



children first.

LGBTIQ

UNICEF's Role in Combatting Discrimination and Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Intersex and Queer People

On September 29, 2015, 12 United Nations entities released a joint statement calling for an end to violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ) people. The statement calls on countries and other stakeholders to increase their efforts to repeal discriminatory laws and protect individuals from discrimination, violence, torture and ill-treatment.

UNICEF's overarching mandate is to support the realization of the rights of every child. The organization's work with LGBTIQ children, and those who are perceived as LGBTIQ, illustrates the mandate's emphasis on supporting the most marginalized children. UNICEF works to address issues affecting LGBTIQ children and the children of LGBTIQ parents through programming in areas from social inclusion and protection, to health and education. UNICEF supports laws, policies, and practices that promote healthy and safe development for every child regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

Around the world, UNICEF is engaging in advocacy, research and programmatic activities that address issues pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity:

- In Brazil, UNICEF supports LGBTIQ adolescents through trainings, advocacy, and communications. Support has included a three-day leadership training of 30 LGBTIQ adolescents who were identified as leaders in their respective regions. The training addressed a range of areas including health, the law, communications and

mobilization strategies. Participants established working groups to implement a one-year work plan.

- In Nepal, a social, civic, and financial skills training program, known as "Rupantaran" ("transformation"), has been implemented among the most disadvantaged young people, with targeted LGBTIQ interventions. The program involves weekly, interactive sessions to support young people in influencing decisions that affect them.
- UNICEF Bangladesh launched a sexual and reproductive health (SRH) incentivized voucher scheme in Dhaka targeting both young males who have sex with males and transgender people. The scheme was particularly effective in linking adolescent males who have sex with males with SRH services, and brought about key lessons for linking transgender people with SRH services.
- In Jamaica, an assessment was conducted as part of the HIV/AIDS Country Assessment process. This produced the country's first population and prevalence estimates for adolescent males who have sex with males and trans populations. Civil society partners are now in the process of designing intervention activities based on this information.

Finally, UNICEF continues to address issues and concerns relating to LGBTIQ people within its staff training module as part of training on diversity and tolerance. ●

About UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization by providing health care and immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. UNICEF USA supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood.

For more information, visit unicefusa.org.