

*Pursuing worldwide LGBT rights
to achieve sexual equality*

Committee Guide

Third Committee of the General Assembly



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<http://www.undispatch.com/un-content/uploads/2015/03/Screen-Shot-2015-03-24-at-12.31.59-PM.png> (Picture for the cover)

Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Kamilla Kurta, I'm 17 years old and I am honoured to be one of the chairs of the GA 3rd committee together with the lovely Rika and Jonas. Currently I'm attending Eötvös József Secondary School in Budapest in Hungary. OLMUN will be my 7th MUN in general but my 3rd conference as a chair.

Since my first MUN conference (which was a MiniMUN organised by our school in the ancient 2013) I've been infatuated with MUNs. Besides these conferences I like playing the piano (especially the genre jazz), listening to music, running, travelling and, of course, hanging out with my friends in my spare-time.

I'm really looking forward to meeting you guys and I am sure we will find the key to a good time: finding balance between being diplomatic and having fun.

Honourable delegates,

I am Jonas Lübken, I am 18 years old and I will be one of your Chairs in this year's General Assembly's Third Committee at OLMUN. OLMUN 2016 will be my sixth MUN and my third OLMUN. I have chaired one Committee before.

Right now I am attending Gymnasium Melle, close to Osnabrück in Germany in my 12th and last grade. Besides MUNs I like running, playing badminton and wheelchair basketball and I play the piano.

I am really looking forward to meeting all of you and having a great time at OLMUN.

Dear Delegates,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the GA 3rd committee at Olmun 2016. My name is Rika Kluck, I am 18 years old and I am from Oldenburg, where I currently attend the 12th grade at Cäcilienchule. This Olmun will be my 5th MUN conference and my first time chairing, so I'm really looking forward to that!

Besides MUNs, I like doing photography, sports, meeting friends and travelling (anytime I get the chance to). Also I am interested into politics and I enjoy meeting people from other countries (i.e. at Olmun :-)).

I am very excited to meet all of you in June and I hope we all will have a good time at this Olmun and enjoy the conference.



1. General Information

Dear honourable delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you all to this year's GA3rd committee! We are really looking forward to meeting you and hope that we will have a pleasant and vivid debate. As you all know, you need to do some research on our topic of "Pursuing worldwide LGBT rights to achieve sexual equality", and with this guide we would like to provide you a basis.

1.1 How to use the committee guide

This committee guide should give you a first overview about the topic of LGBT rights. Nevertheless, it should not be your only source in your preparation for the conference as your countries specific opinion is not included in here and there are more information to find out there. As good preparation is crucial for a good debate, it is necessary for you to find out more about the topic in order to actively participate during the committee session and have a great experience.

1.2 Expectations

While OLMUN is supposed to also be fun and not just serious, we also have some expectations. First of all, you need to familiarize yourself with the Rules of Procedure, which can be found on the OLMUN website. We further expect you to do further research on the topic in general, on your country in general and on your countries policy towards our topic. In order to know which countries you can ally with during the lobbying session, it might also be helpful to do a little research on foreign policies as well. If you are not prepared, the conference might end up being quite boring for you. In order to make sure that you are doing a good job in preparing, we expect you to send a policy statement until **May 1st 2016** and a draft resolution until **May 15th** to ga3@olmun.org. We will read them and send you a feedback.

The policy statement should give the opinion of your country about the topic of LGBT Rights and does not have to meet a special format. The draft resolution, though, has to be in a special format. If you don't know how to write a resolution, you can also find an example on the OLMUN website to help you. **As these draft resolutions will be the basis for the lobbying time, you should bring them to the committee session (it is recommended to bring copies as well), so you can exchange with other delegates.**

Moreover, some delegates will get the chance to give an opening speech in the beginning of our committee session. We expect all P5 states to prepare a speech, but as our committee will estimatly consist of 150 delegates (or even more) unfortunately not everyone will be able to do so due to time management. All the delegates wishing to give an opening speech can send it to us until **May 29th**. We will appreciate receiving many of your speeches and try to implement as many as possible!

