

The complete set of the Yogyakarta Principles

includes

Yogyakarta Principles (2007), Principles 1 to 29

The Yogyakarta Principles plus 10 (2017), Principles 30 to 38

THE YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLES ON THE APPLICATION OF
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW
IN RELATION TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION
AND GENDER IDENTITY

THE YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES plus 10

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPLES AND STATE OBLIGATIONS
ON THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS LAW IN RELATION TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION,
GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION AND
SEX CHARACTERISTICS TO COMPLEMENT THE
YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES

As adopted on 10 November 2017, Geneva

THE YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLES ON THE APPLICATION OF
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW
IN RELATION TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION
AND GENDER IDENTITY

The English version is the authoritative text. Official translations are available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

March 2007

THE YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES

Principles on the application of international human rights law
in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity

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INTRODUCTION TO THE YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. All human rights are universal, interdependent, indivisible and interrelated. Sexual orientation¹⁾ and gender identity²⁾ are integral to every person's dignity and humanity and must not be the basis for discrimination or abuse.

Many advances have been made toward ensuring that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities can live with the equal dignity and respect to which all persons are entitled. Many States now have laws and constitutions that guarantee the rights of equality and non-discrimination without distinction on the basis of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Nevertheless, human rights violations targeted toward persons because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity constitute a global and entrenched pattern of serious concern. They include extra-judicial killings, torture and ill-treatment, sexual assault and rape, invasions of privacy, arbitrary detention, denial of employment and education opportunities, and serious discrimination in relation to the enjoyment of other human rights. These violations are often compounded by experiences of other forms of violence, hatred, discrimination and exclusion, such as those based on race, age, religion, disability, or economic, social or other status.

Many States and societies impose gender and sexual orientation norms on individuals through custom, law and violence and seek to control how they experience personal relationships and how they identify themselves. The policing of sexuality remains a major force behind continuing gender-based violence and gender inequality.

The international system has seen great strides toward gender equality and protections against violence in society, community and in the family. In addition, key human rights mechanisms of the United Nations have affirmed States' obligation to ensure effective protection of all persons from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. However, the international response to human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity has been fragmented and inconsistent.

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- 1) Sexual orientation is understood to refer to each person's capacity for profound emotional, affectional and sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, individuals of a different gender or the same gender or more than one gender.
 - 2) Gender identity is understood to refer to each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth, including the personal sense of the body (which may involve, if freely chosen, modification of bodily appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means) and other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerisms.

To address these deficiencies a consistent understanding of the comprehensive regime of international human rights law and its application to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity is necessary. It is critical to collate and clarify State obligations under existing international human rights law, in order to promote and protect all human rights for all persons on the basis of equality and without discrimination.

The International Commission of Jurists and the International Service for Human Rights, on behalf of a coalition of human rights organisations, have undertaken a project to develop a set of international legal principles on the application of international law to human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity to bring greater clarity and coherence to States' human rights obligations.

A distinguished group of human rights experts has drafted, developed, discussed and refined these Principles. Following an experts' meeting held at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 6 to 9 November 2006, 29 distinguished experts from 25 countries with diverse backgrounds and expertise relevant to issues of human rights law unanimously adopted the *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*.

The rapporteur of the meeting, Professor Michael O'Flaherty, has made immense contributions to the drafting and revision of the Principles. His commitment and tireless efforts have been critical to the successful outcome of the process.

The Yogyakarta Principles address a broad range of human rights standards and their application to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Principles affirm the primary obligation of States to implement human rights. Each Principle is accompanied by detailed recommendations to States. The experts also emphasise, though, that all actors have responsibilities to promote and protect human rights. Additional recommendations are addressed to other actors, including the UN human rights system, national human rights institutions, the media, non-governmental organisations, and funders.

The experts agree that the Yogyakarta Principles reflect the existing state of international human rights law in relation to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. They also recognise that States may incur additional obligations as human rights law continues to evolve.

The Yogyakarta Principles affirm binding international legal standards with which all States must comply. They promise a different future where all people born free and equal in dignity and rights can fulfil that precious birthright.

Sonia Onufer Corrêa
Co-Chairperson

Vitit Muntarbhorn
Co-Chairperson

WE, THE INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF EXPERTS IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

PREAMBLE

RECALLING that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to the enjoyment of human rights without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

DISTURBED that violence, harassment, discrimination, exclusion, stigmatisation and prejudice are directed against persons in all regions of the world because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, that these experiences are compounded by discrimination on grounds including gender, race, age, religion, disability, health and economic status, and that such violence, harassment, discrimination, exclusion, stigmatisation and prejudice undermine the integrity and dignity of those subjected to these abuses, may weaken their sense of self-worth and belonging to their community, and lead many to conceal or suppress their identity and to live lives of fear and invisibility;

AWARE that historically people have experienced these human rights violations because they are or are perceived to be lesbian, gay or bisexual, because of their consensual sexual conduct with persons of the same gender or because they are or are perceived to be transsexual, transgender or intersex or belong to social groups identified in particular societies by sexual orientation or gender identity;

UNDERSTANDING ‘sexual orientation’ to refer to each person’s capacity for profound emotional, affectional and sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, individuals of a different gender or the same gender or more than one gender;

UNDERSTANDING ‘gender identity’ to refer to each person’s deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth, including the personal sense of the body (which may involve, if freely chosen, modification of bodily appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means) and other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerisms;

OBSERVING that international human rights law affirms that all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are entitled to the full enjoyment of all human rights, that the application of existing human rights entitlements should take account of the specific situations and experiences of people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, and that in all actions concerning children the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration and a child who is capable of forming personal views has the right to express those views freely, such views being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child;

NOTING that international human rights law imposes an absolute prohibition of discrimination in regard to the full enjoyment of all human rights, civil, cultural, economic, political and social, that respect for sexual rights, sexual orientation and gender identity is integral to the realisation of equality between men and women and that States must take measures to seek to eliminate prejudices and customs based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of one sex or on stereotyped roles for men and women, and noting further that the international community has recognised the right of persons to decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination, and violence;

RECOGNISING that there is significant value in articulating in a systematic manner international human rights law as applicable to the lives and experiences of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities;

ACKNOWLEDGING that this articulation must rely on the current state of international human rights law and will require revision on a regular basis in order to take account of developments in that law and its application to the particular lives and experiences of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities over time and in diverse regions and countries.

**FOLLOWING AN EXPERTS' MEETING
HELD IN YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA,
FROM 6 TO 9 NOVEMBER 2006,
HEREBY ADOPT THESE PRINCIPLES:**

PRINCIPLE

1 THE RIGHT TO THE UNIVERSAL ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Human beings of all sexual orientations and gender identities are entitled to the full enjoyment of all human rights.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Embody the principles of the universality, interrelatedness, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation and ensure the practical realisation of the universal enjoyment of all human rights;
- B. Amend any legislation, including criminal law, to ensure its consistency with the universal enjoyment of all human rights;
- C. Undertake programmes of education and awareness to promote and enhance the full enjoyment of all human rights by all persons, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- D. Integrate within State policy and decision-making a pluralistic approach that recognises and affirms the interrelatedness and indivisibility of all aspects of human identity including sexual orientation and gender identity.

PRINCIPLE

2 THE RIGHTS TO EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Everyone is entitled to enjoy all human rights without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Everyone is entitled to equality before the law and the equal protection of the law without any such discrimination whether or not the enjoyment of another human right is also affected. The law shall prohibit any such discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against any such discrimination.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity includes any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on sexual orientation or gender identity which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing equality before the law or the equal protection of the law, or the recognition,

enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity may be, and commonly is, compounded by discrimination on other grounds including gender, race, age, religion, disability, health and economic status.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Embody the principles of equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation, if not yet incorporated therein, including by means of amendment and interpretation, and ensure the effective realisation of these principles;
- B.** Repeal criminal and other legal provisions that prohibit or are, in effect, employed to prohibit consensual sexual activity among people of the same sex who are over the age of consent, and ensure that an equal age of consent applies to both same-sex and different-sex sexual activity;
- C.** Adopt appropriate legislative and other measures to prohibit and eliminate discrimination in the public and private spheres on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- D.** Take appropriate measures to secure adequate advancement of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities as may be necessary to ensure such groups or individuals equal enjoyment or exercise of human rights. Such measures shall not be deemed to be discriminatory;
- E.** In all their responses to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, take account of the manner in which such discrimination may intersect with other forms of discrimination;
- F.** Take all appropriate action, including programmes of education and training, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudicial or discriminatory attitudes or behaviours which are related to the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of any sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression.

