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Introduction

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action

UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality, and in all deliberations and agreements linked to the 2030 Agenda. The entity works to position gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals, and a more inclusive world.

Introduction to the topic

Agenda

To analyse and evaluate solutions pertaining to the rights of transgender women and their role in the UN WOMEN forum.

History of the topic

The Stonewall Riots, also called the Stonewall Uprising, began in the early hours of June 28, 1969 when New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club located in Greenwich Village in New York City. The raid sparked a riot among bar patrons and neighborhood residents as police roughly hauled employees and patrons out of the bar, leading to six days of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement outside the bar on Christopher Street, in neighboring streets and in nearby Christopher Park. The Stonewall Riots changed the lives of LGBTQIA+ members in the United States and all around the world

Although transgender women like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera put their lives on the line to fight for the rights of LGBTQIA+ members, many transgender women are yet going through harassment and discrimination to this day.

In 2019, advocates tracked at least 27 deaths of at least transgender or gender non-conforming people in the U.S. due to fatal violence, the majority of whom were Black transgender women.

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These victims, like all of us, are loving partners, parents, family members, friends and community members. They worked, went to school and attended church. They were real people -- people who did not deserve to have their lives taken from them.

These victims were killed by acquaintances, partners or strangers, some of whom have been arrested and charged, while others have yet to be identified. Some of these cases involve clear anti-transgender bias. In others, the victim's transgender status may have put them at risk in other ways, such as forcing them into unemployment, poverty, homelessness and/or survival sex work.

While the details of these cases differ, it is clear that fatal violence disproportionately affects transgender women of color -- particularly Black transgender women -- and that the intersections of racism, sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and unchecked access to guns conspire to deprive them of employment, housing, healthcare, travel and other necessities.

Current Issues

Despite the dramatic progress of the transgender movement in the last decade, resulting in greater public awareness and significant legal victories, trans people continue to face blatant discrimination, high levels of violence, and poor health outcomes. Trans people of color often face worse health and economic outcomes as they navigate multiple systems of oppression. We've highlighted some key issues below:

- **Health** – Transgender people face enormous health disparities, including staggering rates of HIV infection, lack of primary care (including individualized, medically necessary transition-related healthcare), and high rates of attempted suicide. They don't have enough money for themselves to buy hormones and for them it is a necessity because without it they could face serious physical and mental health related problems.
- **Economics** – Transgender people bear the economic consequences of discrimination, including high rates of poverty and unemployment, discrimination in education, and homelessness. Trans people are more than twice as likely to live in extreme poverty (earning under \$10,000 a year), with Latinx transgender people facing three-and-a-half times, and Black transgender people facing three times, the poverty rate of the general U.S. population.
- **Safety** – Transgender people, and Black transgender women especially, experience frightening levels of physical violence. This is particularly true among transgender people participating in sex work and other informal or criminalized economies. Brutal murders of

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transgender women occur with such alarming regularity, often with little response from law enforcement.

- Civil Rights – Recognition and respect for the civil rights of trans people is critically important because their legal needs span many aspects of life. These needs include identity documents that accurately reflect who they are, protections from employment discrimination, and immigration rights, to name only a few.

UN Women's relations with transgender women

UN Women hosts first high-level event on gender diversity and non-binary identities at UN headquarters

In the first ever high-level meeting on gender diversity and non-binary identities held at UN headquarters in New York, Member States, UN entities and civil society came together to discuss the current state of LGBTI rights globally.

“We are at a stage where there is tremendous, one might say unprecedented progress,” said Imara Jones, journalist and moderator of the event. “There are trans people and gender nonconforming people and gay people, and lesbian people and bisexual people who have been elected to offices around the world. There’s a tremendous amount of advancements of rights, both in the global north and the global south, and of course tremendous representation in the media... But the violence and the backlash is also unprecedented and in some places in the world, historic.”