As a further and vital information, we would like to share with you that all the delegates, who are going to use the word 'fruitful' too often, are supposed to be punished. ;-)

And most importantly: As the topic we are going to discuss is very sensible, we ask all the delegates not to offend or insult any other delegates or believes, even if that would represent your countries' policy.

2. The General Assembly's Third Committee

The GA 3rd (also called the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee) is one of the six main committees in the UN where all 193 UN members are represented and have the same rights. In our committee there will also be Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) present, but they will not have the right to vote during the voting procedures.

The committee deals with issues concerning social, humanitarian and cultural topics. Also, it focuses on questions of human rights by collaborating with the Human Rights Council closely in cases of international importance. Moreover, the committee is addressing i.e. the advancement of women, the protection of children and refugees and also the prevention of racism of any kind. Doing that, it also handles questions of social development and other problems occurring in that correlation, so overall it covers a wide range of topics.

Therefore, it is very important for the GA 3rd committee to find good solutions for the problems addressed.

This year's issue "Pursuing worldwide LGBT rights to achieve sexual equality" is sort of newer in the range of GA 3rd, so the committee's aim is going to create a innovational and, of course, a comprehensive resolution.



http://blogs.fco.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/6169711226_45966359e7_b.jpg



3. LGBT Rights

3.1 Definition

The term “LGBT Rights” refers to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and is an intensely discussed topic all over the world. The major controversial issues in the debate are the criminalization of being homosexual or transgender, the right to marry and the right to adopt children. People fighting for LGBT rights mainly refer to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which mentions that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” (Article 1). It further states in Article 17 that “men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family.” While same-sex marriages are not specifically mentioned in this article, LGBT rights activists tend to understand it in a way of everyone being allowed to marry whoever they want, including people of the same sex. Discrimination and criminalization of LGBT individuals is claimed to be forbidden under Article 7 of the Declaration of Human Rights. However, rights of LGBT individuals are not mentioned in any officially recognised Human Rights Conventions so far.

3.2 Problems of LGBT Individuals

LGBT rights are recognised and supported by 96 Member States of the United Nations. 54 Member States are against and 44 UN-members abstain in this issue. The opposing countries are mainly in Africa and in the Middle East, and the countries, which support it are in the Americas, Europe and also Australia.

The opposing countries discriminate against these people with for example:

- sodomy laws: i.e. penalizing consensual same-sex sexual activity with fines, jail terms, or the death penalty;
- anti-"lesbianism " laws;
- and higher ages of consent for same-sex activity.

Sometimes these laws are both including sentences against LGBTs and pedophilia, so they are equalized, which of course, they cannot be. Also, these laws often only refer to men’s relationships and not to women’s.

Discrimination, nevertheless, is not only based on laws against LGBTs, but also on rights not explicitly given to them such as the right to get married, to adopt children, etc. Therefore, the problem is wider and more complex than it might seem in the first place.