THE RIGHT TO RECOGNITION BEFORE THE LAW

PRINCIPLE
3

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. Persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities shall enjoy legal capacity in all aspects of life. Each person's self-defined sexual orientation and gender identity is integral to their personality and is one of the most basic aspects of self-determination, dignity and freedom. No one shall be forced to undergo medical procedures, including sex reassignment surgery, sterilisation

or hormonal therapy, as a requirement for legal recognition of their gender identity. No status, such as marriage or parenthood, may be invoked as such to prevent the legal recognition of a person's gender identity. No one shall be subjected to pressure to conceal, suppress or deny their sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Ensure that all persons are accorded legal capacity in civil matters, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and the opportunity to exercise that capacity, including equal rights to conclude contracts, and to administer, own, acquire (including through inheritance), manage, enjoy and dispose of property;
- B.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to fully respect and legally recognise each person's self-defined gender identity;
- C.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that procedures exist whereby all State-issued identity papers which indicate a person's gender/sex — including birth certificates, passports, electoral records and other documents — reflect the person's profound self-defined gender identity;
- D.** Ensure that such procedures are efficient, fair and non-discriminatory, and respect the dignity and privacy of the person concerned;
- E.** Ensure that changes to identity documents will be recognised in all contexts where the identification or disaggregation of persons by gender is required by law or policy;
- F.** Undertake targeted programmes to provide social support for all persons experiencing gender transitioning or reassignment.

PRINCIPLE

4 THE RIGHT TO LIFE

Everyone has the right to life. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life, including by reference to considerations of sexual orientation or gender identity. The death penalty shall not be imposed on any person on the basis of consensual sexual activity among persons who are over the age of consent or on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Repeal all forms of crime that have the purpose or effect of prohibiting consensual sexual activity among persons of the same sex who are over the age of consent and, until such provisions are repealed, never impose the death penalty on any person convicted under them;
- B.** Remit sentences of death and release all those currently awaiting execution for crimes relating to consensual sexual activity among persons who are over the age of consent;
- C.** Cease any State-sponsored or State-condoned attacks on the lives of persons based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and ensure that all such attacks, whether by government officials or by any individual or group, are vigorously investigated, and that, where appropriate evidence is found, those responsible are prosecuted, tried and duly punished.

PRINCIPLE 5

THE RIGHT TO SECURITY OF THE PERSON

Everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, has the right to security of the person and to protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual or group.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary policing and other measures to prevent and provide protection from all forms of violence and harassment related to sexual orientation and gender identity;
- B.** Take all necessary legislative measures to impose appropriate criminal penalties for violence, threats of violence, incitement to violence and related harassment, based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of any person or group of persons, in all spheres of life, including the family;
- C.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that the sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim may not be advanced to justify, excuse or mitigate such violence;
- D.** Ensure that perpetration of such violence is vigorously investigated, and that, where appropriate evidence is found, those responsible are prosecuted, tried and duly punished, and that victims are provided with appropriate remedies and redress, including compensation;
- E.** Undertake campaigns of awareness-raising, directed to the general public as well as to actual and potential perpetrators of violence, in order to combat the prejudices that underlie violence related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

6 THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, is entitled to the enjoyment of privacy without arbitrary or unlawful interference, including with regard to their family, home or correspondence as well as to protection from unlawful attacks on their honour and reputation. The right to privacy ordinarily includes the choice to disclose or not to disclose information relating to one's sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as decisions and choices regarding both one's own body and consensual sexual and other relations with others.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the right of each person, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, to enjoy the private sphere, intimate decisions, and human relations, including consensual sexual activity among persons who are over the age of consent, without arbitrary interference;
- B. Repeal all laws that criminalise consensual sexual activity among persons of the same sex who are over the age of consent, and ensure that an equal age of consent applies to both same-sex and different-sex sexual activity;
- C. Ensure that criminal and other legal provisions of general application are not applied to *de facto* criminalise consensual sexual activity among persons of the same sex who are over the age of consent;
- D. Repeal any law that prohibits or criminalises the expression of gender identity, including through dress, speech or mannerisms, or that denies to individuals the opportunity to change their bodies as a means of expressing their gender identity;
- E. Release all those held on remand or on the basis of a criminal conviction, if their detention is related to consensual sexual activity among persons who are over the age of consent, or is related to gender identity;
- F. Ensure the right of all persons ordinarily to choose when, to whom and how to disclose information pertaining to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and protect all persons from arbitrary or unwanted disclosure, or threat of disclosure of such information by others.

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY **7**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. Arrest or detention on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, whether pursuant to a court order or otherwise, is arbitrary. All persons under arrest, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are entitled, on the basis of equality, to be informed of the reasons for arrest and the nature of any charges against them, to be brought promptly before a judicial officer and to bring court proceedings to determine the lawfulness of detention, whether or not charged with any offence.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that sexual orientation or gender identity may under no circumstances be the basis for arrest or detention, including the elimination of vaguely worded criminal law provisions that invite discriminatory application or otherwise provide scope for arrests based on prejudice;
- B.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that all persons under arrest, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are entitled, on the basis of equality, to be informed of the reasons for arrest and the nature of any charges against them, and whether charged or not, to be brought promptly before a judicial officer and to bring court proceedings to determine the lawfulness of detention;
- C.** Undertake programmes of training and awareness-raising to educate police and other law enforcement personnel regarding the arbitrariness of arrest and detention based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity;
- D.** Maintain accurate and up to date records of all arrests and detentions, indicating the date, location and reason for detention, and ensure independent oversight of all places of detention by bodies that are adequately mandated and equipped to identify arrests and detentions that may be motivated by the sexual orientation or gender identity of a person.

THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL **8**

Everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, in the determination of their rights and obligations in a suit at law and of any criminal charge against them, without prejudice or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to prohibit and eliminate prejudicial treatment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity at every stage of the judicial process, in civil and criminal proceedings and all other judicial and administrative proceedings which determine rights and obligations, and to ensure that no one's credibility or character as a party, witness, advocate or decision-maker is impugned by reason of their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- B.** Take all necessary and reasonable steps to protect persons from criminal prosecutions or civil proceedings that are motivated wholly or in part by prejudice regarding sexual orientation or gender identity;
- C.** Undertake programmes of training and awareness-raising for judges, court personnel, prosecutors, lawyers and others regarding international human rights standards and principles of equality and non-discrimination, including in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity.

PRINCIPLE

9 THE RIGHT TO TREATMENT WITH HUMANITY WHILE IN DETENTION

Everyone deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. Sexual orientation and gender identity are integral to each person's dignity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Ensure that placement in detention avoids further marginalising persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or subjecting them to risk of violence, ill-treatment or physical, mental or sexual abuse;
- B.** Provide adequate access to medical care and counselling appropriate to the needs of those in custody, recognising any particular needs of persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, including with regard to reproductive health, access to HIV/AIDS information and therapy and access to hormonal or other therapy as well as to gender-reassignment treatments where desired;
- C.** Ensure, to the extent possible, that all prisoners participate in decisions regarding the place of detention appropriate to their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- D.** Put protective measures in place for all prisoners vulnerable to violence or abuse on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression and ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that such protective measures involve no greater restriction of their rights than is experienced by the general prison population;

- E.** Ensure that conjugal visits, where permitted, are granted on an equal basis to all prisoners and detainees, regardless of the gender of their partner;
- F.** Provide for the independent monitoring of detention facilities by the State as well as by non-governmental organisations including organisations working in the spheres of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- G.** Undertake programmes of training and awareness-raising for prison personnel and all other officials in the public and private sector who are engaged in detention facilities, regarding international human rights standards and principles of equality and non-discrimination, including in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity.

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

PRINCIPLE
10

Everyone has the right to be free from torture and from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including for reasons relating to sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to prevent and provide protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, perpetrated for reasons relating to the sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim, as well as the incitement of such acts;
- B.** Take all reasonable steps to identify victims of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, perpetrated for reasons relating to sexual orientation or gender identity, and offer appropriate remedies including redress and reparation and, where appropriate, medical and psychological support;
- C.** Undertake programmes of training and awareness-raising for police, prison personnel and all other officials in the public and private sector who are in a position to perpetrate or to prevent such acts.

