

Discussion on SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities - Thursday, 11 July 2019, 3 PM - 6 PM,

My name is Mphatso Sakala and I am speaking on behalf of the LGBTI Stakeholder Group, Stakeholder Group on Aging and Volunteers.

Achievement of Goal 10 is supposed to allow for greater realization of human rights and the fulfilment of potential of all people, across the life course.

What is the 'lived experience' of inequality?

As Judge Cameron stated so strongly: barriers in access to education, health care and decent work are worsened by discriminatory laws and policies, reinforcing existing inequalities, deepening stigma and furthering exclusion. Discrimination based on gender identity, age and religion is morally and legally unacceptable. LGBTI people face higher levels of violence compared to the overall population. In different contexts, 40% of young people who are homeless identify as LGBT, life expectancy of a transgender person is only 35 years old, and over half of students face bullying. Elder abuse and ageism is rampant and older persons face discriminatory practices in the workplace, health services, education and training, legal access, and property rights.

How can policies and programs incorporate intersecting types of inequalities?

Legal empowerment is key to tackle inequality. Laws that create barriers to opportunity and laws that reinforce disadvantage must be eliminated, while anti-discriminatory measures enhance access to labor markets, education and political processes. Civil society organisations and volunteers work daily to achieve the social, economic and political inclusion of all. Law and policies should protect civic space.

We recommend that States and other stakeholders:

- Put the people who are most affected by inequalities at the center of the process;
- Remove all legal provisions that criminalise our identities and lives;
- Remove social and economic barriers to our empowerment and development;
- Adopt a life-course approach to all policies and programmes to reduce inequalities.

We ask that member states recognise the role played by civil society and volunteers in their national plans and strategies for implementing the SDGs, and listen to the voices, and data collected to **together** meet the ambition of achieving SDG 10 and the 2030 agenda.

Thank you.