

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN, GIRLS AND LGBTI PERSONS: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

FIGHTING DISINFORMATION AND RAISING AWARENESS

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, some political and religious leaders have falsely blamed LGBTI communities for the pandemic, resulting in an increase of LGBTI-phobia around the world. Moreover, there has also been a lack of accurate and comprehensive data on the gendered impacts of the pandemic, which could inform policy-making and be used to raise awareness of the specific needs of women, girls and LGBTI persons.

Actions Parliamentarians can take:

- Create information campaigns specifically on the prevention of, and fight against violence;
- Speak out in parliament and condemn harmful practices against women and girls as well as anti-LGBTI hate speech and scapegoating;
- Call for the training of law enforcement officials and public servants in general to not discriminate against LGBTI persons and to instead proactively identify and report cases of abuse of power; and
- Call on relevant Ministries to collect comprehensive age- and sex-disaggregated data on the situation of women, girls and LGBTI persons during the pandemic.

Country-Specific Practices:

Asia

South Korea: After a cluster of new COVID-19 cases was traced to a prominent gay club in Itaewon resulting in increased homophobic sentiment, the government urged journalists and media personnel to exercise caution to prevent personal information from leaking.

Europe

Spain: The government published guidance for LGBTI persons on resources available to them, including economic, health and emotional support.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina: The Congressional Budget Office published a detailed report on how the COVID-19 pandemic is widening the economic gender gap.

To learn more about PGA's Gender, Equality and Inclusion Program, or to share your country's experience and policies, please contact:

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