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## UNHCR Priorities on Protection and Solutions for LGBTIQ+ People in Forced Displacement

For over a decade, UNHCR has maintained attention and has invested in guidance and activities to ensure that LGBTIQ+ people who are forcibly displaced or stateless can access protection and solutions.

In 2021 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI) co-convoked a [Global Roundtable on Protection and Solutions for LGBTIQ+ People in Forced Displacement](#). The roundtable concluded with a set of recommendations constituting a foundational roadmap for actions by different stakeholders to enhance the protection of and solutions for LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

In 2023 UNHCR published a [stocktaking exercise](#) on how the organization progressed in implementing the 2021 Roundtable recommendations. In June 2023 UNHCR and the IE SOGI co-convoked a follow-up event with key LGBTIQ+ Civil Society Organizations that had previously facilitated the thematic sessions in the 2021 Roundtable. Participants in the event discussed progress made on the main recommendations; shared promising practices in implementing those recommendations; identified current developments and challenges in progress; and prioritized areas for further collective action.

Based on the internal stocktaking and the 2023 follow-up event, UNHCR reconfirmed its strategic directions and prioritized a series of critical actions to continue advancing along the recommendations of the 2021 Roundtable.

### **1. Expand partnership and engagement with national and refugee-led LGBTIQ+ organizations, while fostering collaboration with global and regional LGBTIQ+ advocacy actors.**

UNHCR continues to broaden its outreach and engagement with trusted LGBTIQ+-led organizations that offer a series of inclusive services and assistance, care, safe accommodation, and other specialized support to LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced persons. Collaboration with these organizations is promoted through bilateral partnerships and engagement in refugee coordination mechanisms, both at local and global levels, including in the NGO Consultations and the Global Refugee Forum. Support to these organizations may include operational cooperation in capacity development initiatives, formal partnership, or agile support tailored to the grass-root nature of many of those organizations (e.g. UNHCR [grant agreements](#) or [UNHCR Refugee-led Innovation Fund](#)). UNHCR also continues to engage with global LGBTIQ+ advocacy actors, to share experience and expertise and discuss effective strategies to address challenging contexts or to support solutions.

### **2. Invest in training/capacity development of UNHCR staff and partners to implement inclusive responses.**

UNHCR continues to invest in enhancing the capacity of its staff and partners through [guidance development](#) and [training initiatives](#). UNHCR seeks diverse modalities for knowledge transfer to ensure staff and partners are equipped with the skills required to effectively outreach, identify protection needs, engage with, and facilitate safe access or referral to services for LGBTIQ+ individuals in situations of forced displacement. UNHCR remains committed to collaborate with actors with lived experience and expertise to update its guidance and contextualize training material, and to reflect on successful approaches drawn from field operations.

### **3. Improve systems and processes for ethical, safe, proportional, and standardized collection and recording of SOGIESC data.**

Where needed and appropriate, UNHCR is committed to improve data collection to establish evidence supporting advocacy, and to enhance protection referrals to services or to opportunities for solutions,

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in strict accordance with data protection principles and standards. This involves making adaptations and supplementing guidance on harmonized recording and use of information within internal systems, expanding the use of participatory approaches to strengthen dialogue with LGBTIQ+ people, and refining internal statistics on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.

#### **4. Pursue strategic advocacy with States, humanitarian and development actors, and human rights mandate-holders.**

UNHCR remains committed to safeguarding the fundamental human right to seek and enjoy asylum and promote accessible, fair, inclusive, and safe access to quality procedures for all individuals, including those seeking asylum due a [well-founded fear of persecution due to their diverse sex orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics](#). At national level, UNHCR supports authorities to build fair and effective asylum systems and advocates for non-discriminatory access to asylum procedures and the respect of human rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals, including through coordinated inter-agency initiatives. Globally, UNHCR maintains regular engagement with the UN Independent Expert on SOGI to raise visibility and mobilize solidarity on the plight of LGBTIQ+ persons in forced displacement. In addition, UNHCR actively participates in the UN system-wide efforts to advocate for the protection from violence and discrimination of LGBTIQ+ individuals.

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