GENERAL COMMENTS (RECOMMENDATIONS) BY UNITED NATIONS TREATY BODIES:

References to LGBTI and SOGIESC
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This publication details all general comments and general recommendations with language on lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI), and sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) issued by United Nations treaty bodies.
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Summary

This publication details all general comments and general recommendations containing language on lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI), and sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) issued by United Nations treaty bodies.

General comments (or general recommendations) are adopted by treaty bodies as part of their working methods. They represent authoritative interpretations of international human rights treaties, clarifying the obligations of States parties in relation to specific rights enshrined in the treaties, particular populations (for example, older persons or women) or certain contexts (such as armed conflict or business).

Despite the absence of explicit LGBTI / SOGIESC human rights standards in the treaties themselves, general comments and general recommendations have established the understanding of human rights standards as applied to LGBTI / SOGIESC.

The publication covers 45 general comments and general recommendations issued since 2000, when the first mention of sexual orientation appeared in a general comment by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Today, almost all treaty bodies have developed their interpretation of LGBTI / SOGIESC human rights through general recommendations and general comments.

The publication is divided into three parts. The first part provides an overview of LGBTI / SOGIESC topics as discussed in general comments (recommendations) made by treaty bodies. The second part is a compilation of LGBTI / SOGIESC references in general comments and general recommendations. It includes the titles of relevant documents and a summary of LGBTI / SOGIESC provisions contained within them. This compilation is accompanied by a list of keywords for easier use. Hyperlinks to the online versions of general comments and general recommendations are also provided; these links allow access to the full texts of relevant documentation in any of the six official languages of the United Nations (English, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic and Chinese). The third section of the publication provides information on all general comments and general recommendations ever adopted by treaty bodies, highlighting those that incorporate LGBTI / SOGIESC language.

This publication can serve as a useful tool for human rights activists, lawyers and attorneys, state officials and academics engaging with LGBTI human rights and international law. General comments and general recommendations can be used in drafting shadow reports or state reports on specific countries for treaty bodies, advocacy under the Universal Periodic Review process and before regional or national human rights bodies. They can also be cited in court cases, legislative proposals and policy development. Students and academics studying, teaching or researching topics in human rights law, international relations, gender and sexuality can also benefit from this publication.
1. Overview of LGBTI / SOGIESC references in UN Treaty Bodies’ General Comments / General Recommendations

What, after all, could be the jurisprudential value of a mere ‘comment’, and an explicitly ‘general’ one at that? Yet the adoption of such a statement is today one of the potentially most significant and influential tools available to ... United Nations human rights treaty bodies in their endeavours to deepen understanding and strengthen the influence of international human rights law.

Philip Alston

Since 2000, United Nations treaty bodies have adopted 45 general comments and general recommendations addressing different human rights issues faced by LGBTI persons, as well as clarifying State obligations in this regard.

These general recommendations and general comments come from nine treaty bodies (see Figure 1). The majority of these documents have been issued by two committees—the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (each with 11 general comments or recommendations). They are followed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (8 general comments), and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (6 general comments). The Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture, and the Committee on Migrant Workers each have three general comments with LGBTI / SOGIESC language. Lastly, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances have mentioned sexual orientation and gender identity in one general recommendation / general comment each.

Figure 1: UN treaty bodies’ general comments and general recommendations with LGBTI / SOGIESC language

With this, nearly all treaty bodies—except for the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment—have developed their interpretations of LGBTI / SOGIESC human rights through general recommendations and general comments.

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2 There is no substantial difference between the two types of documents. Historically, most of the treaty bodies issue general comments, with the exceptions being the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (both calling their documents “general recommendations”).

3 The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is currently developing its first general comment on the definition of places of deprivation of liberty, and the first draft mentions “clandestine clinics that ‘treat homosexuality’. See OHCHR, 8th June 2023: Day of general discussion on the draft general comment of the Subcommittee on Prevention
LGBTI / SOGIESC references in the committees' general comments and recommendations covered a range of themes, and State obligations clarified therein encompassed different measures, including, but not limited to, adopting, reviewing or repealing legislation, developing and implementing policies, training professional groups, conducting public awareness raising activities, and taking measures to prevent third parties from violating the rights of LGBTI persons.