PRINCIPLE

11 THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION FROM ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION, SALE AND TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS

Everyone is entitled to protection from trafficking, sale and all forms of exploitation, including but not limited to sexual exploitation, on the grounds of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Measures designed to prevent trafficking shall address the factors that increase vulnerability, including various forms of inequality and discrimination on the grounds of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, or the expression of these or other identities. Such measures must not be inconsistent with the human rights of persons at risk of being trafficked.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures of a preventive and protective nature regarding the trafficking, sale and all forms of exploitation of human beings, including but not limited to sexual exploitation, on the grounds of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity;
- B. Ensure that any such legislation or measures do not criminalise the behaviour of, stigmatise, or in any other way, exacerbate the disadvantage of those vulnerable to such practices;
- C. Establish legal, educational and social measures, services and programmes to address factors that increase vulnerability to trafficking, sale and all forms of exploitation, including but not limited to sexual exploitation, on the grounds of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, including such factors as social exclusion, discrimination, rejection by families or cultural communities, lack of financial independence, homelessness, discriminatory social attitudes leading to low self-esteem, and lack of protection from discrimination in access to housing, accommodation, employment and social services.

PRINCIPLE

12 THE RIGHT TO WORK

Everyone has the right to decent and productive work, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to eliminate and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in public and private employment, including in relation to vocational training, recruitment, promotion, dismissal, conditions of employment and remuneration;
- B.** Eliminate any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to ensure equal employment and advancement opportunities in all areas of public service, including all levels of government service and employment in public functions, including serving in the police and military, and provide appropriate training and awareness-raising programmes to counter discriminatory attitudes.

THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY AND TO OTHER SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

PRINCIPLE

13

Everyone has the right to social security and other social protection measures, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure equal access, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, to social security and other social protection measures, including employment benefits, parental leave, unemployment benefits, health insurance or care or benefits (including for body modifications related to gender identity), other social insurance, family benefits, funeral benefits, pensions and benefits with regard to the loss of support for spouses or partners as the result of illness or death;
- B.** Ensure that children are not subject to any form of discriminatory treatment within the social security system or in the provision of social or welfare benefits on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, or that of any member of their family;
- C.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure access to poverty reduction strategies and programmes, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

PRINCIPLE

14 THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and clothing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure equal access, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, to adequate food, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and clothing.

PRINCIPLE

15 THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

Everyone has the right to adequate housing, including protection from eviction, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure security of tenure and access to affordable, habitable, accessible, culturally appropriate and safe housing, including shelters and other emergency accommodation, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or marital or family status;
- B.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to prohibit the execution of evictions that are not in conformity with their international human rights obligations, and ensure that adequate and effective legal or other appropriate remedies are available to any person claiming that a right to protection against forced evictions has been violated or is under threat of violation, including the right to resettlement, which includes the right to alternative land of better or equal quality and to adequate housing, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or marital or family status;
- C.** Ensure equal rights to land and home ownership and inheritance without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- D.** Establish social programmes, including support programmes, to address factors relating to sexual orientation and gender identity that increase vulnerability to homelessness,

especially for children and young people, including social exclusion, domestic and other forms of violence, discrimination, lack of financial independence, and rejection by families or cultural communities, as well as to promote schemes of neighbourhood support and security;

- E. Provide training and awareness-raising programmes to ensure that all relevant agencies are aware of and sensitive to the needs of those facing homelessness or social disadvantage as a result of sexual orientation or gender identity.

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

PRINCIPLE 16

Everyone has the right to education, without discrimination on the basis of, and taking into account, their sexual orientation and gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure equal access to education, and equal treatment of students, staff and teachers within the education system, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- B. Ensure that education is directed to the development of each student's personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential, and responds to the needs of students of all sexual orientations and gender identities;
- C. Ensure that education is directed to the development of respect for human rights, and of respect for each child's parents and family members, cultural identity, language and values, in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance and equality, taking into account and respecting diverse sexual orientations and gender identities;
- D. Ensure that education methods, curricula and resources serve to enhance understanding of and respect for, *inter alia*, diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, including the particular needs of students, their parents and family members related to these grounds;
- E. Ensure that laws and policies provide adequate protection for students, staff and teachers of different sexual orientations and gender identities against all forms of social exclusion and violence within the school environment, including bullying and harassment;
- F. Ensure that students subjected to such exclusion or violence are not marginalised or segregated for reasons of protection, and that their best interests are identified and respected in a participatory manner;
- G. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that discipline in educational institutions is administered in a manner consistent with human dignity, without discrimination or penalty on the basis of a student's sexual orientation or gender identity, or the expression thereof;

- H. Ensure that everyone has access to opportunities and resources for lifelong learning without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, including adults who have already suffered such forms of discrimination in the educational system.

PRINCIPLE

17 THE RIGHT TO THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF HEALTH

Everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Sexual and reproductive health is a fundamental aspect of this right.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- B. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that all persons have access to healthcare facilities, goods and services, including in relation to sexual and reproductive health, and to their own medical records, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- C. Ensure that healthcare facilities, goods and services are designed to improve the health status of, and respond to the needs of, all persons without discrimination on the basis of, and taking into account, sexual orientation and gender identity, and that medical records in this respect are treated with confidentiality;
- D. Develop and implement programmes to address discrimination, prejudice and other social factors which undermine the health of persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- E. Ensure that all persons are informed and empowered to make their own decisions regarding medical treatment and care, on the basis of genuinely informed consent, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- F. Ensure that all sexual and reproductive health, education, prevention, care and treatment programmes and services respect the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities, and are equally available to all without discrimination;
- G. Facilitate access by those seeking body modifications related to gender reassignment to competent, non-discriminatory treatment, care and support;
- H. Ensure that all health service providers treat clients and their partners without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, including with regard to recognition as next of kin;

- I. Adopt the policies, and programmes of education and training, necessary to enable persons working in the healthcare sector to deliver the highest attainable standard of healthcare to all persons, with full respect for each person's sexual orientation and gender identity.

PROTECTION FROM MEDICAL ABUSES

PRINCIPLE 18

No person may be forced to undergo any form of medical or psychological treatment, procedure, testing, or be confined to a medical facility, based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Notwithstanding any classifications to the contrary, a person's sexual orientation and gender identity are not, in and of themselves, medical conditions and are not to be treated, cured or suppressed.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure full protection against harmful medical practices based on sexual orientation or gender identity, including on the basis of stereotypes, whether derived from culture or otherwise, regarding conduct, physical appearance or perceived gender norms;
- B. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that no child's body is irreversibly altered by medical procedures in an attempt to impose a gender identity without the full, free and informed consent of the child in accordance with the age and maturity of the child and guided by the principle that in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration;
- C. Establish child protection mechanisms whereby no child is at risk of, or subjected to, medical abuse;
- D. Ensure protection of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities against unethical or involuntary medical procedures or research, including in relation to vaccines, treatments or microbicides for HIV/AIDS or other diseases;
- E. Review and amend any health funding provisions or programmes, including those of a development-assistance nature, which may promote, facilitate or in any other way render possible such abuses;
- F. Ensure that any medical or psychological treatment or counselling does not, explicitly or implicitly, treat sexual orientation and gender identity as medical conditions to be treated, cured or suppressed.

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This includes the expression of identity or personhood through speech, deportment, dress, bodily characteristics, choice of name, or any other means, as well as the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, including with regard to human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, through any medium and regardless of frontiers.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure full enjoyment of freedom of opinion and expression, while respecting the rights and freedoms of others, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, including the receipt and imparting of information and ideas concerning sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as related advocacy for legal rights, publication of materials, broadcasting, organisation of or participation in conferences, and dissemination of and access to safer-sex information;
- B. Ensure that the outputs and the organisation of media that is State-regulated is pluralistic and non-discriminatory in respect of issues of sexual orientation and gender identity and that the personnel recruitment and promotion policies of such organisations are non-discriminatory on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- C. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to express identity or personhood, including through speech, deportment, dress, bodily characteristics, choice of name or any other means;
- D. Ensure that notions of public order, public morality, public health and public security are not employed to restrict, in a discriminatory manner, any exercise of freedom of opinion and expression that affirms diverse sexual orientations or gender identities;
- E. Ensure that the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression does not violate the rights and freedoms of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities;
- F. Ensure that all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, enjoy equal access to information and ideas, as well as to participation in public debate.

