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LGBT and Human Rights



PART 1 IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, OCTOBER 26 – NOVEMBER 13, 2009
PART 2 IN ASIA REGION, MAY 31 – JUNE 4, 2010

Invitation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, Advanced International Training Programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development in the participants' countries. The International Training Programmes are specially designed for persons qualified to participate in reform processes of strategic importance on different levels and holding a position in home organisation with mandate to run processes of change. This methodology is based on the assumption that your country wishes to carry out changes and is willing to invest own resources to achieve these changes. In the long-term perspective the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the participants' countries.

The training is focused on support to individual or team plans for change. The plan shall be well established in the participant's organisation and is a basic part of the programme concept.

In this brochure you will find information on the specific objectives for this particular programme, its content and structure, and how and when to apply. You will also find an application form.

Sida and the Swedish Government have recognised the need to strengthen LGBT persons' human rights internationally. In Sweden's international policy on sexual and reproductive health and rights, it is

stated that Sweden will work internationally for decriminalisation of sexual relations between persons of the same sex, as well as for the introduction of protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. The training programme we hereby invite to will hopefully be building capacities and create useful networks for key persons and organisations in order to work towards these goals.

The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) has more than 70 years of experience in working with sexuality education as well as with sexual and reproductive health and rights in Sweden and internationally. The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Rights, (RFSL), has over 50 years of experience in working for LGBT health and rights through advocacy and support. With funding from Sida, RFSU and RFSL will together organise and conduct the training programme on LGBT and Human Rights.

Participants working in fields where they can have an influence on the respect for LGBT persons' human rights through their positions within NGOs, political, juridical or religious systems, or in other relevant organisations, are invited to participate. We trust that the programme will contribute to the strengthening of individual and organisational capacities and it is with a great pleasure we hereby invite you to apply.




Anders Nordström
Director General
Sida




Åsa Regnér
Secretary General
RFSU




Sören Juvas
President
RFSL

Programme Objective

The objective of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons (LGBT) and Human Rights training programme is that participants after the programme should

- have an understanding on how societal conditions such as power, poverty and development are influenced by gender identity and sexual orientation
- be able to use international and regional treaties, laws and conventions that apply to LGBT persons' human rights, and to be able to use surveillance organs connected to such treaties etc.
- be able to advocate for national legislative changes to benefit LGBT persons' human rights
- be able to mobilise activism supporting LGBT persons' human rights
- have developed skills in management, funding, financial reporting, planning with Logical Framework Approach (LFA) or strategic advocacy, or other skills necessary for working towards improved LGBT person's human rights

- be able to disseminate knowledge and experiences gained in the programme
- have access to a sustainable network supporting the work for improved LGBT persons' human rights
- have perspectives and tools to empower LGBT

Contents

Week 1: Sexualities, Norms and Genders

Week 2: Human Rights and Protection for LGBT Persons

Week 3: Supporting LGBT in Practice

Week 4: Regional follow-up

Within these themes there will be lectures, group discussions and workshops on:

- Perspectives on Sexualities, Gender Identities and Sexual Orientation
- Sexual Health and Sexual Rights
- LGBT and the Right to Health
- The World and Violation of LGBT Human Rights
- Religion and LGBT Human Rights
- Human Rights – International Law. Conventions and Treaties.

- International and National Advocacy Work for LGBT
- Planning with LFA
- Education as Method for Change
- Parliamentarians' and Politicians' Work for Change
- Empowerment of LGBT
- Strategic Advocacy Work
- Study Visits
- Governmental Bodies and Work for LGBT Human Rights
- SWOT-Analysis
- Region-Specific Challenges

Programme Structure

The programme is divided into two parts. The first part takes place during three weeks in Sweden in November 2009 and focuses on theoretical and practical components within the field of LGBT and Human Rights. After this, time is given to participants to work with their own projects in their respective countries. Mentors will be assigned for feedback on the progress. A follow-up week will take place in the participants' region six months after

the first three weeks in Sweden. An Internet site will be established for enabling easy networking and support between the participants. Participants that apply for the programme should have a project or a programme – “Project for Change” – that is applicable to LGBT and Human Rights, or plan to have one, that is commencing or running during the first half-year of 2010. In the selection process, priority will be given to applicants with relevant Projects for Change. All applicants should be advised that the programme does not entail funding for such projects of change.

Dates and places

The first part of the programme will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, October 26th – November 13th 2009. The second part will take place in Asia region, May 31th – June 4th, 2010.