The committees clearly stated that criminalization of same-sex sexual acts between consenting adults, as well as certain forms of gender identity or expression, violates human rights norms, and therefore criminalizing legislation must be repealed.

Many references have been made to SOGIESC-based violence and discrimination and their particular forms, such as gender-based violence, “conversion therapies” or non-consensual medical interventions towards intersex children. In this regard, States must take special measures to protect LGBTI persons, prohibit and prevent violence and discrimination from third parties, and adopt laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment based on SOGIESC.

States must also ensure that LGBTI persons can exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly, and restrictions supposedly aimed at protecting “morals” should not be imposed because of opposition to expressions of SOGIESC. Furthermore, States should involve and consult with LGBTI groups in developing and implementing measures and policies affecting them.

LGBTI persons’ personal relationships must be respected and protected, for example, especially concerning survivor’s pension rights; and when LGBTI families are recognized, States should ensure protection of the economic rights of members of such families. Additionally, children of LGBTI parents must also be protected from discrimination.

A lot of attention has been paid in treaty bodies’ general comments and general recommendations to intersectional forms of discrimination and violence. In this context, SOGIESC have been considered as intersecting with age, gender and disability; discrimination faced by LGBTI persons has been considered in the context of racial discrimination, migration and climate change.

Importantly, the committees also emphasized the developing notions of “sex” and “gender”, and the need to understand “sex” as being based on biology while “gender” reflecting social constructs resulting in hierarchies and unequal distribution of power and rights.

To conclude, treaty bodies’ general comments and general recommendations should be considered in the light of comprehensive standards and recommendations developed through other working methods of the committees—notably, their views on individual communications and their concluding observations. Whether considered separately or alongside these other documents, treaty bodies’ general recommendations and comments reflect the growing understanding of LGBTI human rights, and therefore can be a powerful advocacy tool, especially in the absence of explicit LGBTI / SOGIESC language in the international human rights treaties.

Other materials and reports on LGBTI / SOGIESC human rights in United Nations treaty bodies published by ILGA World include:

- Submissions to treaty bodies in relation to draft general comments (recommendations)
- Annual Treaty Bodies Reports
- Strategic Litigation Toolkit
- Information on LGBTI jurisprudence on individual communications
- A guide on trans advocacy before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

For more information and news visit Treaty Bodies section on ILGA World’s website.

