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# GENDER EQUALITY



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A BRIEF ON  
THE INCLUSION OF  
LGBTQI AND GENDER  
NON CONFORMING  
PEOPLE IN THE  
ACHIEVEMENT OF  
THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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## **SDG 5:**

*Achieve gender equality  
and empower all women  
and girls.*

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 includes measures that facilitate the achievement of gender equality, including by ending all forms of discrimination and violence against all women and girls everywhere.

# HOW LGBTQI AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING PEOPLE ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND

An important principle of the SDGs is that no one shall be left behind. Still, LGBTQI and gender non-conforming women and people continue to be excluded from policies and programmes tackling gender inequality and face disproportionate structural oppression and discrimination on a daily basis. In order for SDG 5 to be achieved, the specific issues faced by LGBTQI and gender non-conforming women and people and all barriers to inclusion must be addressed. These barriers include or are rooted in:

**Heteronormative assumptions:** Development programmes are often based on socially constructed gender roles, norms, and stereotypes. This, intersecting with multiple forms of discrimination, can lead to structural oppression and the exclusion of LGBTQI and gender non-conforming women and people in programmes.

**Intersectional violence and discrimination:** LGBTQI and gender non-conforming women and people may face multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sex characteristics, in conjunction with race, class, caste, disability, and other aspects of identity, and suffer increased levels of vulnerability and fewer opportunities to develop their full potential.



#leave  
no one  
behind

**Unequal opportunities:** Because of patriarchal structures and institutionalised systems of oppression in society, women, including LGBTQI and gender non-conforming women and people, face disproportionate rates of poverty, make less money, take on the burden of unpaid work, and have unequal access to assets, natural resources, technology, water, food, land, and property.

**Underrepresentation:** Access to and representation in politics is unequal. Elective, decision-making, and power positions in public institutions as well as in the private sector are mostly held by cisgender men. LGBTQI and gender non-conforming women and people often face barriers in accessing their civil and political rights, including facing discrimination and having mismatched and/or inadequate identity documents preventing them from exercising their basic rights.

# A TIME FOR ACTION

In order to achieve gender equality, and fully live up to the commitment that no one should be left behind, the world's leaders must act now.

RFSL recommends:



Take measures to promote equal opportunities and ensure that LBTQI and gender non-conforming women and people are included in all initiatives combatting gender inequality and have equal access to resources.



Create specific responses to, and take preventative steps against, violence and discrimination suffered by LBTQI and gender non-conforming women and people, such as targeted killings, violent attacks, torture, arbitrary detention, forced marriage, so-called honour killings, hate speech, conversion therapy, and family or intimate partner violence.



Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination laws and action plans that support economic empowerment of women and prevent all forms of discrimination against LBTQI and gender non-conforming women and people.



Fully include trans and non-binary people in the consultation, design, and implementation of policies and programmes and ensure that they benefit from all initiatives aimed at reducing gender disparities.



Support equal access in political participation and in representation. Adopt the UN Guidelines on Business and SOGI as a measure to revert inequalities.



Adopt legal gender recognition laws that are transparent, accessible, based on self-determination, and have fast processing times.



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# USING THE 2030 AGENDA FRAMEWORK

The 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity for activists and organisations to shape the international development agenda. Here are some tips on how to engage with government agencies and non-governmental organisations to advocate for programmes and policies inclusive of LGBTQI and gender non-conforming people's rights.



Find out if your country has a national action plan for the implementation of the SDGs. Use this as an entry point for discussion with decision-makers.



Work in broad coalitions and find allies who work intersectionally. Look into possibilities of working with ECOSOC accredited organisations, like RFSL, to enable access to UN spaces and conferences.



Spread awareness and create visibility by generating data, research, and reports focusing on issues relevant for LGBTQI and gender non-conforming people. Use inclusive and accessible language.

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**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

# PROMOTING LGBTQI PEOPLE'S RIGHTS SINCE 1950

The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights (RFSL) is a non-profit organisation founded in 1950. Our vision is: An equal world where all LGBTQI people's human rights are respected and where no one is left behind.

## GET IN TOUCH

Are you interested in learning more about how you can work with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda?

Read more at [rfsl.se/international](https://rfsl.se/international) or email us at [forbund@rfsl.se](mailto:forbund@rfsl.se).

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