The event, hosted by UN Women, OutRight Action International, The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations, UN Globe, UN OHCHR and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, gave space to trans and gender non-conforming individuals to speak on their experiences and call for the UN and the global community to take action to protect their human rights.

Bloc Positions

A C Dumlao

(they / them / theirs) is a transgender non-binary first-generation Filipino-American activist. As Program Manager at TLDEF, they manage The Name Change Project, which connects TGNCNB (transgender, gender non-conforming, non-binary) people with lawyers providing pro bono representation during the legal name change process. Additionally, AC leads TLDEF's community education initiatives and is the lead trainer for trans cultural competency presentations and workshops.

Alok Vaid Menon

Alok Vaid-Menon is an Indian-American writer, performance artist, and media personality who performs under the moniker ALOK. Alok is gender non-conforming and transfeminine and uses singular *they* pronouns. They are internationally renowned for their creative work which they have presented in over 40 countries. As a mixed-media artist Alok uses poetry, comedy, performance, drag, lecture, sound-art, fashion design, self-portraiture, and social media to explore themes of gender, race, trauma, belonging, and the human condition. Their artistry responds to violence against trans and gender non-conforming people, calling for freedom from constraining gender norms. They advocate for bodily diversity, gender neutrality, and self-determination. In 2019 they advocated for the complete degendering of fashion and beauty industries.

Mia Yamamoto

Mia Yamamoto is a criminal defense attorney and civil rights activist based in Los Angeles. She is a transgender woman of Japanese American descent, born in the Poston War Relocation Center during World War II. She served in the U.S. Army from 1966-68 in the 4th Infantry Division, USARV. She was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. Ms. Yamamoto has also served on the ABA's Commission on Sexual and Gender Diversity.

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Thomas Trace Beatie

Thomas Trace Beatie is an American public speaker, author, and advocate of transgender and sexuality issues, with a focus on transgender fertility and reproductive rights. In early 1997, Beatie came out as a trans man. Beatie had gender reassignment surgery in March 2002 and became known as "the pregnant man" after he became pregnant through artificial insemination in 2007. Beatie chose to be pregnant because his wife Nancy was infertile, doing so with cryogenic donated sperm. Beatie has since given birth to four children. The couple filed for divorce in 2012. The Beatie case is the first of its kind on record, where a documented legal male gave birth within a heterosexual marriage to a woman, and for the first time, a court challenged a marriage where the husband gave birth.

Denmark

Denmark is one of the most progressive countries when it comes to the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Same-sex sexual activity has been legal here since 1933. Denmark was the first country in the world to grant legal recognition to same-sex unions, in the form of registered partnerships, in 1989. Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation was entirely prohibited since 1996. Denmark has allowed same-sex couples to jointly adopt since 2010, while previously allowing stepchild adoptions and limited co-guardianship rights for non-biological parents. However, Denmark has a historical lack of accessible healthcare and laws protecting transgender Danes. It was and still is scarce in surgeons who perform gender affirmation surgeries and those that do are not covered by public healthcare. Additionally, transgender Danes have trouble getting hormone replacement therapy and trans-inclusive psychotherapy.

Argentina

In 2012, a pioneering law was passed in Argentina that allows people to choose their gender by filling out a form and without the need to undergo a medical procedure. It also made access to hormonal treatments and gender reassignment surgery available through the public health system. That legal shift paved the way for the South American country to emerge as a regional beacon of progress on elevating gender issues in public life — even though violence and discrimination remain rampant.

Sweden

In 1972, Sweden became the first country in the world to allow transgender people to change their legal gender. Since then reforms have been made, including in 2013 striking

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out the forced sterilization of transgender people seeking gender reassignment. Since 01 January 2019 a new law recognizes trans people who are parents according to their legally recognized gender identity in their child's documents. Trans men who give birth are designated as "father" and trans women who beget a child as "mother". The Swedish law is a first in Europe recognizing trans parenthood so clearly and thus implementing the demand from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to document trans people's parenthood according to their gender identity.