2. Compilation of LGBTI / SOGIESC references in UN Treaty Bodies’ General Comments / General Recommendations

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<td>General comment No. 35 (2014) Article 9: Liberty and security of person CCPR/C/GC/35</td>
<td>• Rights to liberty and security as guaranteed for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (para. 3). • State duty to respond to violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 9).</td>
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<td>• State duty to take special measures to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons as a vulnerable group (para. 23). • The right to life must be respected and ensured without distinction based on sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 61).</td>
<td>LGBTI; right to life; SOGI</td>
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<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>General comment No. 37 (2020) Article 21: The right of peaceful assembly CCPR/C/GC/37</td>
<td>• State duty to ensure that laws and their interpretation and application do not result in discrimination in the enjoyment of the right of peaceful assembly, including based on sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 25); • Restrictions on peaceful assemblies should only exceptionally be imposed for the protection of “morals”, and restrictions based on this ground may not be imposed because of opposition to expressions of sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 46).</td>
<td>discrimination; freedom of peaceful assembly; morals; SOGI</td>
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<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
<td>General comment No. 18 (2005) Article 6: The right to work E/C.12/GC/18</td>
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<td>General comment No. 20 (2009) Article 2 (2): Non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights E/C.12/GC/20</td>
<td>• State duty to adopt measures, including legislation, to ensure that private individuals and entities do not discriminate on prohibited grounds (for example, actors in the private housing sector may directly or indirectly deny access to housing based on sexual orientation) (para. 11); • Since the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the notion of the prohibited ground “sex” has evolved considerably to cover not only physiological characteristics but also the social construction of gender stereotypes, prejudices and expected roles, which have created obstacles to the equal fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights (para. 20); • Sexual orientation and gender identity are protected ground covered by the notion of “other status”; State duty to ensure that a person’s sexual orientation is not a barrier to realizing the rights enshrined in the Covenant, eg survivor’s pension rights; harassment in schools or in the workplace are serious human rights violations faced by transgender, transsexual or intersex persons (para. 32).</td>
<td>discrimination; education; employment; family; gender; harassment; housing; legislation; sex; SO; SOGI; partnership; protected grounds; stereotypes; TI</td>
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<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
<td>General comment No. 22 (2016) Article 12: The right to sexual and reproductive health E/C.12/GC/22</td>
<td>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons experience multiple and intersecting discrimination that exacerbates exclusion in both law and practice, and further restricts the full enjoyment of their right to sexual and reproductive health (para. 2); • State duty to ensure prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status as required by the right to sexual and reproductive health, combined with the right to work (article 6 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), just and favourable working conditions (article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), non-discrimination and equality between men and women (para. 9); • Evidence-based information on all aspects of sexual and reproductive health must be provided in a manner consistent with the needs of the individual and the community, taking into consideration sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status ( paras. 18 and 19); • Non-discrimination, in the context of the right to sexual and reproductive health, encompasses the right of all persons, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, to be fully respected for their sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status; criminalization of sex between consenting adults of the same gender or the expression of one’s gender identity is a clear violation of human rights; regulations requiring that lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender and intersex persons be treated as mental or psychiatric patients, or requiring that they be “cured” by so-called “treatment”, are a clear violation of their right to sexual and reproductive health; State duty to combat homophobia and transphobia, which lead to discrimination, including violation of the right to sexual and reproductive health (para 23); • Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are more likely to experience multiple discrimination; measures to guarantee nondiscrimination and substantive equality should be cognizant of and seek to overcome the often exacerbated impact that intersectional discrimination has on the realization of the right to sexual and reproductive health (para 30); • State duty to reform laws that impede the exercise of the right to sexual and reproductive health, such as laws criminalizing consensual sexual activities between adults and transgender identity or expression (para 40); • Criminalization of consensual sexual activity between adults creates legal barriers impeding access by individuals to sexual and reproductive health services, and thus violates the State’s obligation to respect (para 57); • State obligation to protect is violated by failure to take effective steps to prevent third parties from undermining the enjoyment of the right to sexual and reproductive health – including failure to prohibit and take measures to prevent violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and medically unnecessary, irreversible and medically unnecessary, irreversible and involuntary surgery and treatment performed on intersex infants or children (para. 59).</td>
