International parliamentary support to promote the human rights and inclusion of LGBTI people:

**UNDP/PGA’s Handbook for Parliamentarians**

Ms. Petra Bayr, Member of Parliament (Austria), PGA Treasurer, Member of PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
HANDBOOK FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

• Produced by PGA and UNDP

• It contains:
  – Background information about LGBTI people and their situation
  – Principles of international human rights law
  – Concrete actions that parliamentarians can take to promote the human rights of LGBTI people
  – Advice and practical tools
  – Successful case studies from different countries around the world

• Available at www.pgaction.org/inclusion, where you can find other useful resources
Advancing the rights and inclusion of all individuals, including LGBTI people, is the **responsibility of all parliamentarians**.

MPs can take action to safeguard the rights of LGBTI people in our different roles and in different contexts:

- In our legislative role
- In our representation role
- In our oversight role
- Working within parliament
- Working within and across political parties
- Reaching out to civil society
EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS IN OUR LEGISLATIVE ROLE

• Enact laws that specifically **prohibit discrimination** on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.

• **Prioritize access** to justice, housing, employment, healthcare, education and legal recognition for LGBTI people.

• Protect individuals from homophobic, lesbophobic and transphobic violence by adopting **hate crime laws**.
EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS IN OUR REPRESENTATION ROLE

• Reach out to **civil society organizations** to learn about violations of human rights to LGBTI people and the best way to tackle them.

• Share **best practices and lessons learned** from our countries with colleagues worldwide.

• Support the **events** of the LGBTI organizations and participate in Pride parades.

• Use your access to **mass media and social media** to disseminate positive messages about LGBTI people.
EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS IN OUR OVERSIGHT ROLE

• Ensure that national budgets allocate adequate resources to programs and policies that address the needs of LGBTI people.

• **Monitor** and oversee public institutions (including the police) on their training and actions related to LGBTI rights and inclusion.

• Call on the governments to **protect** LGBTI activists facing threats of violence or death.
EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS WITHIN PARLIAMENT

- Promote sensitization campaigns among fellow parliamentarians.
- Challenge other parliamentarians who advocate for exclusionary language or actions and take concrete steps to counter these actions.
- Ask organizations like PGA, UNDP and other relevant agencies for technical assistance and facilitation of networking opportunities with parliamentarians in other countries who are also working for equality.
Encourage LGBTI people to join the political party, run as candidates and vie for leadership positions within the party.

Influence the platform of your political party to ensure that LGBTI people are regularly consulted and take part in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies that affect them.

Establish or participate in cross-party caucuses to advance LGBTI rights and inclusion.
EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

• Build and maintain a **working relationship** with civil society organizations that serve LGBTI communities.

• Advocate for **education campaigns** with constituents to combat prejudice against LGBTI people.

• Build broad-based **civil society coalitions** with LGBTI organizations, youth organizations, women’s groups, etc. to challenge discrimination against LGBTI people.
HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT LGBTI ISSUES

• Make a point that this is about everyday people who want the same chance as everyone else.

• Assess the audience.

• Tell emotionally compelling personal stories.

• Use the self-definitions and pronouns preferred by people.

• Illustrate concrete harms that discriminate against and exclude LGBTI people.

• Frame the discussion within the specific context.