#24 – UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES & LGBTI ISSUES





The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association – ILGA World and the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) have compiled a series of factsheets highlighting the work that UN special procedures – independent human rights experts, appointed to monitor and report on human rights violations – have undertaken to defend the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons. The factsheets compile the references and recommendations made by these experts to LGBTI persons, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). They cover all thematic reports, country visit reports, and communications published between January 2011 and December 2021.



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SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON MINORITY ISSUES

Mr. FERNAND DE VARENNES (CANADA)

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FORMER SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS:

- Ms. Rita IZSAK-NDIAYE (Hungary), August 2011 - July 2017
- Ms. Gay MCDOUGALL (United States), 2005 2011

(former Independent Expert)

WORK SUMMARY

COUNTRIES VISITED

ADDRESSES SOGIESC ISSUES:

- Spain (January 2019) Report, para. 39.
- Brazil (September 2015) Report, para. 121.

DOES NOT ADDRESS SOGIESC ISSUES:

- Kyrgyzstan (January 2021)
- Slovenia (April 2018)
- Botswana (August 2018)
- Slovenia (April 2018)
- Sri Lanka (October 2016)
- Moldova (June 2016)
- Iraq (February-March 2016)
- Bosnia (September 2015)
- Ukraine (April 2014)
- Nigeria (February 2014)
- Cameroon (September 2013)
- Bulgaria (July 2011)
- Rwanda (February 2011)

ANNUAL THEMATIC REPORTS

Minorities, equal participation, social and economic development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development July 2021 (76th Session General Assembly (GA))	Good references to LGBT. Paras. 43, 45, 78, 79
Hate speech, social media and minorities March 2021 (46th Session Human Rights Council (HRC))	Good SOGIESC references. Paras. 60g, 60h, 87, 88, 89,
Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities July 2020 (75th Session GA)	No SOGIESC references.
Education, language and the human rights of minorities January 2020 (43rd Session HRC)	No SOGIESC references.
Study on the concept of a minority July 2019 (74th Session GA)	Brief reference to SO. Para. 43.
Update on his thematic report on statelessness as a minority issue and the level of awareness-raising and visibility of minorities and their human rights March 2019 (40th Session HRC)	No SOGIESC references.
Statelessness: a minority issue July 2018 (73rd Session GA)	No SOGIESC references.
Priorities and vision of the mandate March 2018 (37th Session HRC)	No SOGIESC references.
Reflections on the six-year tenure of the Special Rapporteur July 2017 (72nd Session GA)	No SOGIESC references.
Reflections on the six-year tenure of the Special Rapporteur March 2017 (34th session HRC)	Brief reference to LGBT. Para. 67.
Minorities in situations of humanitarian crises August 2016 (71st Session GA)	Brief SOGIESC reference. Para. 40.
Minorities and discrimination based on caste and analogous systems of inherited status March 2016 (31st Session HRC)	No SOGIESC references.

Minorities in the criminal justice system July 2015 (70th Session GA)	No SOGIESC references.
The human rights situation of Roma worldwide, with a particular focus on the phenomenon of anti-Gypsyism June 2015 (29th session HRC)	Brief reference to LGBTI. Para. 98.
Hate speech and incitement to hatred against minorities in the media March 2015 (28th session HRC)	Brief reference to homosexuals. Para. 35.
Preventing and addressing violence and atrocities against minorities August 2014 (69th Session GA)	Brief reference to homosexuals. Para. 4.
Ensuring the inclusion of minority issues in post- 2015 development agendas March 2014 (25th Session HRC)	No SOGIESC references.
Minority rights-based approaches to the protection and promotion of the rights of religious minorities August 2013 (68th Session GA)	No SOGIESC references.
Rights of linguistic minorities March 2013 (22nd Session HRC)	No SOGIESC references.
Role and activities of national institutional mechanisms in promoting and protecting minority rights August 2012 (67th Session GA)	No SOGIESC references.
Priorities for the work of the Independent Expert and the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities March 2012 (19th Session HRC)	No SOGIESC references.
The role of minority rights protection in promoting stability and conflict prevention March 2011 (16th Session HRC)	No SOGIESC references.

COMMUNICATIONS

COUNTRY/DATE	EXPERTS	SITUATION
Other actors 21 Oct 2021	Terrorism Freedom of opinion and expression Freedom of assembly and association Migrants Minority issues Privacy Racism	Information received regarding two pieces of pending European Union ("EU") legislation: the counterterrorism agenda entitled "A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond" [hereinafter "Agenda"] and the Proposal for Amending Regulation (EU) 2016/794 [hereinafter "Proposal"]
Pakistan 31 March 2021	Terrorism Arbitrary detention Disappearances Extrajudicial executions Freedom of opinion and expression Freedom of assembly and association Health Human rights defenders Minority issues Torture	Information received concerning the alleged arbitrary arrests, torture, and in some cases inappropriate access to medical care while in detention, as well as prosecution of several human rights defenders and persons associated to them.
France I Mar 2021	Freedom of assembly and association Freedom of opinion and expression Minority issues Freedom of religion Terrorism	Information received concerning the dissolution of the Association for the Defense of Human Rights-Collective Against Islamophobia in France. The dissolution of this organization follows the Minister of the Interior's announcement on October 19, 2020 that he would propose to the Council of Ministers the dissolution of several associations considered "separatist".
Bangladesh I Sep 2020	Freedom of religion Disappearances Extrajudicial executions Freedom of opinion and expression Human rights defenders Minority issues SOGI	Information received concerning threats, acts of intimidation and legal prosecution of Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, and the ongoing harassment of his family members in Bangladesh.

United States of America 8 June 2020	African descent Arbitrary detention Disability Extrajudicial executions Freedom of opinion and expression Freedom of assembly and association Hazardous substances Health Housing Independent of judges and lawyers Mercenaries Minority issues Older persons Poverty Racism SOGI Torture	Information received concerning several recent killings of people of African descent in apparently State-endorsed operations in the United States.
United States of America 13 May 2020	Extrajudicial executions African descent Health Minority issues Racism SOGI Torture	Information received concerning the situation in prisons and other detention facilities/establishments in the United States of America in light of COVID-19 exposure-related risks
Sri Lanka 27 May 2019	Arbitrary detention Cultural rights Health Housing Internally displaced persons Migrants Minority Issues Racism Freedom of religion Terrorism	Information received concerning the increasing communal violence targeting the religious minorities in Sri Lanka, and in particular Muslims, as well as the reported acts of violence and intimidation threatening the living and security conditions of refugees and asylum seekers belonging to persecuted minorities.
Italy 19 October 2018	African descent Extrajudicial executions Freedom of opinion and expression Migrants Minority issues Racism	Information received concerning the climate of hostility, intolerance, racial hatred and xenophobia in Italy, fuelled by political authorities' rhetoric against migrants and refugees, people of African descent or origin and Roma communities.