

Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

TERRY FOX



LGBTQ+ Rights in Developing Nations

Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee of Terry Fox MUN! My name is Nathan Yee and it is my pleasure to serve as the Director of this committee alongside my Chair, Nava Karimi, and my Assistant Director, Danelle Anderson.

I am a student in grade 11 attending Eric Hamber Secondary School. I began Model UN in 2018 and immediately grew a passion for international relations and participating in conferences filled with fruitful debate. The knowledge and experience I have gained from Model UN has inspired me to work harder in my classes. Outside of MUN, I had the exciting opportunity of attending to SHAD program as well as the Vimy Beaverbrook Prize program. I believe that attending Model United Nations is incredibly valuable for not just one's self but also for the world. By attending these conferences we are able to truly grow as individuals and evoke positive change upon the world. These experiences that you gain through Model United Nations will last with you forever, with research, preparation, and communication skills, one can truly grow their skills and gain a broader perspective for the global community. I hope that this first iteration of Terry Fox MUN will help your passion for diplomacy and debate grow as well as strengthen your skills in debate, research, and communications. Furthermore, I hope that this conference will give you a deeper and more profound understanding for the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee as well as LGBTQ+ rights in developing nations across the globe.

Over the course of the day, we will address the issues surrounding LGBTQ+ rights in developing nations. This topic is extremely diverse and discussed in SOCHUM. This backgrounder will provide you with a convenient overview of the topic and help you with your research. We wish you good luck ahead on your adventure ahead with Model United Nations and hope that you have a great experience at Terry Fox MUN.

Best Regards,

Nathan Yee

SOCHUM Director

TFMUN 2019

Committee Description

The rights of people in the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) community have been a highly discussed issue for centuries. Although much of the debate happens privately in individual homes, the UN has a responsibility to ensure human rights are protected within each of the member states. LGBT rights are considered human rights and civil rights although the laws regarding the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community vary by country and territory. Rights for LGBT people include standards such as recognition of same sex marriage, allowing gay couples to adopt and parent a child, immigration equality laws, violence against LGBT people, laws surrounding sexual orientation in the military, and blood donation. The problem, while it may seem straightforward, is very complex and must be solved in a comprehensive manner. There has been a lot of debate over homosexuality, often influenced by relevant biblical studies, religious writings, evolutionary patterns. One argument is that humans are built to reproduce which homosexuality blatantly ignores. Nations around the world have actively oppressed LGBTQ+ people and only recently started promoting equality. In many places being gay is still considered punishable by death.

History and Timeline

The history of LGBTQ+ rights is diverse for every nation. Many nations that are at the forefront of LGBTQ+ rights have gone through many significant events to get to their LGBTQ+ status today. Here we will see how USA has developed as a nation to accept LGBTQ+ rights.

In 1924, Henry Gerber founded The Society For Human Rights in Chicago, the first gay rights organization.

In 1955, Daughters of Bilitis, the first known lesbian rights organization formed in San Francisco hosting private social functions.

In 1961, was when the first state in USA, Illinois, decriminalized homosexuality.

In 1969, Stonewall Inn protests and demonstrations begin and “The Advocate” began publishing a newsletter by the activist group, Personal Rights in Defense and Education (PRIDE)

In 1973, Lambda Legal is the first legal organization established to fight for legal rights of gays and lesbians. Additionally, The American psychiatric association removes homosexuality from its list of mental disorders

In 1982, Wisconsin becomes the first state to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In 2000, Vermont becomes the first state to legalize civil-unions between same-sex couples.

In 2004, the first legal same-sex marriage in the United States takes place in Massachusetts.

Latest Developments

Many different nations had made a vast variety of developments in regards of LGBTQ+ rights. Although there have been developments many nations still have made no attempt to proliferate the rights of LGBTQ+ rights. Right up until today, nations have criminalized and decriminalized homosexual acts frequently.

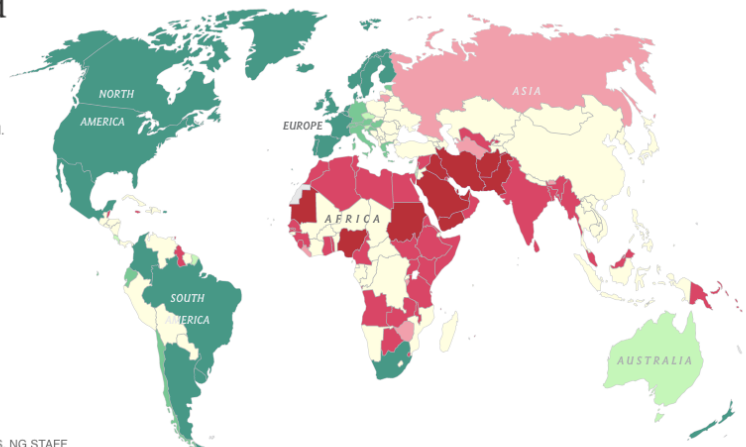
Up until 2008, the UN played no role in the regulation or protection of LGBT rights. In December 2008, the first ever UN report on the rights of LGBT people was introduced to the general assembly by a French and Dutch initiated EU backed statement. This prompted opposition by an Arab League backed statement and was never officially accepted. In mid June, South Africa initiated a resolution in the UN Human Rights Council which detailed how people around the world are executed or forced to endure hate crimes, torture, jail, discrimination in jobs or healthcare or education because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It was issued on December 15 that year and served as the first major advancement for the LGBT community. The report also talked about homophobic and transphobic violence that exists in every region of the world. Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed in the report that countries should repeal laws that criminalize homosexuality, abolish capital punishment for offenses involving consensual sexual relationships and recommended enacted anti-discrimination laws. The LGBT community also have fewer rights in developing nations. Homosexuality is illegal in 73 countries which are in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa

Current Problems

1. Same sex marriage and adoption
 - a) As of May 2019, same-sex marriage is recognised in 27 countries
 - b) Of the 594,000 same-sex couple households in the United States, 115,000 have children.
 - c) Many have believed that a father and mother is a necessity for raising a child but over the years the number of same-sex adoption has risen drastically
 - d) Poverty rates/lower incomes/healthcare insurance exclusion
2. Poverty rates/lower incomes/healthcare insurance exclusion
 - a) Higher risk of being homeless when they are young due to harassment, and discrimination at school or workplace
 - b) Being denied the economic benefits of marriage.
 - c) Twenty-four percent of lesbian and bisexual women are poor
 - d) African-American lesbians have the highest rates of poverty among same-sex couples
 - e) Discrimination in health care settings endangers LGBTQ people's lives through delays or denials of medically necessary care
 - f) 29 percent of people from the CAP survey stated that a doctor or other health care provider refused to see them because of their actual or perceived gender identity.
3. Criminalization of LGBT people

A World Divided

Laws addressing same-sex relationships vary radically across the globe, from full marital recognition to imprisonment and even death. While laws in most affluent, secular countries have shifted in favor of acceptance, many anti-LGBT laws from a colonial past remain in the developing world.



ROSEMARY WARDLEY AND RYAN WILLIAMS, NG STAFF
SOURCE: AENGUS CARROLL, INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL, TRANS AND INTERSEX ASSOCIATION

Current Problems (2)

- a) Higher risk of being homeless when they are young due to harassment, and discrimination at school or workplace
 - b) Sudan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen call for the death penalty nationwide for same-sex relations
 - c) Criminalization is centered mainly in Africa and the Middle East but also persists in the Caribbean
4. Death penalty
 5. Mental health issues arising

Bloc Positions

There are many diverse bloc positions regarding LGBTQ+ rights. Most blocs are on similar stances based on their continental locations.

Africa:

Each region has its own opinions and customs, however most African nations strongly condemn homosexuals and homosexual activity. Every single North African country has criminalized same sex sexual activity within their borders, making it punishable by death or imprisonment. Marriages between same sex couples and adoption is not allowed and LGBT people are not allowed to serve in the military. In Western Africa, the laws are less harsh but not by much. There are no laws against same sex sexual activity in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Niger but there is no tolerance for homosexual marriages or adoptions in all nations and LGBT people can't serve openly in the military either. In other parts of Africa, customs vary.

The America's:

The America's have an excellent history in terms of LGBT acceptance and accommodation for the most part. The US Supreme Court legalized same sex marriage and adoption. Some American nations continue to oppose the trend toward global acceptance, or merely a don't ask don't tell policy. Statistics are divided in Central America and in the Caribbean, some nations have complete tolerance some are completely intolerant. Every South American country allows homosexual intercourse but very few permit same sex marriage, adoption, and equal rights in other categories.

Bloc Positions

Asia:

Almost every Asian nation has legalized homosexual relationships but most don't allow same sex marriages or occupation of equal rights to that of heterosexuals. Israel serves as the only outstanding anomaly within Asia because of its accepting army and recognition of homosexual relationships. Other nations open to the LGBT community in Asia include Nepal, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Cyprus, and the Philippines. Some nations opposing the UN resolution include Indonesia, Malaysia, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates.

Europe:

Every single state in the European Union has legalized same sex sexual activity. Countries that don't belong to the EU vary in terms of LGBT rights but overall the statistics within Europe are pleasing to the international community and similar to that of the America's.

Oceania:

Both Australia and New Zealand have a lot of acceptance for LGBT people. Australia has proven to be very tolerant but has federally opposed same sex marriage. New Zealand recently legalized same sex marriage and gave LGBT people the exact same opportunities as heterosexuals

Guiding Questions

1. Why did some developed nations decide to improve LGBTQ+ rights and why should developing nations follow in their footsteps?
2. How can the stigma surrounding LGBTQ+ be removed from societies that are not welcoming towards them?
3. What has been done in the past to proliferate in LGBTQ+ rights in other countries that may be effective?
4. What can your nation do to condemn the unethical actions done towards LGBTQ+ people in developing countries?
5. What is your nation's current stance on LGBTQ+ education and awareness campaigns at a young age?
6. Can LGBTQ+ people be lifted out of poverty through NGO's?