation, electric shock therapy, lobotomies, invalidation, gaslighting, manipulation and other acts of mental and physical torment that can not only be extremely damaging to the mental health of an individual and lead to disorders like PTSD but can also cause permanent brain damage and be fatal in some cases. Gay/lesbian conversion therapy (the names it most commonly goes by) is only illegalised in 4 countries in the world even though evidence suggests that conversion therapy is ineffective and does not work.

Violence and Bullying

Bullying

The commonality of bullying against the LGBTQ+ community is so widespread that a dedicated term has been coined to describe it “gay-bashing”. As with “normal” bullying, this can take both a physical and verbal form. Unlike normal bullying, however, there is an increased stigma surrounding the community.

Instances of bullying are quite prevalent in educational settings, to the extent that two-thirds of gay and lesbian students in British school had previously experienced some form of gay-bashing, according to a 2007 study. It is important to note that only 50% of teachers showed any response towards homophobia.

Violent Acts

There have been multiple massacres and genocides of the LGBT community all around the world, the most recent ones being in Colombia, with more than 60 LGBT and intersex people murdered. Others include the attacks in Orlando, the pulse massacre, and many more. Brazil has one of the highest crime rates against the LGBT community while Mexico has the highest hate crime against trans people. Most Islamic countries have laws against people of the LGBT community when it comes to rape, assault and violent crimes, Afghanistan being one of the worst. 43.8% of lesbian women and 61.1% of bisexual women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking while 26% of gay men and 37.3% of bisexual men have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking. Domestic abuse is also extremely common among family members.



Honour Killings

Despite being denounced by many cultures, honour killings still take place in society with more than five thousand victims annually, mostly occurring in south-east countries like Pakistan (a thousand killings annually). The stigma regarding LGBT communities leads people to believe that they bring harm to the reputation of their culture and their integrity causing horrifying acts such as lynchings, mob killings, murder and other mental and physical torments. Though this may seem like a problem for developing countries, countries like the United Kingdom experience up to more than 12 honour killings reported a year and the United States of America gets around more than 30 cases of honour killings a year.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer

1. What steps should be taken to address the violence and aversion towards the intersex and LGBT+ community in Latin America?
2. How should the status of same-sex couples be recognised on an international level?
3. How can the recognition of the non-binary and transgender community on legal documents be progressed?
4. What steps should be taken to illegalise gay/lesbian conversion therapy?
5. To what extent is the universalisation of LGBTQ+ rights necessary?
6. What should be done to reduce the number of honour killings in the current hotspots?
7. How should the stigmatisation of the LGBTQ+ community be addressed, with emphasis on Middle Eastern and African countries?
8. Which steps should be taken to reduce harassment, sexualisation, and hate crimes toward the intersex and LGBTQ+ communities?

Closing Remarks

Dear Delegates,

We are extremely delighted that HUS has decided to include SOCHUM as one of its committees at the first online HUS Model United Nations this year. The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee (also known as the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee or SOCHUM or C3 is one of six main committees at the [General Assembly](#) of the [United Nations](#). It deals with human rights, humanitarian affairs and social matters.

With this, SOCHUM aims to leverage the concomitant advantages these goals bring on a global scale. This year, the committee will be discussing an extremely pertinent and important global issue: Universalisation of LGBTQ+ rights. We encourage you to thoroughly prepare for the conference by engaging yourselves in extensive research. There will be certain basic resources you will be able to use in the background guide to follow. This will enable you to gain the best experience possible and give you a better chance of competing for an award.



With the above pages, we hope to have set a starting point to your research with a brief background to the agenda and some important terms relevant to it. We suggest that you first gather detailed knowledge relating to the topics in general and then narrow down your research to your allotted country.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to us on WhatsApp, E-mail or by means of a phone call. We look forward to meeting you at the conference.

With Regards,

Executive Board, SOCHUM

Manas Sadasivuni, Chair, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Important Terms