Angelica Ross

Angelica Ross is an American businesswoman, actress, and transgender rights advocate. A self-taught computer coder, she went on to become founder and CEO of TransTech Social Enterprises, a firm that helps employ transgender people in the tech industry. Ross launched TransTech Social Enterprises in Chicago in 2014. The nonprofit creative design firm trains and contracts transgender and other workers. Melissa Harris-Perry brought more attention to the firm in 2015, choosing Ross as her show's first "Foot Soldier" of the year. Ross was a featured speaker at the 2015 White House LGBTQ Tech and Innovation Summit. She was also a celebrity ambassador to the 50th Anniversary Stonewall celebration that took place in June 2019 during Pride. On September 20, 2019, Ross hosted the 2020 Presidential Candidate Forum on LGBTQ Issues. This made her the first openly transgender person to host an American presidential forum. On September 28, 2019, Ross was a featured speaker at the National Trans Visibility March in Washington D.C.

Canada

Conversion therapy for transgender Canadians is legal in all provinces and territories, except Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. ... And on 9 March 2020, the Minister of Justice introduced Bill C-8, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy). As of May 2020, there is no Canadian federal ban on conversion therapy. In a recent nationwide survey, 74% of transgender youth reported experiencing verbal harassment in school, and 37% reported experiencing physical violence. Transgender individuals in Ontario face unemployment over three times the national rate and many more are underemployed. As a result of discrimination and bullying, the trans community faces high rates of mental health issues. Rates of depression are as high as two-thirds; 77% of transgender individuals in Ontario report having considered suicide, and 43% have attempted suicide at least once.

Malaysia

Trans people in Malaysia are seen as “deviants” who live against the norms of society. Government officials and many religious leaders have fueled transphobia and homophobia for years. Even former Prime Minister Najib Razak said that LGBT people (referring to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people) are enemies of Islam, along with liberalism and pluralism. On 10 July 2020, Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri announced in a social media post that he had given the Jawi authorities “full licence to carry out its enforcement actions” against transgender persons in Malaysia. He elaborated that his order would beyond arresting transgender persons but would also extend to providing them “religious education” so that they would “return to the right path”. Across the country in 13 states and the federal territories, a “male” who “poses” as a woman or wears the clothing of a “woman” may be subjected to criminal liability under state-level religious enactments. Consensual same-sex sexual relations are criminalized as “unnatural offences” in both secular civil law and religious state-level laws. These “offences” carry heavy penalties in the form of fines, imprisonment and corporal punishment in the form of caning, which constitutes impermissible cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment under international law and standards.

Sri Lanka

Homosexuality is considered illegal in Sri Lanka, with up to 10 years of prison for “carnal knowledge” against order of nature. In 2016, Sri Lanka’s Supreme Court condemned the current penal codes criminalizing same-sex relations; however, the laws remain on the books. These laws, in addition to Sri Lanka’s vague Vagrancy Ordinances, provide legal coverage for police targeting, harassment, and extortion of LGBTIQ people. Prosecutions under these laws are uncommon, yet they contribute to widespread antipathy towards LGBTIQ people. Public officials have stated that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is implicitly banned under the Sri Lankan Constitution, but LGBTIQ people regularly experience discrimination. The National Human Rights Action Plan for 2017-2021 failed to protect against discrimination explicitly on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Gender Recognition Circular was issued in 2016. The process was implemented the same year and appears to be working smoothly. Legal gender recognition can be obtained within 3-5 days, with the new identity card containing no gender history. Public officials have mixed reactions to LGBTIQ issues. While some politicians disparage LGBTIQ identities

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as an illness or an “import from Western culture,” other politicians have begun to express tentative support for the human rights of LGBTIQ people. The media disseminates inaccurate information about LGBTIQ issues, which reinforces the general public’s view that LGBTIQ people threaten culture, religion, and traditional values of Sri Lanka.