<td>&quot;conversion therapies&quot;; criminalisation; discrimination; intersectional discrimination; intersex medical interventions; legislation; LGBTI; SOGI; right to information; SRHR; violence</td>
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<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
<td>General comment No. 23 (2016) Article 7: The right to just and favourable conditions of work E/C.12/GC/23</td>
<td>• Equality applies to all workers without distinction based on sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 11); • The reference to equal opportunity requires that hiring, promotion and termination not be discriminatory; this is highly relevant for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex workers (para. 31); • State duty to define harassment broadly in legislation, with explicit reference to harassment based on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status (para. 48); • Consultations not only with traditional social partners but also with other relevant organizations, such as those representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, are important in formulating, implementing, reviewing and monitoring laws and policies related to the right to just and favourable conditions of work (para. 56); • State duty to guarantee through law the exercise of the right to just and favorable conditions of work without discrimination of based on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status (para. 65 (a)).</td>
<td>consultations; decision-making; discrimination; employment; legislation; LGBTI; SOGI; SOGII</td>
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| Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | General comment No. 25 (2020); Article 15 (1) (b), (2), (3) and (4); Science and economic, social and cultural rights E/C.12/GC/25 | • State duty to adopt measures to eliminate conditions and combat attitudes perpetuating inequality and discrimination in order to enable all to enjoy the right to participate and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications without discrimination, including based on sexual orientation and gender identity (para. 25);  
 • State duty to pay special attention to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, among groups experiencing systemic discrimination, in the enjoyment of the right to participate and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications (para. 28);  
 • State duty to adopt measures to prevent other actors from interfering with the right to participate and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications when these actors commit acts such as preventing access to knowledge or discriminating on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 43). | discrimination; LGBTI; science; SOGI                                                                |
| Committee against Torture                        | General comment No. 2 (2008); Implementation of article 2 by States parties CAT/C/GC/2 | • State duty to ensure that their laws are in practice applied to all persons, regardless of sexual orientation and transgender identity (para. 21);  
 • Being female intersects with other identifying characteristics or status of the person such as sexual orientation (para. 22). | intersectional discrimination; legislation; SO; SOGI                                                  |
| Committee against Torture                        | General comment No. 3 (2012); Implementation of article 14 by States parties CAT/C/GC/3 | • For restitution to be effective, efforts should be made to address any structural causes of the violation, including discrimination based on sexual orientation (para. 8);  
 • State duty to take positive measures to ensure that redress is equally accessible to all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 32);  
 • States duty to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, as a vulnerable group, are treated fairly and equally and obtain fair and adequate compensation, rehabilitation and other reparative measures which respond to their specific needs (para. 39). | LGBT; remedies; SO; SOGI                                                                              |
| Committee against Torture                        | General comment No. 4 (2017) on the implementation of article 3 in the context of article 22 CAT/C/GC/4 | • Indications of personal risk of torture, in the context of non-refoulement, may include the complainant’s sexual orientation and gender identity (para. 45 (e)). | migration; non-refoulement; SOGI; torture                                                             |
| Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women | General recommendation No. 27 (2010) on older women and protection of their human rights CEDAW/C/GC/27 | • The discrimination experienced by older women is often multidimensional, with the age factor compounding other forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (para. 13). | ageing; discrimination; intersectional discrimination; SOGI; women                                      |
| Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women | General recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 CEDAW/C/GC/28 | • “Sex” refers to biological differences between men and women; “gender” refers to socially constructed identities, attributes and roles for women and men and society’s social and cultural meaning for these biological differences resulting in hierarchical relationships between women and men and in the distribution of power and rights favouring men and disadvantaging women (para. 5);  
 • The discrimination of women based on sex and gender is inextricably linked with other factors such as sexual orientation and gender identity; State duty to legally recognize intersecting forms of discrimination and their compounded negative impact on the women concerned and prohibit them, and to adopt and pursue policies and programmes to eliminate such occurrences, including temporary special measures (para. 18);  
 • Lesbian women are among groups of women particularly vulnerable to discrimination through civil and penal laws, regulations and customary law and practices (para. 31). | discrimination; gender; intersectional discrimination; legislation; lesbian; policy; sex; SOGI; TSM; women |
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<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>General recommendation No. 29 (2013) Article 16: Economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution CEDAW/C/GC/29</td>