1. **Domestic violence:** acts of violence or abuse against a person living in one's household, especially a member of one's immediate family
2. **Female Genital Mutilation:** A procedure performed especially as a cultural rite that typically includes the total or partial excision of the female external genitalia and especially the clitoris and labia
3. **Rape Culture:** A society or environment whose prevailing social attitudes have the effect of normalising or trivialising sexual assault and abuse
4. **Honour Killings:** honour killing or shame killing, is the murder of a member of a family, due to the perpetrators' belief that the victim has brought shame or dishonour upon the family, or has violated the principles of a community or a religion with an honour culture
5. **Sex trafficking:** Sex trafficking is human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, including sexual slavery, which is considered a form of modern slavery. A victim is forced, in one of a variety of ways, into a situation of dependency on their trafficker(s) and then used by the trafficker(s) to perform sexual services to customers. Sex trafficking crimes can involve acquisition, transportation and exploitation; this includes child sex tourism (CST), domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) or other kinds of commercial sexual exploitation of children, and prostitution. Sex trafficking is one of the biggest criminal businesses in the world
6. **Rape:** Rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without that person's consent. The act may be carried out by physical force, coercion, abuse of authority, or against a person who is incapable of giving valid consent, such as one who is unconscious, incapacitated, has an intellectual disability or is below the legal age of consent. The definition of rape for prosecution differs from country to country. In India, for example, Rape. A man is said to commit "rape" who, except case hereinafter excepted, has sexual intercourse with a woman in circumstances falling under any of the six following descriptions:



Firstly, against her will.

Secondly, without her consent.

Thirdly, with her consent, when her consent has been obtained by putting her or any person in whom she is interested, in fear of death or of hurt.

Fourthly, with her consent, when the man knows that he is not her husband and that her consent is given because she believes that he is another man to whom she is or believes herself to be lawfully married.

Fifthly, with her consent, when, at the time of giving such consent, by reason of unsoundness of mind or intoxication or the administration by him personally or through another of any stupefying or unwholesome substance, she is unable to understand the nature and consequences of that to which she gives consent.

Sixthly, with or without her consent, when she is under sixteen years of age. Explanation. — Penetration is sufficient to constitute the sexual intercourse necessary to the offence of rape.

Exception. — Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape

7. **Gender bias:** Making decisions based on gender that result in favouring one gender over the other which often results in contexts that are favouring men and/or boys over women and/or girls.

8. **Gender stereotyping:** Ascribing certain attributes, characteristics and roles to people based on their gender

9. **LGBTQQIP2SAA:** LGBTQQIP2SAA stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit (2S), androgynous and asexual.

10. **Homophobia:** dislike of or prejudice against homosexual people.

11. **Transphobia:** dislike of or prejudice against transsexual or transgender people

12. **Gender dysphoria:** Gender dysphoria (GD) is the distress a person feels due to a mismatch between their gender identity and their sex assigned at birth. People with gender dysphoria are typically transgender.

13. **Conversion therapy:** Conversion therapy is the pseudoscientific practise of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological, physical, or spiritual interventions. There is no reliable evidence that sexual orientation can be changed and medical institutions warn that conversion therapy practices are ineffective.

14. **Intersex:** Intersex is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. For example, a person might be born appearing to be female on the outside, but having mostly male-typical anatomy on the inside.

Bibliography

“A History of the World - Object: Ain Sakhri Lovers Figurine.” *BBC*, BBC, www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/vNEwNR8rSzGPSwSn3yeJwA.



HUS Model United Nations Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Aviles, Gwen, and Ariel Jao. "16 Queer Black Pioneers Who Made History." *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 3 June 2020, www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/black-history-month-17-lgbtq-black-pioneers-who-made-history-n1130856.

Farmer, Brett. "France - GLBTQ." *GLBTQ*, GLBTQ, 2015, www.glbqtarchive.com/ssh/france_S.pdf.

Goldman, Emma. "Offener Brief an den Herausgeber der Jahrbücher über Louise Michel" with a preface by Magnus Hirschfeld. *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* 23: 70, 1923

Gay and Lesbian Rights Movements, Encyclopedia of Chicago, 2005, www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/508.html.

Morris, Bonnie J. "History of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Social Movements." *American Psychological Association*, American Psychological Association, www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/history.

"Navratilova Joins Suit over Gay-Rights Law." *The Pueblo Chieftain*, The Pueblo Chieftain, 13 Nov. 1992, www.chieftain.com/b30fb53c-ef25-59d9-beec-023f54a1d773.html.

"UK | Education | Gay Bullying in Schools 'Common'." *BBC News*, BBC, 26 June 2007, news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/6239098.stm.

"# What Is Intersex?" *Intersex Society of North America*, isna.org/faq/what_is_intersex/

"Historical Overview." *International Honour Based Violence Resource Centre*, hbv-awareness.com/history/

"A National Epidemic: Fatal Anti-Transgender Violence in America." *HRC*, www.hrc.org/resources/a-national-epidemic-fatal-anti-trans-violence-in-the-united-states-in-2019.