United Arab Emirates

Article 354 means male homosexuality is punishable by death. Female homosexuality on the other hand, is not mentioned. The United Arab Emirates legalized gender reassignment surgery for individuals whose physical features do not match with their physiological characteristics in 2016, but 3 men who underwent procedures abroad were not allowed to change their gender markers in the national registry in a 2018 test case. The UAE is one of a few countries in the world that prohibit transgender women’s very existence, punishing “any male dressed in female apparel” with a prison term. In the past, the UAE government has arrested transgender tourists traveling in the country and threatened them with deportation. In August 2016, Canadian model Gigi Gorgeous, who is trans, reported being detained at the Dubai airport and then being denied entry.

Lebanon

Article 534 of Lebanon’s criminal code implicitly prohibits homosexuality as homosexual acts are usually classified under “any sexual intercourse contrary to the order of nature.”

Punishment can include up to one year in prison. The law, originally enacted by French colonizers, is often cited to prosecute cases against LGBT individuals. In a groundbreaking 2018 case, one district court dismissed charges under Article 534. “The appeals court judge denounced the law’s discriminatory intrusion in people’s private lives and declared that homosexuality is not ‘unnatural,’” Human Rights Watch reported. Gay men and transgender women have spoken out on abuse from police and other security officials. Some reported being raped with an iron rod or beaten with electric cables.

Lebanese police are known to perform anal examinations on men to prove or force “confessions” of homosexual acts. The government has spoken out against these examinations but has yet to enforce a blanket ban. Lebanon made headlines as the first Arab country to celebrate pride week. As activists looked forward to the opportunity, the government canceled the groundbreaking celebration’s opening event. Authorities cited a need to protect participants, who faced hostile threats. Subsequent pride week events have continuously faced cancelation. Security officers also tried to shut down a September 2018 conference on LGBT rights in Beirut. The attempted shutdown came in response to a call from the Muslim Scholars Association. They had asked for

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the organizers' arrests and conference cancellation, citing a legal clause on "incitement to immorality."

Norway is very open-minded towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) rights. Norway put in force an anti-discrimination law explicitly including sexual orientation. Same-sex marriage, adoption, and insemination treatments for lesbian couples have been legal since 2009. Norway then passed a law allowing the change of legal gender for transgender people solely based on self-determination.

UK Transgender rights in the United Kingdom had been established since the 1990s, with the granting of rights and protection to the transgender community. The laws pertain to areas of identity documents, marriage rights, and anti-discrimination measures in the areas of employment, education, housing, and services.

India declared transgender people a socially and economically backward class and were allowed to have reservations in education and jobs and directed union and state governments to frame welfare schemes for them. It was then ruled that transgender people have a right to change their gender without any sort of surgery and ensured equal treatment for transgender people along with banning discrimination based on gender identity.

Malta has been recognized for providing a high degree of liberty to its LGBT citizens. Transgender and intersex rights in Malta are of the highest standard in the world under the Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act, which permits transgender people to change their legal gender without medical interventions and bans surgeries on intersex infants along with same sex marriages being approved in 2017.

Donald Trump called for the exclusion of trans women from beauty pageants. Trump called the open military service of transgender Americans a result of a "politically correct military". He said he said he would seek new recommendations from military leaders on the topic of transgender personnel and would "very strongly" defer to those recommendations and also said he will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in the military because victory could not be burdened with the medical costs transgenders require. Trump criticized the North Carolina House Bill 2, which eliminated all private employment and public accommodation anti-discrimination laws that were stricter than state-wide law and required that, in government buildings, individuals

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may use only restrooms and changing facilities that correspond to the sex on their birth certificates. The bill was controversial because it prevented transgender people who do not or cannot alter their birth certificates from using the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

Indonesia the status of transgender persons in Indonesia is complex. Cross-dressing is not, per se, illegal and some public tolerance is given to some transgender people working in beauty salons or the entertainment industry. Transgender people can change their legal gender on official documents after undergoing sex reassignment surgery and after receiving a judge's approval. Individuals who undergo such surgery are later capable of marrying people of the same biological sex. Discrimination, harassment, even violence directed at transgender people is not uncommon. Indonesian law does not protect transgender people from discrimination or harassment. Transgender people find it difficult to find employment and are often forced into prostitution and other illegal activities to survive.