<td>Certain forms of relationships (namely, same-sex relationships) are not legally, socially or culturally accepted in a considerable number of States parties; where they are recognized, whether as a de facto union, registered partnership or marriage, the State should ensure protection of the economic rights of the women in those relationships (para. 24).</td>
<td>family; partnership; women</td>
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<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>General recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations CEDAW/C/GC/30</td>
<td>State duty to address the specific risks and particular needs of different groups of internally displaced and refugee women who are subjected to multiple and intersecting discrimination, including women belonging to sexual minorities (para. 57 (b)).</td>
<td>IDP; intersectional discrimination; migration; refugee; SM; women</td>
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<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>General recommendation No. 32 (2014) on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women CEDAW/C/GC/32</td>
<td>Discrimination against women based on sex and/or gender is often inextricably linked with and compounded by other factors such as being lesbian, bisexual or transgender; State duty to legally recognize such intersecting forms of discrimination and their compounded negative impact on the women concerned and prohibit them (para. 6); Gender-related claims to asylum may intersect with other proscribed grounds of discrimination, including being lesbian, bisexual or transgender (para. 16); State duty to consider adding being lesbian, bisexual or transgender to the list of grounds for refugee status in their national asylum legislation (para. 38).</td>
<td>asylum; discrimination; LBT; legislation; migration; intersectional discrimination; refugee; women</td>
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<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>General recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women’s access to justice CEDAW/C/GC/33</td>
<td>Discrimination may be directed against women on the basis of their sex and gender; “gender” refers to socially constructed identities, attributes and roles for women and men and the cultural meaning imposed by society on to biological differences, which are consistently reflected within the justice system and its institutions (para. 7); Grounds for intersecting or compounded discrimination may include identity as a lesbian, bisexual or transgender woman or intersex person; these intersecting factors make it more difficult for women from those groups to gain access to justice (para. 8); Women are disproportionately criminalized owing to their situation or status, such as identity as a lesbian, bisexual or transgender woman or intersex person (para. 49).</td>
<td>access to justice; criminalisation; discrimination; gender; intersectional discrimination; LBT; protected grounds; sex; women</td>
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<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>General recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19 CEDAW/C/GC/35</td>
<td>Discrimination against women is inextricably linked to other factors that affect their lives, such as being lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex; gender-based violence may affect some women to different degrees, or in different ways, meaning that appropriate legal and policy responses are needed (para. 12); State duty to repeal provisions that criminalize being lesbian, bisexual or transgender (para. 29 (c) (l)).</td>
<td>criminalisation; discrimination; GBV; intersectional discrimination; LBT; legislation; policy</td>
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<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>General recommendation No. 36 (2017) on the right of girls and women to education CEDAW/C/GC/36</td>
<td>Limited education and cultural taboos are among the factors that prevent lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex students from achieving social mobility and increase their vulnerability to violence (para. 45); State duty to address discrimination against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and girls, and intersex persons by ensuring that policies are in place to address the obstacles that impede their access to education (para. 46 (l)); Lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex children experience both sexism and homophobia (para. 66).</td>
<td>discrimination; education; intersectional discrimination; LBT; policy; women</td>
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| Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women | General recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change  CEDAW/C/GC/37 | • Situations of crisis exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities and compound the intersecting forms of discrimination against, among others, women belonging to sexual minority groups who are often disproportionately affected compared with men or other women (para. 2);  
• State duty to ensure that all measures and activities relating to disaster risk reduction and climate change are based on equality and non-discrimination, with priority being accorded to the most marginalized groups of women and girls, such as those from sexual minority groups (para. 26 (a));  
• State duty to inform the authorities, emergency services workers and other groups about the rights and needs of women and girls, including lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and girls and intersex persons, and the ways in which they may be exposed to and affected by gender-based violence (para. 57 (e));  
• State duty to explicitly include in health-care policies and standards relating to situations of disaster specific measures to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and girls and intersex persons (para. 68 (f)). | climate change; discrimination; health care; intersectional discrimination; LBTI; policy; SM; training; women |
| Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women | General recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration  CEDAW/C/GC/38 | • State duty to interpret the grounds for identifying victims of persecution under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, in line with the Guidelines on International Protection of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including No. 9 on sexual orientation and gender identity (para. 88). | migration; refugee; SOGI |
| Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women | General recommendation No. 39 (2020) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls  CEDAW/C/GC/39 | • Lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex Indigenous women and girls regularly face intersecting forms of discrimination (para. 22);  
• State duty to develop comprehensive policies to eliminate discrimination against Indigenous women and girls, inclusive of measures to address intersectional discrimination faced by Indigenous women and girls, including lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women (para. 23 (a));  
• State duty to ensure that quality health services and facilities are available, accessible, affordable, culturally appropriate and acceptable for Indigenous women and girls, including lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and girls (para. 52 (a)). | discrimination; indigenous; intersectional discrimination; health care; LBTI; policy; women |
<p>| Committee on the Rights of the Child | General comment No. 3 (2003): HIV/AIDS and the rights of the child  CRC/GC/2003/3 | • Discrimination, including based on sexual orientation, is responsible for heightening the vulnerability of children to HIV and AIDS, as well as seriously impacting the lives of children who are affected by HIV/AIDS, or are themselves HIV infected (paras. 7 and 8). | children; discrimination; health care; HIV; SO |
| Committee on the Rights of the Child | General comment No. 4 (2003): Adolescent health and development in the context of the CRC Convention  CRC/GC/2003/4 | • State duty to ensure that all human beings below 18 enjoy all the rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child without discrimination, including based on adolescents’ sexual orientation and health status (including HIV/AIDS and mental health) (para. 6). | children; discrimination; health care; HIV; SO |
| Committee on the Rights of the Child | General comment No. 13 (2011): The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence  CRC/C/GC/13 | • Lesbian, gay, transgender or transsexual children are among the groups of children which are likely to be exposed to violence (para. 72 (g)). | children; LGT; violence |</p>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
<td>General comment No. 14 (2013) Article 3 (1): The right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration</td>
<td>Children are not a homogeneous group and therefore diversity must be taken into account when assessing their best interests; the identity of the child includes characteristics such as sexual orientation (p. 7).</td>
<td>children; intersectional discrimination; SO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
<td>General comment No. 20 (2016) on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence</td>
<td>Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adolescents commonly face persecution, including abuse and violence, stigmatization, discrimination, bullying, exclusion from education and training, lack of family and social support, or access to sexual and reproductive health services and information; in extreme cases, sexual assault, rape and even death; these experiences have been linked to low self-esteem, higher rates of depression, suicide and homelessness (para. 33); All adolescents have the right to freedom of expression and respect for their physical and psychological integrity, gender identity and emerging autonomy; the imposition of so-called “treatments” to try to change sexual orientation and forced surgeries or treatments on intersex adolescents are condemned by the Committee on the Rights of the Child; State duty to eliminate such practices, repeal all laws criminalizing or otherwise discriminating against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status and adopt laws prohibiting discrimination on those grounds, and to take effective action to protect all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex adolescents from violence, discrimination or bullying by raising public awareness and implementing safety and support measures (para. 34); The digital environment can expose adolescents to risks, such as online fraud, violence and hate speech, sexist speech against girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex adolescents (para. 48); State duty to make particular efforts to overcome barriers of stigma and fear experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex adolescents in gaining access to commodities, information and counselling on sexual and reproductive health and rights (para. 60); Comprehensive and inclusive sexual and reproductive health education, with attention to sexual diversity, should be part of the mandatory school curriculum and reach out-of-school adolescents (para. 61); Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adolescents are at a higher risk of HIV infection (para. 62); Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex adolescents are among the marginalised groups not given the opportunity to make the transition to secondary education (para. 70).</td>
<td>adolescents; awareness-raising; “conversion therapies”; criminalisation; digital environment; CSE; discrimination; education; freedom of expression; Gl; hate speech; health care; HIV; intersex medical interventions; legislation; LGBT; LGBTI; physical and psychological integrity; protected grounds; right to information; SO; SOGIL; SRHR; violence</td>
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<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
<td>General comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations</td>
<td>Children in street situations are not a homogenous group; characteristics are diverse in terms of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, among others (para. 6); Among the structural causes of the emergence and exclusion of children in street situations are children cast out from families as a result of questioning their sexuality or identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or asexual (para. 8); Children can face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, for example, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression (para. 26).</td>
<td>children; housing; intersectional discrimination; LGBTIA; SOGIE</td>