Teaching

Swedish and international experts with extensive experience from LGBT and Human Rights issues and international Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) projects will give lectures and hold workshops. The course will deal with theoretical and practical components of LGBT and Human Rights as well as general and personal capacity to understand and perform tasks within the field. There will be a combination of lectures, participatory exercises, group work and field visits. The resource persons and facilitators are persons of expertise that are experienced in the fields of law and social sciences. Subject specialists on sexuality, sexual orientation, sexual health, gender, rights, advocacy and planning processes will be included.

Management and staff

The programme is planned and implemented by RFSU in institutional partnership with RFSL.

The programme steering committee with members from both organisations as well as from Faculty of Law at Uppsala University is responsible for the programme content and the selection of participants in collaboration with Sida. The programme secretariat is managed by RFSU.

Participation

Target regions:

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Target Group:

The programme is designed for participants working in organisations or sectors giving them an influence on issues concerning LGBT and human rights.

The course is open only for application by participants from countries mentioned above.

Requested qualifications are:

- A minimum of three years working experience in either LGBT or Human Rights’ field
- Academic degree in social sciences, law, public health or related fields of study

Applicants should have plans for, or ongoing, projects aiming at enhancing the human rights for LGBT persons in their respective country. The participants can be:

- Decision makers and public opinion builders, eg. at ministerial or other political levels who have influence on SRHR or HR policies and programmes, legislative processes, human rights, and values in society related to sexuality, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- NGO representatives working with LGBT or rights issues.

Language requirements

Excellent speaking and writing skills in English

Application Process

**Closing date for application is
April 3th, 2009.**

Applications submitted after closing date will not be considered. Applications should be written on the special form attached and include a recent photograph and required information and documents, including a description of the participant’s Project for Change. An English language test should be made with an official body in the home country of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support her/his ability.

The Swedish Embassy/Consulate does not carry out language tests but may be able to recommend appropriate language institutes for conducting tests. When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country. Applications should be submitted to the nearest Swedish Embassy. If there is no Swedish Embassy/Consulate in the applicant’s country, the application should be submitted directly to Programme Secretariat. Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail or fax. Once accepted, the applicant must confirm participation. An invitation letter will be sent out, containing additional information on the programme and the practical arrangements.

Family members are not allowed to accompany participants to the programme.

Cost of Participation

The cost of the programme is divided between a participation fee and accommodation cost. The participation fee covers all training cost such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities, as well as accommodation costs include board and lodging. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will cover these costs. Sida will also cover international travel costs to and from Sweden. The participant carries costs incurred in travelling to the nearest international airport. Personal expenses are not included.

Accommodation

The course venue and accommodation in single rooms will be at a hotel near Stockholm Globe Arena, 5–10 minutes by subway from Stockholm city.

Visa

Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas necessary for their journey and stay during the training programme. The visa should be valid for the whole period of the programme and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa. Inquires should be directed to respective Swedish Embassy / Consulate, or alternatively to other

Schengen representation, as soon as possible after acceptance into the programme. Participants visiting other countries on their way to or from Sweden must ensure that correct visas are obtained before leaving home country, especially for countries not included in the Schengen agreement.

The costs for obtaining visas are carried by the participant. For more information, this website offers Swedish visa information:

<http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.html>

Insurance

Participants are covered by a group insurance while in Sweden and on organised tours during the programme. This insurance includes costs for medical care in the event of acute illness or accident. Medical and dental check-ups are not included.

Contact information

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RFSU is a Non Governmental Organisation, founded in 1933. It has played a key role in prevention, sexuality education and sexual and reproductive rights at large in Sweden, including LGBT Rights. The aim of RFSU is to advocate for a society where people have the possibility to make decisions concerning their sexuality that are not associated with demand or fear. RFSU believes that all men and women have the right to equal access to information, counselling and services relating to their sexual and reproductive health. On a more concrete level sexuality education, the right to contraception and access to safe and legal abortions as well as to be free of oppression based on sexual orientation or gender identity are fundamental rights. The last decade RFSU has intensified the international work for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. This has been accomplished through cooperation with NGOs and governments in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. RFSU is affiliated to IPPF, International Planned Parenthood Federation, which is the world's largest SRHR organisation.

RFSL is a non-profit organisation that works with and for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Founded in 1950, it is one of the world's oldest LGBT organisations and has played a key role in advocating and successfully changing Swedish society and the legal systems to include LGBT rights. It currently has 30 local branches throughout the country. RFSL's objective is that the same rights, opportunities and obligations will be applicable for LGBT people as they are for everyone else in society. RFSL works to improve the quality of life for LGBT people through political lobbying, information dissemination, and the organisation of social and support activities. Internationally, RFSL is affiliated and works closely with the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), and also collaborates with LGBT organisations in other countries.

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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