Nigeria Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons in Nigeria face legal and social challenges not experienced by non-LGBT residents. The country does not allow or recognize LGBT rights. There is no legal protection against discrimination in Nigeria. Very few LGBT persons are open about their orientation, and violence against LGBT people is frequent. Both male and female same-sex sexual activity is illegal in Nigeria. The maximum punishment in the twelve northern states that have adopted Shari'a law is death by stoning.

JK Rowling The British author tweeted out a series of statements about the transgender community, Rowling's posts began after she read an article that included the phrase "people who menstruate." In context, the article was about access to sanitary supplies during covid-19. It referenced "women" and "girls," but also "gender non-binary persons." " 'People who menstruate,' " Rowling snarked online. "I'm sure there used to be a word for those people. Someone help me out. Wumben? Wimpund? Woomud?" A few minutes later, she expanded on why the phrase apparently upset her: "If sex isn't real, the lived reality of women globally is erased," she wrote. "I know and love trans people, but erasing the concept of sex removes the ability of many to meaningfully discuss their lives. It isn't hate to speak the truth."

Iraq In Iraq, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTQIA+) persons are subject to widespread discrimination. Openly gay men are not permitted to serve in the military and same sex marriage or civil unions are illegal. LGBT persons do not have any legal protections against discrimination and are frequently

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Russia Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQIA+) people in Russia face legal and social challenges not experienced by non-LGBTQIA+ people. Transgender people are allowed to change their legal gender following sex reassignment surgery, however, there are currently no laws prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity or expression and recent laws could discriminate against transgender residents. In Tsarist Russia, young women would sometimes pose as men or act like tomboys. This was often tolerated among the educated middle classes, with the assumption that such behavior was asexual and would stop when the girl married. However, cross-dressing was widely seen as sexually immoral behavior, punishable by God promoted through the Church and later criminalized by the government. In Soviet Russia, sex reassignment surgeries were first tried during the 1920s but became prohibited until the 1960s. Later they were performed by Prof. Irina Golubeva, an endocrinologist, authorized by psychiatrist Prof. Aron Belkin.



Questions A Resolution Must Answer

1. Should sex reassignment surgery be legal in all countries?
2. Should it be legal for people to change their gender on official documents without having sex reassignment surgery?
3. Should all governments provide transgender people with free healthcare facilities?
4. Should transgender people be given a special status/position in the UN Women forum?
5. Should a separate committee be formed for transgender people, especially transgender women and their rights?
6. Should transgender people be decriminalized in all countries?
7. Even if transgender people are not legally accepted in certain countries, should they still be allowed to travel there?
8. Should there be gender fluid bathrooms for binary people?
9. Should governments provide free hormone treatments for transitioning people?
10. Should governments provide free pads and tampons for menstruating men as well as women?
11. Should governments provide Covid-19 relief kits for badly affected transgender communities?
12. Should there be laws and serious punishments for racist acts towards transgender people of colour?
13. Should there be laws protecting transgender women from sexual assault, harassment and discrimination in places of employment, healthcare and education systems?
14. How can transgender women play a more active role in the UN WOMEN forum?
15. Should the government form centers for transgender youth to live and also provide their education after they have been removed from their houses and disowned by their family?
16. How can governments reduce the alarmingly high rates of violence against transgender people and increase their safety?
17. How can governments increase the representation of transgender women in international forums and certain careers?
18. Should transgender women be included in female communities or be a part of international organizations such as Un Women?

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