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<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child and Committee on Migrant Workers</td>
<td>General comment No. 22/3 (2017) on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration CMW/C/GC/3- CRC/C/GC/22</td>
<td>• In the context of international migration, children may be in a situation of multiple vulnerability due to them being children, affected by migration, and their sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 3); • All children involved in or affected by international migration are entitled to the enjoyment of their rights, regardless of the children’s or their parents’, legal guardians’ or family members’ sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 21); • State duty to consider the specific vulnerable circumstances that could face migrant children on the basis of their gender and other factors, such as sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 42).</td>
<td>children; family; migration; SOGI</td>
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<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child and Committee on Migrant Workers</td>
<td>General comment No. 23/4 (2017) on State obligations regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration in countries of origin, transit, destination and return CMW/C/GC/4- CRC/C/GC/23</td>
<td>• State duty to take additional measures to address the particular vulnerability of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and abuse (para. 41).</td>
<td>children; LGBT; trafficking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
<td>General comment No. 24 (2019) on children’s rights in the child justice system CRC/C/GC/24</td>
<td>• Safeguards against discrimination are needed from the earliest contact with the criminal justice system and throughout the trial, and discrimination against any group of children requires active redress; gender-sensitive attention should be paid to children who are discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 40).</td>
<td>access to justice; children; discrimination; SOGI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
<td>General comment No. 25 (2021) on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment CRC/C/GC/25</td>
<td>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children are among groups of children that may require particular measures to prevent discrimination, because for such groups, the digital environment may both provide unique access to vital resources, and present heightened risks (para. 11).</td>
<td>children; digital environment; discrimination; intersectional discrimination; LGBT</td>
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<td>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>General comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities CRPD/C/GC/3</td>
<td>• “Sex” refers to biological differences and “gender” refers to the characteristics that a society or culture views as masculine or feminine (para. 4 (b)); • “Intersectional discrimination” refers to a situation where several grounds, such as sexual orientation or gender identity, interact with each other at the same time in such a way as to be inseparable (para. 4 (c)); • Women with disabilities are not a homogenous group; they include LBT women, as well as intersex persons (para. 5); • Certain forms of violence, exploitation and abuse – such as surgery or treatment performed on intersex children without their informed consent – may be considered as cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and as breaching a number of international human rights treaties (para. 32); • Restricting or removing legal capacity of women with disabilities can facilitate forced interventions, such as surgery or treatment performed on intersex children without their informed consent (para. 44).</td>
<td>disability; discrimination; gender; intersectional discrimination; intersex medical interventions; LGBT; sex; SOGI; torture; violence; women</td>
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<td>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>General comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education CRPD/C/GC/4</td>
<td>• State duty to ensure that the right to education is assured without discrimination, including intersectional discrimination on the basis of disability and sexual orientation (para. 13).</td>
<td>disability; discrimination; intersectional discrimination; SO</td>
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| Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community CRPD/C/GC/5 | - The right to live independently and be included in the community refers to all persons with disabilities, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 8);  
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons with disabilities must enjoy equal protection under art 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and therefore respect for their personal relationships (para. 23);  
- Disability support services must be sensitive to different living conditions, such as sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 60). | disability; independent living; LGBTQI; partnership; SOGI |
| Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | General comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination CRPD/C/GC/6 | - Protection against ‘discrimination on all grounds’ means that all possible grounds of discrimination, including gender expression, and their intersections must be taken into account (para. 21);  
- State duty to ensure that they consult closely and actively involve organizations of persons with disabilities representing the vast diversity in society, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (para. 33);  
- In many States parties, there is a lack of updated data on disability discrimination, including based on gender identity (para. 34). | consultations; disability; discrimination; GE; GI; intersectional discrimination; LGBTQI |
| Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention CRPD/C/GC/7 | - The right to participate in consultations, through their representative organizations, should be recognized on an equal basis for all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 16);  
- State duty to involve organizations of persons with disabilities encompasses persons with disabilities with a specific sexual orientation or gender identity, and intersex persons with disabilities (para. 50);  