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including for the purposes of peaceful demonstrations, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Persons may form and have recognised, without discrimination, associations based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and associations that distribute information to or about, facilitate communication among, or advocate for the rights of, persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the rights to peacefully organise, associate, assemble and advocate around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, and to obtain legal recognition for such associations and groups, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- B.** Ensure in particular that notions of public order, public morality, public health and public security are not employed to restrict any exercise of the rights to peaceful assembly and association solely on the basis that it affirms diverse sexual orientations or gender identities;
- C.** Under no circumstances impede the exercise of the rights to peaceful assembly and association on grounds relating to sexual orientation or gender identity, and ensure that adequate police and other physical protection against violence or harassment is afforded to persons exercising these rights;
- D.** Provide training and awareness-raising programmes to law enforcement authorities and other relevant officials to enable them to provide such protection;
- E.** Ensure that information disclosure rules for voluntary associations and groups do not, in practice, have discriminatory effects for such associations and groups addressing issues of sexual orientation or gender identity, or for their members.

PRINCIPLE

21 THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. These rights may not be invoked by the State to justify laws, policies or practices which deny equal protection of the law, or discriminate, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the right of persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, to hold and practise religious and non-religious beliefs, alone or in association with others, to be free from interference with their beliefs and to be free from coercion or the imposition of beliefs;
- B. Ensure that the expression, practice and promotion of different opinions, convictions and beliefs with regard to issues of sexual orientation or gender identity is not undertaken in a manner incompatible with human rights.

PRINCIPLE

22 THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Everyone lawfully within a State has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of the State, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Sexual orientation and gender identity may never be invoked to limit or impede a person's entry, egress or return to or from any State, including that person's own State.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that the right to freedom of movement and residence is guaranteed regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

THE RIGHT TO SEEK ASYLUM

23

Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution, including persecution related to sexual orientation or gender identity. A State may not remove, expel or extradite a person to any State where that person may face a well-founded fear of torture, persecution, or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Review, amend and enact legislation to ensure that a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is accepted as a ground for the recognition of refugee status and asylum;
- B. Ensure that no policy or practice discriminates against asylum seekers on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- C. Ensure that no person is removed, expelled or extradited to any State where that person may face a well-founded fear of torture, persecution, or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, on the basis of that person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

THE RIGHT TO FOUND A FAMILY

24

Everyone has the right to found a family, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Families exist in diverse forms. No family may be subjected to discrimination on the basis of the sexual orientation or gender identity of any of its members.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the right to found a family, including through access to adoption or assisted procreation (including donor insemination), without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- B. Ensure that laws and policies recognise the diversity of family forms, including those not defined by descent or marriage, and take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that no family may be subjected to discrimination on the basis

of the sexual orientation or gender identity of any of its members, including with regard to family-related social welfare and other public benefits, employment, and immigration;

- C. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that in all actions or decisions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration, and that the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child or of any family member or other person may not be considered incompatible with such best interests;
- D. In all actions or decisions concerning children, ensure that a child who is capable of forming personal views can exercise the right to express those views freely, and that such views are given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child;
- E. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that in States that recognise same-sex marriages or registered partnerships, any entitlement, privilege, obligation or benefit available to different-sex married or registered partners is equally available to same-sex married or registered partners;
- F. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure that any obligation, entitlement, privilege, obligation or benefit available to different-sex unmarried partners is equally available to same-sex unmarried partners;
- G. Ensure that marriages and other legally-recognised partnerships may be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses or partners.

PRINCIPLE

25

THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC LIFE

Every citizen has the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, including the right to stand for elected office, to participate in the formulation of policies affecting their welfare, and to have equal access to all levels of public service and employment in public functions, including serving in the police and military, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Review, amend and enact legislation to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to participate in public and political life and affairs, embracing all levels of government service and employment in public functions, including serving in the police and military, without discrimination on the basis of, and with full respect for, each person's sexual orientation and gender identity;

- B. Take all appropriate measures to eliminate stereotypes and prejudices regarding sexual orientation and gender identity that prevent or restrict participation in public life;
- C. Ensure the right of each person to participate in the formulation of policies affecting their welfare, without discrimination on the basis of, and with full respect for, their sexual orientation and gender identity.

THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL LIFE

PRINCIPLE
26

Everyone has the right to participate freely in cultural life, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and to express, through cultural participation, the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure opportunities for the participation in cultural life of all persons, regardless of, and with full respect for, their sexual orientations and gender identities;
- B. Foster dialogue between, and mutual respect among, proponents of the various cultural groups present within the State, including among groups that hold different views on matters of sexual orientation and gender identity, consistently with respect for the human rights referred to in these Principles.

THE RIGHT TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

PRINCIPLE
27

Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote the protection and realisation of human rights at the national and international levels, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. This includes activities directed towards the promotion and protection of the rights of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as the right to develop and discuss new human rights norms and to advocate their acceptance.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure a favourable environment for activities directed towards the promotion, protection and realisation of human rights, including rights relevant to sexual orientation and gender identity;
- B.** Take all appropriate measures to combat actions or campaigns targeting human rights defenders working on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as those targeting human rights defenders of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities;
- C.** Ensure that human rights defenders, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and regardless of the human rights issues they advocate, enjoy non-discriminatory access to, participation in, and communication with, national and international human rights organisations and bodies;
- D.** Ensure the protection of human rights defenders, working on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, against any violence, threat, retaliation, *de facto* or *de jure* discrimination, pressure, or any other arbitrary action perpetrated by the State, or by non-State actors, in response to their human rights activities. The same protection should be ensured, to human rights defenders working on any issue, against any such treatment based on their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- E.** Support the recognition and accreditation of organisations that promote and protect the human rights of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities at the national and international levels.

PRINCIPLE

28 THE RIGHT TO EFFECTIVE REMEDIES AND REDRESS

Every victim of a human rights violation, including of a violation based on sexual orientation or gender identity, has the right to effective, adequate and appropriate remedies. Measures taken for the purpose of providing reparation to, or securing adequate advancement of, persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are integral to the right to effective remedies and redress.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Establish the necessary legal procedures, including through the revision of legislation and policies, to ensure that victims of human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity have access to full redress through restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, guarantee of non-repetition, and/or any other means as appropriate;

- B.** Ensure that remedies are enforced and implemented in a timely manner;
- C.** Ensure that effective institutions and standards for the provision of remedies and redress are established, and that all personnel are trained in issues of human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- D.** Ensure that all persons have access to all necessary information about the processes for seeking remedies and redress;
- E.** Ensure that financial aid is provided to those who are unable to afford the cost of securing redress, and that any other obstacles to securing such redress, financial or otherwise, are removed;
- F.** Ensure training and awareness-raising programmes, including measures aimed at teachers and students at all levels of public education, at professional bodies, and at potential violators of human rights, to promote respect for and adherence to international human rights standards in accordance with these Principles, as well as to counter discriminatory attitudes based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTABILITY 29

Everyone whose human rights, including rights addressed in these Principles, are violated is entitled to have those directly or indirectly responsible for the violation, whether they are government officials or not, held accountable for their actions in a manner that is proportionate to the seriousness of the violation. There should be no impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations related to sexual orientation or gender identity.

STATES SHALL:

- A.** Establish appropriate, accessible and effective criminal, civil, administrative and other procedures, as well as monitoring mechanisms, to ensure the accountability of perpetrators for human rights violations related to sexual orientation or gender identity;
- B.** Ensure that all allegations of crimes perpetrated on the basis of the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim, including such crimes described in these Principles, are investigated promptly and thoroughly, and that, where appropriate evidence is found, those responsible are prosecuted, tried and duly punished;
- C.** Establish independent and effective institutions and procedures to monitor the formulation and enforcement of laws and policies to ensure the elimination of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- D.** Remove any obstacles preventing persons responsible for human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity from being held accountable.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

All members of society and of the international community have responsibilities regarding the realisation of human rights. We therefore recommend that:

- A.** The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights endorse these Principles, promote their implementation worldwide, and integrate them into the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including at the field-level;
- B.** The United Nations Human Rights Council endorse these Principles and give substantive consideration to human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity, with a view to promoting State compliance with these Principles;
- C.** The United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures pay due attention to human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and integrate these Principles into the implementation of their respective mandates;
- D.** The United Nations Economic and Social Council recognise and accredit non-governmental organisations whose aim is to promote and protect the human rights of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, in accordance with its *Resolution 1996/31*;
- E.** The United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies vigorously integrate these Principles into the implementation of their respective mandates, including their case law and the examination of State reports, and, where appropriate, adopt General Comments or other interpretive texts on the application of human rights law to persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities;
- F.** The World Health Organization and UNAIDS develop guidelines on the provision of appropriate health services and care, responding to the health needs of persons related to their sexual orientation or gender identity, with full respect for their human rights and dignity;
- G.** The UN High Commissioner for Refugees integrate these Principles in efforts to protect persons who experience, or have a well-founded fear of, persecution on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and ensure that no person is discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in relation to the receipt of humanitarian assistance or other services, or the determination of refugee status;
- H.** Regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organisations with a commitment to human rights, as well as regional human rights treaty bodies, ensure that the promotion of these Principles is integral to the implementation of the mandates of their various human rights mechanisms, procedures and other arrangements and initiatives;
- I.** Regional human rights courts vigorously integrate those Principles that are relevant to the human rights treaties they interpret into their developing case law on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- J.** Non-governmental organisations working on human rights at the national, regional and international levels promote respect for these Principles within the framework of their specific mandates;

- K.** Humanitarian organisations incorporate these Principles into any humanitarian or relief operations, and refrain from discriminating against persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in the provision of aid and other services;
- L.** National human rights institutions promote respect for these Principles by State and non-State actors, and integrate into their work the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons of diverse sexual orientations or gender identities;
- M.** Professional organisations, including those in the medical, criminal or civil justice, and educational sectors, review their practices and guidelines to ensure that they vigorously promote the implementation of these Principles;
- N.** Commercial organisations acknowledge and act upon the important role they have in both ensuring respect for these Principles with regard to their own workforces and in promoting these Principles nationally and internationally;
- O.** The mass media avoid the use of stereotypes in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity, and promote tolerance and the acceptance of diversity of human sexual orientation and gender identity, and raise awareness around these issues;
- P.** Governmental and private funders provide financial assistance, to non-governmental and other organisations, for the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

THESE PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS reflect the application of international human rights law to the lives and experiences of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, and nothing herein should be interpreted as restricting or in any way limiting the rights and freedoms of such persons as recognised in international, regional or national law or standards.

ANNEX

SIGNATORIES TO THE YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES

Philip Alston (Australia), UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions and Professor of Law, New York University School of Law, USA

Maxim Anmeghichean (Moldova), European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association

Mauro Cabral (Argentina), Researcher Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission

Edwin Cameron (South Africa), Justice, Supreme Court of Appeal, Bloemfontein, South Africa

Sonia Onufer Corrêa (Brazil), Research Associate at the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association (ABIA) and co-chair of Sexuality Policy Watch (Co-Chair of the experts' meeting)

Yakin Ertürk (Turkey), UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Professor, Department of Sociology, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Elizabeth Evatt (Australia), Former member and chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, former member of the UN Human Rights Committee and Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists

Paul Hunt (New Zealand), UN Special Rapporteur on the right to the highest attainable standard of health and Professor, Department of Law, University of Essex, United Kingdom

Asma Jahangir (Pakistan), Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

Maina Kiai (Kenya), Chairperson, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

Miloon Kothari (India), UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing

Judith Mesquita (United Kingdom), Senior Research Officer, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, United Kingdom

Alice M. Miller (United States of America), Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, Co-Director, Human Rights Program, Columbia University, USA

Sanji Mmasenono Monageng (Botswana), Judge of the High Court (The Republic of the Gambia), Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Chairperson of the Follow Up Committee on the implementation of the Robben Island Guidelines on prohibition and prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights)

Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand), UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Professor of Law at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, (Co-Chair of the experts' meeting)

Lawrence Mute (Kenya), Commissioner with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

Manfred Nowak (Austria), UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, member of the International Commission of Jurists, Professor of Human Rights at Vienna University, Austria and Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights

Ana Elena Obando Mendoza (Costa Rica), feminist attorney, women's human rights activist, and international consultant

Michael O'Flaherty (Ireland), Member of the UN Human Rights Committee and Professor of Applied Human Rights and Co-Director of the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom (Rapporteur for the development of the Yogyakarta Principles)

Sunil Pant (Nepal), President of the Blue Diamond Society, Nepal

Dimitrina Petrova (Bulgaria), Executive Director, The Equal Rights Trust

Rudi Mohammed Rizki (Indonesia), UN Special Rapporteur on international solidarity and Senior Lecturer and Vice Dean for Academic Affairs of the Faculty of Law at the University of Padjadjaran, Indonesia

Mary Robinson (Ireland), Founder of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative and former President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Nevena Vuckovic Sahovic (Serbia), Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and President of the Child Rights Centre, Belgrade, Serbia

Martin Scheinin (Finland), UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, Professor of Constitutional and International Law and Director of the Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University, Finland

Wan Yanhai (China), Founder of the AIZHI Action Project and director of Beijing AIZHIXING Institute of Health Education

Stephen Whittle (United Kingdom), Professor in Equalities Law at Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

Roman Wieruszewski (Poland), Member of the UN Human Rights Committee and head of Poznan Centre for Human Rights, Poland

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THE YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES *plus 10*

**ADDITIONAL PRINCIPLES AND STATE OBLIGATIONS
ON THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS LAW IN RELATION TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION,
GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION AND
SEX CHARACTERISTICS TO COMPLEMENT THE
YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES**

As adopted on 10 November 2017, Geneva

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INTRODUCTION

Since the Yogyakarta Principles were adopted in 2006, they have developed into an authoritative statement of the human rights of persons of ‘diverse sexual orientations and gender identities’. The period since then, has seen significant developments both in the field of international human rights law and in the understanding of violations affecting persons of ‘diverse sexual orientations and gender identities’, as well as a recognition of the often distinct violations affecting persons on grounds of ‘gender expression’ and ‘sex characteristics’.

The Yogyakarta Principles plus 10 (YP+10) aims to document and elaborate these developments through a set of Additional Principles and State Obligations. YP+10 should be read alongside the original 29 Yogyakarta Principles. Together, these documents provide an authoritative, expert exposition of international human rights law as it currently applies to the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

The YP+10 document supplements the original 29 Yogyakarta Principles and, in fact, derives its *raison d’être* from preambular paragraph 9 of those Principles:

“**ACKNOWLEDGING** that this articulation must rely on the current state of international human rights law and will require revision on a regular basis in order to take account of developments in that law and its application to the particular lives and experiences of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities over time and in diverse regions and countries.”

This set of nine Additional Principles and 111 Additional State Obligations cover a range of rights whose articulation has emerged from the intersection of the developments in international human rights law with the emerging understanding of violations suffered by persons on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and the recognition of the distinct and intersectional grounds of gender expression and sex characteristics.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Yogyakarta Principles, the International Service for Human Rights and ARC International in consultation with experts and civil society stakeholders, established a Drafting Committee tasked with developing the YP+10 document.

The entire process was aided by a Secretariat comprised of civil society representatives and institutions. The Drafting Committee, once constituted, put out an open call for submissions in order to ensure that the output would be informed both by developments in international human rights law and by lived experience. Drawing both on the submissions received, as well as relevant research and expertise, the Drafting Committee prepared a Draft Document which was then discussed, substantially elaborated and adopted following an Experts' Meeting held in Geneva from 18-20 September 2017. The experts included persons from all regions, from multiple legal traditions, and of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics.

The YP +10 document was thus informed by an open consultation among multiple stakeholders in the field and hence reflects some of the key issues and developments relating to the specific forms of rights violations experienced by persons on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

The YP+10 document is an affirmation of existing international legal standards as they apply to all persons on grounds of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. States must comply with these principles both as a legal obligation and as an aspect of their commitment to universal human rights.

