

SDGs in focus: 1, 2, 8, 17 (How do we get on track to end poverty and hunger, and transform towards inclusive and sustainable economies?)

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The ‘leave no one behind’ principle is especially relevant for LGBT people, who have been repeatedly forsaken by national and international development initiatives. Discriminatory laws, projects that do not acknowledge their specific needs and negative social attitudes have all combined to hold LGBTI people back. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the aftershocks of these inequalities are felt by LGBTI communities worldwide, particularly, in terms of decreased income, lower food security and worse health. LGBTI people face employment discrimination both in hiring procedures, and on the work floor, and stigma and discrimination in education, as well as in the healthcare system.

The lack of robust disaggregated data across a number of relevant indicators pertaining to SDGs 1, 2, 8 and 17 presently make it difficult to assess the extent to which progress is made or what gaps and issues hinder progress.

On behalf of the LGBTI Stakeholder Group, I appeal to the United Nations to consult with local LGBTI groups in both the design and implementation of any support programmes, to make sure their needs are met and no harm is done. The use of LGBTI-specific indicators and tailored data will facilitate adequate monitoring of the impact of programmes and empower LGBTI people to hold their governments and other service providers to account.

To promote rule of law and enforce non-discriminatory laws, Members States should be urged to review domestic legislations on non-discrimination to harmonize them with SDG implementation, while prioritizing policies that grant access to justice, housing, employment, healthcare, education and legal recognition to LGBTI people.

Let’s set out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the full implementation of Agenda 2030 while truly leaving no one behind.