- State duty to guarantee and support the participation of persons with disabilities through organizations of persons with disabilities, reflecting a wide diversity of backgrounds, including sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex variation (para. 94 (l)). | consultations; disability; SOGI; SOGII |
| Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | General comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment CRPD/C/GC/8 | - The diversity of persons with disabilities means that they face diverse barriers to realizing the right to work and follow different pathways into employment throughout their working lives; intersecting layers of identity include sexual orientation and gender identity (para. 22);  
- Women and gender-nonconforming persons with disabilities face an intersection of gender- and disability-related barriers in attitudes, circumstances and work itself, including the compounded effects of multiple discrimination that limit opportunities to work, affect their right to equal pay and increase the risk of violence and harassment in the workplace (para. 23);  
- State duty to take measures to eliminate the exploitation of women with disabilities, children with disabilities and gender-nonconforming persons with disabilities in the formal and informal economy and in unpaid work (para. 82 (h)). | disability; discrimination; employment; GNP; harassment; intersectional discrimination; SOGI; women |
| Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | General comment No. 36 (2020) preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials CERD/C/GC/36 | - Racial profiling refers to the practice of police and other law enforcement relying, to any degree, on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin as the basis for subjecting persons to investigatory activities or for determining whether an individual is engaged in criminal activity; racial discrimination often intersects with other grounds, such as sexual orientation or gender identity (paras. 13 and 18);  
- State duty to ensure that law enforcement agencies regularly evaluate recruitment and promotion policies and, if necessary, undertake temporary special measures to effectively address the underrepresentation of various national or ethnic minority groups and of groups experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination based on, interalia, sexual orientation (para. 47);  
- States duty to ensure processes in place to examine potential and actual discriminatory effects of algorithmic profiling based on grounds of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin and their intersection with other grounds, including sexual orientation or gender identity (para. 60). | digital environment; discrimination; intersectional discrimination; law enforcement agencies; racial profiling; SO; SOGI; TSM |
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<tr>
<td>Committee on Migrant Workers</td>
<td>General comment No. 5 (2021) on migrants’ rights to liberty and freedom from arbitrary detention and their connection with other human rights.</td>
<td>States should avoid detaining migrants, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, who have specific needs or who are particularly at risk of exploitation, abuse, gender-based violence, including sexual violence, or other human rights violations in the context of detention (para. 45); Women, children, persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are highly vulnerable to abuse in immigration detention centres; in some cases, the abuse amounts to torture (para. 69); State duty to ensure that men and women remain separated, taking into consideration the particular needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, in order to guarantee that immigration detention takes place in non-punitive facilities (para. 83 (b)).</td>
<td>detention; LGBTI; migration; torture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on Enforced Disappearances</td>
<td>General comment No. 1 (2023) on enforced disappearance in the context of migration.</td>
<td>Discrimination as one of the concerning factors contributing to the enforced disappearance of migrants; discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity during the migration process as enhancing vulnerability to becoming victims of enforced disappearance (para. 8); State duty to create and regularly update a single, nationwide database of disappeared persons that include basic information about migrants who may be victims of a disappearance, including information such as sexual orientation and gender identity (para. 23); State duty to be sensitive to the specific needs of victims in ensuring access to compensation and reparation, taking into account, inter alia, their sexual orientation and gender identity and other characteristics of the person or their relatives. This should also apply to marriages, or to any other form of union comparable to marriage not recognized under the law of the State party or the country in which relatives are located. (para. 45).</td>
<td>data collection; discrimination; family; migration; SOGI</td>
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## 3. Treaty Bodies’ General Comments / General Recommendations

### Human Rights Committee

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## Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

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<td>Article 15 (1) (c): The right of everyone to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he or she is the author</td>
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### Committee against Torture

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### Committee on the Rights of the Child

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*Joint with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women  **Joint with the Committee on Migrant Workers
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*Joint with the Committee on the Rights of the Child
### Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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### Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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### Committee on Migrant Workers

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*Joint with the Committee on the Rights of the Child

### Committee on Enforced Disappearances

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