Members of the Drafting Committee:

Mauro Cabral Grinspan

Morgan Carpenter

Julia Ehrt

Sheherezade Kara

Arvind Narrain

Pooja Patel

Chris Sidoti

Monica Tabengwa

WE, THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF EXPERTS IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS

PREAMBLE

RECALLING that the Yogyakarta Principles on the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity, adopted in November 2006, provided in a preambular paragraph that the Yogyakarta Principles must rely on the current state of international law and will require revision on a regular basis in order to take account of developments in that law and its application to the particular lives and experiences of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities over time and in diverse regions and countries;

NOTING that there have been significant developments in international human rights law and jurisprudence on issues relating to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, since the adoption of the Yogyakarta Principles;

RECALLING the Yogyakarta Principles' definitions of 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity';

UNDERSTANDING 'gender expression' as each person's presentation of the person's gender through physical appearance – including dress, hairstyles, accessories, cosmetics – and mannerisms, speech, behavioural patterns, names and personal references, and noting further that gender expression may or may not conform to a person's gender identity;

NOTING that 'gender expression' is included in the definition of gender identity in the Yogyakarta Principles and, as such, all references to gender identity should be understood to be inclusive of gender expression as a ground for protection;

UNDERSTANDING 'sex characteristics' as each person's physical features relating to sex, including genitalia and other sexual and reproductive anatomy, chromosomes, hormones, and secondary physical features emerging from puberty;

NOTING that 'sex characteristics' as an explicit ground for protection from violations of human rights has evolved in international jurisprudence, and recognising that the Yogyakarta Principles apply equally to the ground of sex characteristics as to the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression;

INCLUDING, in sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, actual, perceived and attributed sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics as the case may be;

RECOGNISING that the needs, characteristics and human rights situations of persons and populations of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics are distinct from each other;

NOTING that sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics are each distinct and intersectional grounds of discrimination, and that they may be, and commonly are, compounded by discrimination on other grounds including race, ethnicity, indigeneity, sex, gender, language, religion, belief, political or other opinion, nationality, national or social origin, economic and social situation, birth, age, disability, health (including HIV status), migration, marital or family status, being a human rights defender or other status;

NOTING that violence, discrimination, and other harm based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics manifests in a continuum of multiple, interrelated and recurring forms, in a range of settings, from private to public, including technology-mediated settings, and in the contemporary globalised world it transcends national boundaries;

RECOGNISING that violence, discrimination and other harm based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics have an individual as well as a collective dimension and that acts of violence and discrimination which target the individual person are also an attack on human diversity, and on the universality and indivisibility of human rights;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the following Additional Principles, State Obligations and Recommendations are based on the current state of international human rights law and will require revision on a regular basis in order to take account of legal, scientific and societal developments and their application to the particular lives and experiences of persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics over time and in diverse regions and countries.

**FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH EXPERTS AND AN
EXPERTS' MEETING HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND,
FROM 18 TO 20 SEPTEMBER 2017, HEREBY ADOPT THESE
PRINCIPLES AND, IN DOING SO:**

AFFIRM the continuing validity of the original 29 Yogyakarta Principles of 2006;
DECLARE these Additional Principles, State Obligations and Recommendations as
supplementary to the original Yogyakarta Principles.

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE

30

THE RIGHT TO STATE PROTECTION

Everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, has the right to State protection from violence, discrimination and other harm, whether by government officials or by any individual or group.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute, punish and provide remedies for discrimination, violence and other harm, whether committed by State or non-State actors;
- B. Take appropriate and effective measures to eradicate all forms of violence, discrimination and other harm, including any advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, whether by public or private actors;
- C. Compile statistics and research on the extent, causes and effects of violence, discrimination and other harm, and on the effectiveness of measures to prevent, prosecute and provide reparation for such harm on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- D. Identify the nature and extent of attitudes, beliefs, customs and practices that perpetuate violence, discrimination and other harm on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, and report on the measures undertaken, and their effectiveness, in eradicating such harm;
- E. Develop, implement and support education and public information programmes to promote human rights and to eliminate prejudices on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- F. Ensure sensitivity training of judicial and law enforcement officers and other public officials on issues relating to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- G. Ensure that laws against rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment protect all persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- H. Establish support services for victims of rape, sexual assault and harassment, and other forms of violence and harm on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics;

- I. Ensure that human rights violations are vigorously investigated and, where evidence is found, those responsible are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished as appropriate;
- J. Ensure access to effective complaints procedures and remedies, including reparation, for victims of violence, discrimination and other harm on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

THE RIGHT TO LEGAL RECOGNITION

PRINCIPLE 31

Everyone has the right to legal recognition without reference to, or requiring assignment or disclosure of, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. Everyone has the right to obtain identity documents, including birth certificates, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. Everyone has the right to change gendered information in such documents while gendered information is included in them.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Ensure that official identity documents only include personal information that is relevant, reasonable and necessary as required by the law for a legitimate purpose, and thereby end the registration of the sex and gender of the person in identity documents such as birth certificates, identification cards, passports and driver licences, and as part of their legal personality;
- B. Ensure access to a quick, transparent and accessible mechanism to change names, including to gender-neutral names, based on the self-determination of the person;
- C. While sex or gender continues to be registered:
 - i. Ensure a quick, transparent, and accessible mechanism that legally recognises and affirms each person's self-defined gender identity;
 - ii. Make available a multiplicity of gender marker options;
 - iii. Ensure that no eligibility criteria, such as medical or psychological interventions, a psycho-medical diagnosis, minimum or maximum age, economic status, health, marital or parental status, or any other third party opinion, shall be a prerequisite to change one's name, legal sex or gender;
 - iv. Ensure that a person's criminal record, immigration status or other status is not used to prevent a change of name, legal sex or gender.

PRINCIPLE

32

THE RIGHT TO BODILY
AND MENTAL INTEGRITY

Everyone has the right to bodily and mental integrity, autonomy and self-determination irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. Everyone has the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. No one shall be subjected to invasive or irreversible medical procedures that modify sex characteristics without their free, prior and informed consent, unless necessary to avoid serious, urgent and irreparable harm to the concerned person.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Guarantee and protect the rights of everyone, including all children, to bodily and mental integrity, autonomy and self-determination;
- B. Ensure that legislation protects everyone, including all children, from all forms of forced, coercive or otherwise involuntary modification of their sex characteristics;
- C. Take measures to address stigma, discrimination and stereotypes based on sex and gender, and combat the use of such stereotypes, as well as marriage prospects and other social, religious and cultural rationales, to justify modifications to sex characteristics, including of children;
- D. Bearing in mind the child's right to life, non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, and respect for the child's views, ensure that children are fully consulted and informed regarding any modifications to their sex characteristics necessary to avoid or remedy proven, serious physical harm, and ensure that any such modifications are consented to by the child concerned in a manner consistent with the child's evolving capacity;
- E. Ensure that the concept of the best interest of the child is not manipulated to justify practices that conflict with the child's right to bodily integrity;
- F. Provide adequate, independent counselling and support to victims of violations, their families and communities, to enable victims to exercise and affirm rights to bodily and mental integrity, autonomy and self-determination;
- G. Prohibit the use of anal and genital examinations in legal and administrative proceedings and criminal prosecutions unless required by law, as relevant, reasonable, and necessary for a legitimate purpose.

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM CRIMINALISATION AND SANCTION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION, OR SEX CHARACTERISTICS

Everyone has the right to be free from criminalisation and any form of sanction arising directly or indirectly from that person's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Ensure that legal provisions, including in customary, religious and indigenous laws, whether explicit provisions, or the application of general punitive provisions such as acts against nature, morality, public decency, vagrancy, sodomy and propaganda laws, do not criminalise sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or establish any form of sanction relating to them;
- B. Repeal other forms of criminalisation and sanction impacting on rights and freedoms on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, including the criminalisation of sex work, abortion, unintentional transmission of HIV, adultery, nuisance, loitering and begging;
- C. Pending repeal, cease to apply discriminatory laws criminalising or applying general punitive sanctions on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- D. Expunge any convictions and erase any criminal records for past offences associated with laws arbitrarily criminalising persons on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- E. Ensure training for the judiciary, law enforcement officers and healthcare providers in relation to their human rights obligations regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- F. Ensure that law enforcement officers and other individuals and groups are held accountable for any act of violence, intimidation or abuse based on the criminalisation of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- G. Ensure effective access to legal support systems, justice and remedies for those who are affected by criminalisation and penalisation on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- H. Decriminalise body modification procedures and treatments that are carried out with prior, free and informed consent of the person.

