

Asia LGBTIQ Network on SOGIE & GBV Membership Statement

This statement is developed by OutRight Action International in close consultation with current members of the Asia LGBTIQ Network on SOGIE & GBV who participated in the October 2020 online regional forum and subsequent online meetings. Acronyms used: SOGIE = sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; GBV = gender based violence; LGBTI = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex.

Who We Are

The Asia LGBTIQ Network on SOGIE and GBV is a network of individuals with expertise on gender based violence faced by LGBTI communities in Asia—including domestic violence, family violence, and intimate partner violence. The purpose of this Network is to link national anti-GBV initiatives to a regional platform, convene advocacy and learning exchanges, support LGBTI advocates working on GBV, share good practices and information resources based on lessons learned about addressing LGBTI challenges with GBV, and provide expert advice for improving GBV protections and services for LGBTI people. Funded and organized by OutRight Action International, the Network was established in October 2020 and currently has 40 members based in 13 countries in Asia.

OutRight Action International is a leading international organization dedicated to human rights advocacy on behalf of people who experience discrimination or abuse based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. <https://outrightinternational.org/>

Values And Principles

The Asia LGBTIQ Network on SOGIE and GBV advocates principles and values of LGBTI feminist intersectionality, which includes:

- LGBTI led efforts to bring visibility to gender based violence
- Understanding that gender based violence includes violence on grounds of sexual orientation, gender, and sex characteristics.
- Using approaches to stop GBV that are feminist and LGBTI-inclusive
- Recognizing that violence and discrimination against LGBTI people are not only based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, but also on other factors such as their race, caste, ethnicity, skin color, mental and physical disabilities, religion, economic status, and age.

Membership Criteria

1. Existing members of the Network have clarity about and accept the agreed-on values and principles.
2. The Network's membership criteria include the following:
 - Individual members only
 - LGBTI advocates who are working on GBV
 - Non-LGBTI members/allies who are already trained in SOGIE & GBV

- LGBTI allies who include but are not limited to representatives of
 - Women’s rights movements
 - National Human Rights Commissions
 - National Women’s Commissions
 - Human rights defenders of other vulnerable communities – such as, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, elders, sex workers, migrant workers, refugees, people displaced by climate disaster and/or conflict
 - Medical professionals and mental health professionals who champion LGBTI issues, e.g., banning “conversion therapy”
 - Feminist lawyers who support protections and enabling environments for LGBTI
 - Social workers who champion LGBTI mental health
 - LGBTI supportive experts on GBV in humanitarian crises
 - LGBTI supportive experts on GBV in disaster contexts
3. New members must be recommended by current members of the Regional Network. New members must have clarity of and accept membership criteria, values, and principles.

Member Expectations

1. Members attend convenings sponsored/hosted by OutRight, e.g., regional forum, OutRight’s OutSummit workshops, online discussion and webinars organized by the Network. Meeting schedule will be posted ahead of time. Timely communication of inability to attend is expected.
2. There is no fee to be a member of the Network. The bulleted list below provides some suggestions on how members may wish to engage in the Network. Additional ideas are very welcome.
 - identify topics for online discussion or webinars related to the Network’s focus
 - suggest and find speakers for Network’s online seminars/webinars
 - volunteer yourself to speak in webinars/online discussion
 - help publicize activities that are open to public
 - produce fliers/posters for Network activities
 - partner with OutRight to plan and host a post-COVID in-person regional forum in your city
 - be part of OutRight’s Asia region speakers’ bureau on LGBTI issues in your country
 - write opinion pieces for the Network’s Information and Expertise Hub
 - participate in activities of the Network Wellness Collective core group
 - contribute resources to the Network’s Information and Expertise Hub such as: research findings, good models, and protocols for LGBTI inclusive protections and services for GBV, good policy recommendations, good practices for supporting the sustainability of LGBTI groups and movements working on GBV, good training curriculum, digital stories from LGBTI survivors of GBV, digital stories from advocates working to stop the intersectionality of violence against LGBTI people
 - help provide or recommend language translation/translators so your local networks can access Network resources.

3. To grow the Network, we urge members to recommend 4-5 new members within the first 6 months of joining the Network. We prioritize diversification of LGBTI representation, LGBTI expertise in GBV, and experts who are strong allies of LGBTI rights and protections.
4. Members are expected to participate in annual regional forums (online and/or in-person) organized by OutRight. Based on available funding, OutRight will cover participant costs for in-person (post-COVID) regional forums.
5. Although English is the current link language of the Regional Network, we are constantly seeking good practices for language diversity and aid. We understand that language interpretation must be SOGIESC sensitive and appropriate, familiar with gender-based violence feminist concepts, and familiar with LGBTI inclusivity. Based on available funding, OutRight will cover translation costs.

Asia Resources Hub on SOGIE & GBV Information & Expertise

1. The Network's Information and Expertise Hub was developed and is managed by OutRight and is accessible to Network members. Non-member/public access to the Hub is also available by invitation. All access to the Hub is vetted, i.e., Network members and non-members require login.
2. Member contributions of writing and other resource materials to the Hub are submitted to OutRight's Asia Program staff for review prior to publication. Non-member contributions of resource materials are submitted to OutRight's Asia Program staff who coordinate with Network members from the contributor's country for review and recommendations.
3. The Hub will house resources in original languages and translated versions if available. OutRight will assist with identifying resources for language translation to English. The Network's members are welcome to translate materials on the Hub to and/or from English.

Process For Adding New Members

1. Current Network members submit recommendations for potential new members via email to OutRight Asia Program staff for review and consideration. There is no membership fee.
2. Before submitting recommendations to OutRight, existing Network members must:
 - Familiarize each potential new member with the Network, membership criteria, and member expectations. Verify that individuals are interested and able to participate.
 - Advise OutRight on why the individual is being recommended and what expertise they bring to the Network. Clarify in what capacity you know them and their work.
 - Clarify with the recommended individuals that English is the medium of communication/link language for Network activities.
 - Let them know OutRight staff will review and follow up recommendations.
 - Provide the names, email and other contact information for recommended individuals.

3. OutRight will request potential new members to provide a bio summary of 150 words or less, describing their work, their relevant expertise for the Network, and their capacity to engage in the Network.
4. Where an individual directly requests membership from OutRight, the current Network member in that country is consulted. If there is no in-country member, OutRight will confer with other sources.
5. If there is knowledge that an individual membership applicant does not share the Network's values/principles, there are different options for handling the request. OutRight's Asia Program staff are available to discuss and help with decisions. In some instances, the requests may need to be rejected. In other instances, individuals may be encouraged to re-apply at a later time and show how they can be compatible with the Network's values/principles. If there are concerns about a membership request but no evidence of non-compliance with the Network's principles/values, the membership request could be accepted and, if later there's evidence of non-compliance and incompatibility, the membership could be revoked.
6. In the unlikely event that a rejected or revoked membership applicant contends the decision and requests re-consideration, there will be a process for handling the contestation, which would involve discussion and decision by OutRight Asia Program staff and a team/committee of Network members. This team/committee is not permanent and can be assembled on as needed and voluntary basis. There will be transparency and accountability for arriving at a decision.