

From 07-29 June 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Mandate of the United Nations Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI) co-convened the 2021 Global Roundtable on Protection and Solutions for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer (LGBTIQ+) People in Forced Displacement. The roundtable concluded with a set of recommendations constituting a foundational roadmap for priority action by different stakeholders to enhance the protection of and solutions for LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless persons throughout the world.

This document sets out the three areas UNHCR is taking priority action to implement based on the key recommendations identified by roundtable participants. These investments build on over a decade of sustained focus and investment by UNHCR to ensure that LGBTIQ+ people who are forcibly displaced or stateless can access the protection they need in all regions of the world.

Step up training/capacity building of UNHCR staff and partners: UNHCR has made substantial investments in developing the capacity of its staff and partners over the years. However, with generous support from key donors, continuous and expanded investments are being made to ensure a strong pool of knowledgeable staff and partners who are able to work in partnership with and support affected LGBTIQ+ communities and the organizations they run, as well as the grass roots national organizations who are making important contributions to their protection. UNHCR is also committed to continue working in partnership with LGBTIQ+ rights actors with lived experience and expertise to update guidance and training material to enhance areas needing further focus and to reflect successful approaches drawn from field operations.

Expand partnership and support to national and refugee- led LGBTIQ+ rights actors, as well as collaboration with global and regional LGBTIQ+ advocacy actors. Over the past 24 months, UNHCR, working with a small group of supportive donors, developed new financial and capacity support tools which significantly simplify the reporting and financial management requirements present in standard partnership agreements which have for decades been the key obstacle to formalizing partnerships with small refugee/IDP/Stateless led and national grassroots organizations. These new tools, which are currently being piloted in a number of countries, including with small LGBTIQ+-focused organizations, pave the way for an unprecedented expansion of these small but important partnerships going forward. In addition, UNHCR has for the first time prioritized early, proactive outreach to and collaboration with global and regional LGBTIQ+ advocacy actors engaged in recent emergencies. These efforts have been well received and have led to enhanced information sharing and the identification of issues requiring attention, as well as joint advocacy initiatives.

Enhance ethical data collection and recording to build a solid evidence base and improve systems and processes of collecting and recording data on SOGIESC, in accordance with data protection protocols: This has included making changes and supplementing guidance on collecting and utilizing information in internal systems, expanding the use of participatory approaches to strengthen dialogue with LGBTIQ+ people, and improving internal statistics on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.