PRINCIPLE

34

THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION FROM POVERTY

Everyone has the right to protection from all forms of poverty and social exclusion associated with sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. Poverty is incompatible with respect for the equal rights and dignity of all persons, and can be compounded by discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary legislative, administrative, budgetary and other measures, including economic policies, to ensure the progressive reduction and elimination of all forms of poverty associated with or exacerbated by sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- B. Promote social and economic inclusion of persons marginalised on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- C. Ensure the participation and inclusion of those experiencing poverty on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in the adoption and implementation of legislative, administrative, budgetary and other measures to combat poverty;
- D. Ensure appropriate institutional arrangements and data collection with the view to reduce poverty and social exclusion related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- E. Ensure access to effective remedies for violations of human rights, including those caused by non-State actors, that result in poverty and exclusion, and that adversely affect persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

PRINCIPLE

35

THE RIGHT TO SANITATION

Everyone has the right to equitable, adequate, safe and secure sanitation and hygiene, in circumstances that are consistent with human dignity, without discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Ensure that there are adequate public sanitation facilities which can be accessed safely and with dignity by all persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;

- B. Ensure that all schools and other institutional settings provide safe access to sanitation facilities to staff, students and visitors without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- C. Ensure that both public and private employers provide safe access to sanitation without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- D. Ensure that entities offering services to the public provide adequate sanitation without discrimination, including on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- E. Ensure that places of detention have adequate sanitation facilities which can be accessed safely and with dignity by all detainees, staff and visitors without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

THE RIGHT TO THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN RELATION TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

PRINCIPLE 36

Everyone is entitled to the same protection of rights online as they are offline. Everyone has the right to access and use information and communication technologies, including the internet, without violence, discrimination or other harm based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. Secure digital communications, including the use of encryption, anonymity and pseudonymity tools are essential for the full realisation of human rights, in particular the rights to life, bodily and mental integrity, health, privacy, due process, freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Take all necessary measures to ensure that all persons enjoy universal, affordable, open, safe, secure and equal access to information and communication technologies, including the internet, without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- B. Ensure the right of all individuals, without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, including those concerning sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, through information and communication technologies;

- C. Ensure that any restrictions to the right to access and use information and communication technologies and the internet are provided for by law and are necessary and proportionate to protect the human dignity, equality and freedoms of others, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- D. Respect and protect the privacy and security of digital communications, including the use by individuals of encryption, pseudonyms and anonymity technology;
- E. Ensure that any restrictions on the right to privacy, including through mass or targeted surveillance, requests for access to personal data, or through limitations on the use of encryption, pseudonymity and anonymity tools, are on a case specific basis, and are reasonable, necessary and proportionate as required by the law for a legitimate purpose and ordered by a court;
- F. Take measures to ensure that the processing of personal data for individual profiling is consistent with relevant human rights standards including personal data protection and does not lead to discrimination, including on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- G. Take all necessary legislative, administrative, technical and other measures, including ensuring private sector accountability, as outlined by relevant international standards, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to seek to prevent, remedy and eliminate online hate speech, harassment and technology-related violence against persons on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics under the framework of international human rights law.

PRINCIPLE

37

THE RIGHT TO TRUTH

Every victim of a human rights violation on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics has the right to know the truth about the facts, circumstances and reasons why the violation occurred. The right to truth includes effective, independent and impartial investigation to establish the facts, and includes all forms of reparation recognised by international law. The right to truth is not subject to statute of limitations and its application must bear in mind its dual nature as an individual right and the right of the society at large to know the truth about past events.

STATES SHALL:

- A. Adopt legal provisions to provide redress to victims of violations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, including public apology, expungement of relevant criminal convictions and records, rehabilitation and recovery services, adequate compensation and guarantees of non-recurrence;

- B. Ensure, in cases of violations of the right to mental and bodily integrity, effective access to remedies, redress, reparation and, where appropriate, psychological support and restorative treatments;
- C. Protect individuals' right to know the truth about their medical histories, including through full access to accurate medical records;
- D. Adopt and fully implement procedures to establish the truth concerning violations based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- E. Establish a truth-seeking mechanism and process in regard to human rights violations based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- F. Ensure that, in addition to individual victims and their families, communities and society at large can realise the right to the truth about systemic human rights violations based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, while respecting and protecting the right to privacy of individuals;
- G. Preserve documentary evidence of human rights violations based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, and ensure adequate access to archives with information on violations based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- H. Ensure that the facts and truth of the history, causes, nature and consequences of discrimination and violence on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics are disseminated and added to educational curricula with a view to achieving a comprehensive and objective awareness of past treatment of persons on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- I. Commemorate the suffering of victims of violations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics through public events, museums and other social and cultural activities.

PRINCIPLE

38

THE RIGHT TO PRACTISE, PROTECT, PRESERVE AND REVIVE CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Everyone, individually or in association with others, where consistent with the provisions of international human rights law, has the right to practise, protect, preserve and revive cultures, traditions, languages, rituals and festivals, and protect cultural sites of significance, associated with sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. Everyone, individually or in association with others, has the right to manifest cultural diversity through artistic creation, production, dissemination, distribution and enjoyment, whatever the means and technologies used, without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. Everyone, individually or in association with others, has the right to seek, receive, provide and utilise resources for these purposes without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

STATES SHALL:

- A . Ensure the right to practice, protect, preserve and revive the diversity of cultural expressions of persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics on the basis of the equal dignity of and respect for all.

ADDITIONAL STATE OBLIGATIONS

RELATING TO THE RIGHTS TO EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION (PRINCIPLE 2)

STATES SHALL:

- G. Take all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided, where needed, in order to promote equality and eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, including in education, employment, and access to services;
- H. Ensure that HIV status is not used as a pretext to isolate, marginalise or exclude persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions or sex characteristics, or prevent them from accessing goods, commodities and services;
- I. Ensure that all individuals can participate in sport in line with the gender with which they identify, subject only to reasonable, proportionate and non-arbitrary requirements;
- J. Ensure that all individuals can participate in sport without discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- K. Adopt legislative, policy and other measures in line with international human rights norms and standards to eliminate bullying and discriminatory behaviour at all levels of sports, on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- L. Combat the practice of prenatal selection on the basis of sex characteristics, including by addressing the root causes of discrimination against persons on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, and by carrying out awareness-raising activities on the detrimental impact of prenatal selection on these grounds;
- M. Take measures to address discriminatory attitudes and practices on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in relation to the application of prenatal treatments and genetic modification technologies.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY (PRINCIPLE 6)

STATES SHALL:

- G. Ensure that requirements for individuals to provide information on their sex or gender are relevant, reasonable and necessary as required by the law for a legitimate purpose in the circumstances where it is sought, and that such requirements respect all persons' right to self-determination of gender;
- H. Ensure that changes of the name or gender marker, as long as the latter exists, is not disclosed without the prior, free, and informed consent of the person concerned, unless ordered by a court.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO TREATMENT WITH HUMANITY WHILE IN DETENTION (PRINCIPLE 9)

STATES SHALL:

- H. Adopt and implement policies to combat violence, discrimination and other harm on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics faced by persons who are deprived of their liberty, including with respect to such issues as placement, body or other searches, items to express gender, access to and continuation of gender affirming treatment and medical care, and "protective" solitary confinement;
- I. Adopt and implement policies on placement and treatment of persons who are deprived of their liberty that reflect the needs and rights of persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and sex characteristics and ensure that persons are able to participate in decisions regarding the facilities in which they are placed;
- J. Provide for effective oversight of detention facilities, both with regard to public and private custodial care, with a view to ensuring the safety and security of all persons, and addressing the specific vulnerabilities associated with sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (PRINCIPLE 10)

STATES SHALL:

- D. Recognise that forced, coercive and otherwise involuntary modification of a person's sex characteristics may amount to torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;
- E. Prohibit any practice, and repeal any laws and policies, allowing intrusive and irreversible treatments on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, including forced genital-normalising surgery, involuntary sterilisation, unethical experimentation, medical display, "reparative" or "conversion" therapies, when enforced or administered without the free, prior, and informed consent of the person concerned.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION (PRINCIPLE 16)

STATES SHALL:

- I. Ensure inclusion of comprehensive, affirmative and accurate material on sexual, biological, physical and psychological diversity, and the human rights of people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics, in curricula, taking into consideration the evolving capacity of the child;
- J. Ensure inclusion of comprehensive, affirmative and accurate material on sexual, biological, physical and psychological diversity, and the human rights of people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics, in teacher training and continuing professional development programmes.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF HEALTH (PRINCIPLE 17)

STATES SHALL:

- J. Protect all persons from discrimination, violence and other harm on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in healthcare settings;
- K. Ensure access to the highest attainable standard of gender affirming healthcare, on the basis of an individual's free, prior and informed consent;
- L. Ensure that gender affirming healthcare is provided by the public health system or, if not so provided, that the costs are covered or reimbursable under private and public health insurance schemes;
- M. Take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of sexual and reproductive violence on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, including forced marriage, rape and forced pregnancy;
- N. Ensure access, without discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics, to pre and post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP);
- O. Ensure access to a range of safe, affordable and effective contraceptives, including emergency contraception, and to information and education on family planning and sexual and reproductive health, without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- P. Take all necessary legislative and other measures to ensure access to quality post abortion care, and remove any barriers that may hinder timely access to affordable and quality abortion services, without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- Q. Prevent the disclosure of HIV status, as well as personal health and medical information related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, such as gender affirming treatment, without the free, prior and informed consent of the person;
- R. Ensure that legal provisions, regulations or any other administrative measures on the donation of blood, gametes, embryos, organs, cells or other tissues do not discriminate on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- S. Ensure inclusion of affirmative material on sexual, biological, physical and psychological diversity and the human rights of people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics in medical curricula and continuing professional development programmes.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION (PRINCIPLE 19)

STATES SHALL:

- G. Take legislative, administrative, and other appropriate measures to ensure that all persons have access to information about their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including how these rights apply in relation to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics;
- H. Make freely available and accessible, both online and otherwise, international and regional treaties and instruments; the national constitution, national laws and regulations; research studies, reports, data, archives; reports and information submitted by the State to international and regional bodies and mechanisms; and all other information as may be necessary to secure or enable the exercise of any human rights or fundamental freedoms or access to remedy for a violation of any such right;
- I. Recognise that the needs, characteristics and human rights situations of populations of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics are distinct from each other, and ensure that data on each population is collected and managed in a manner consistent with ethical, scientific and human rights standards and made available in a disaggregated form.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO THE FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION (PRINCIPLE 20)

STATES SHALL:

- F. Respect, protect and facilitate the formation of associations for the purpose of promoting the rights of all persons, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- G. Ensure that associations which seek to promote human rights related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics can seek, receive and use funding and other resources from individuals, associations, foundations or other civil society organisations, governments, aid agencies, the private sector, the United Nations and other entities, domestic or foreign;
- H. Ensure that requirements and procedures to register associations, where they exist, are not burdensome or impose unjustifiable limitations, including on grounds of morality and public order;

- I. Ensure that the right to freedom of association applies equally to associations that are not registered, including associations working on issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- J. Take positive measures, including affirmative action measures, to overcome specific challenges to the enjoyment of the freedom of association of groups that are marginalised and made vulnerable on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- K. Take positive measures to protect the right to association of service providers working with those discriminated against on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO SEEK ASYLUM (PRINCIPLE 23)

STATES SHALL:

- D. Ensure that a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics is accepted as a ground for the recognition of refugee status, including where sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics are criminalised and such laws, directly or indirectly, create or contribute to an oppressive environment of intolerance and a climate of discrimination and violence;
- E. Ensure that persons seeking asylum are protected from violence, discrimination and other harm committed on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, including during the determination of their claims and in reception conditions;
- F. Ensure that no person is denied asylum on the basis that a person may conceal or change their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics in order to avoid persecution;
- G. Accept the self-identification of a person seeking asylum on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics as the starting point for consideration of their asylum claim;
- H. Ensure that persons seeking asylum are not refused asylum because they did not set out their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics as a ground for persecution on the first occasion they were given to do so;
- I. Ensure sensitive and culturally appropriate guidelines and training on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sexual characteristics for agents involved in the process of determination of refugee status and in managing reception conditions;

- J. Ensure respect for the dignity and privacy of persons seeking asylum at all times, including by recording information about a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics only where it is lawful, reasonable, necessary and proportionate to do so, by storing it securely and by prohibiting its release to any person other than a person directly involved in the refugee determination process;
- K. Develop and implement guidelines on assessing credibility in relation to establishing a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics when seeking asylum, and ensure such assessments are determined in an objective and sensitive manner, unhindered by stereotyping and cultural bias;
- L. Ensure that inappropriate, invasive, unnecessary or coercive medical or psychological testing or evidence is not utilised to assess a person's self-declared sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics when seeking asylum;
- M. Provide access to medical care and counselling appropriate to those seeking asylum, recognising any particular needs of persons on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, including with regard to reproductive health, HIV information and therapy, hormonal or other therapy, and gender affirming treatment;
- N. Ensure that the detention of asylum seekers is avoided, and is only used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time;
- O. Ensure that placement in detention, where used, avoids further marginalising persons on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics or subjecting them to violence, discrimination or other harm;
- P. Ensure that solitary confinement is not used to manage or to protect persons at risk of discrimination, violence or other harm on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, and release or refer asylum seekers to alternatives to detention, if effective protection cannot be provided.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO FOUND A FAMILY (PRINCIPLE 24)

STATES SHALL:

- H. Protect children from discrimination, violence or other harm due to the sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics of their parents, guardians, or other family members;
- I. Issue birth certificates for children upon birth that reflect the self-defined gender identity of the parents;
- J. Enable access to methods to preserve fertility, such as the preservation of gametes and tissues for any person without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics, including before hormonal treatment or surgeries;
- K. Ensure that surrogacy, where legal, is provided without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC LIFE (PRINCIPLE 25)

STATES SHALL:

- D. Take measures to ensure that sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics are not used as grounds to prevent a person from exercising their right to vote;
- E. Develop and implement affirmative action programmes to promote public and political participation for persons marginalised on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS (PRINCIPLE 27)

STATES SHALL:

- F. Enact a law, including to establish, designate or maintain an adequately resourced mechanism, for the protection of defenders of the rights of persons who experience or are at risk of violations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics;
- G. Ensure the participation of individuals and organisations working on human rights issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics in public and political decision-making processes that affect them.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

All members of society and of the international community have responsibilities regarding the realisation of human rights. We therefore further recommend that:

- Q. National human rights institutions ensure that in their programmes and activities they take action on human rights issues relating to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, mainstream those issues in all their functions, including complaint handling and human rights education, and promote the inclusion of persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in their leadership and staff;
- R. Sporting organisations integrate the Yogyakarta Principles (2006) and these Additional Principles (2017), as well as all relevant human rights norms and standards, in their policies and practices, in particular:
 - i. Take practical steps to create welcoming spaces for participation in sport and physical activity, including installation of appropriate changing rooms, and sensitisation of the sporting community on the implementation of anti-discrimination laws in the sporting context for persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and sex characteristics;
 - ii. Ensure that all individuals who wish to participate in sport are supported to do so irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, and that all individuals are able to participate, without restriction, subject only to reasonable, proportionate and non-arbitrary requirements to participate in line with their self-declared gender;
 - iii. Remove, or refrain from introducing, policies that force, coerce or otherwise pressure women athletes into undergoing unnecessary, irreversible and harmful medical examinations, testing and/or procedures in order to participate as women in sport;
 - iv. Take measures to encourage the general public to respect diversity based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in sports, including measures to eliminate hate speech, harassment, and violence at sports events.

THESE ADDITIONAL PRINCIPLES, STATE OBLIGATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS reflect the application of international human rights law to the lives and experiences of persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics, and nothing herein should be interpreted as restricting or in any way limiting the rights and freedoms of such persons as recognised in international, regional or national laws or standards.

SIGNATORIES TO THE ADDITIONAL PRINCIPLES AND STATE OBLIGATIONS

Philip Alston (*Australia*), UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Ilze Kehris Brands (*Latvia and Sweden*), Member, UN Human Rights Committee; Senior research fellow, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Deborah Brown (*United States of America*), Association for Progressive Communications

Mauro Cabral Grinspan (*Argentina*), Executive Director, GATE

Edwin Cameron (*South Africa*), Judge, Constitutional Court of South Africa

Morgan Carpenter (*Australia*), Founder, Intersex Day Project; Co-executive director, Organisation Intersex International Australia; Consultant, GATE

Kamala Chandrakirana (*Indonesia*), Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights - Asia-Pacific; member of the UN Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice (2011-2017)

Sonia Onufer Corrêa (*Brazil*), Research Associate, Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association (ABIA); Co-chair, Sexuality Policy Watch

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Eszter Kismodi (*Hungary and Switzerland*), International human rights lawyer

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Monica Mbaru (*Kenya*), Judge, Employment and Labour Relations Court

Sanji Mmasenono Monageng (*Botswana*), Judge, International Criminal Court, The Hague; Commissioner, International Commission of Jurists

Vitit Muntarbhorn (*Thailand*), Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University; UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (2016-2017)

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Sunil Pant (*Nepal*), Member of Parliament (2008-2012), Nepal

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