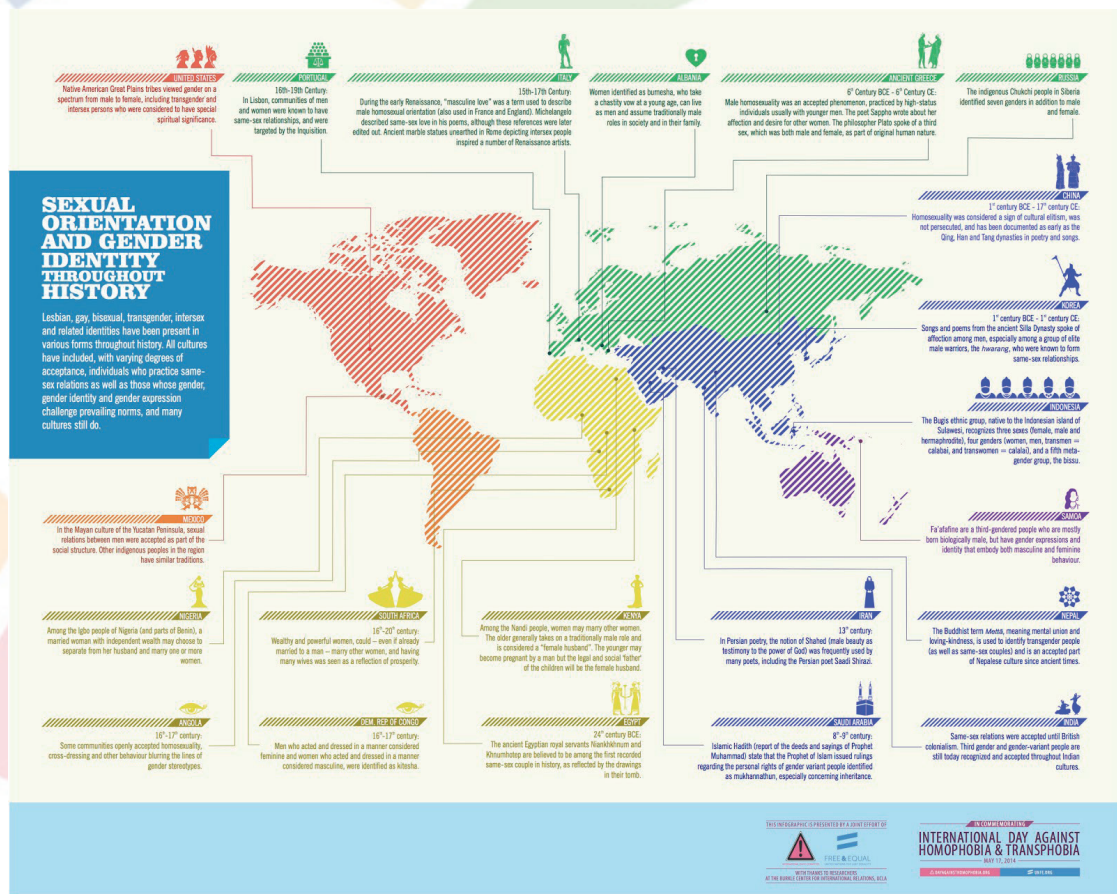
Some studies also show that many LGBT teenagers suffer from bullying in school and are afraid to openly stand to their sexual orientation leading to mental problems and diseases for a lifetime. Even the use of LGBT terminology as insults is showing the lack of equality in society.



<http://www.thesfnews.com/san-francisco-hs-offers-first-lgbt-studies-course/19262>

3.3 History and past resolutions

According to some studies, LGBTs have been present in all known cultures throughout history all around the world. Nevertheless, homosexuality was considered a serious crime in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Europe. The actual LGBT rights movement is overall not very old and has not even started in many countries yet.



An overview of LGBT history throughout the world <https://www.unfe.org/en/actions/idadot-infographic> (This link needs to remain in the actual guide)

The first study calling homosexuality normal and natural was already published in 1897 by Havelock Ellis in Germany leading to a very controversial discussion in many European states. In 1922 the USSR decriminalized homosexuality in a project of freeing sexual relationships. 1928, however, these changes were reversed by Stalin and all homosexual actions were criminalized again showing the overall controversy.

Homosexual rights movements were formed all over the western world right after World War II.

Partly due to uprising protests, starting 1969, homosexuality has not been considered a mental illness by the American Psychiatric Organization since 1973 anymore.

In the 1980s, AIDS first became an issue that was widely considered to be directly connected to homosexuality.

The Netherlands became the first country to legalize same-sex marriage in 2001.

In 2007, a group of several NGOs and other people involved in the issue, including a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, introduced the Yogyakarta Principles, which are an application of common Human Rights Laws to the issue of LGBT rights. The principles have been presented to the General Assembly but they were not adopted. They will be linked at the end of the committee guide.

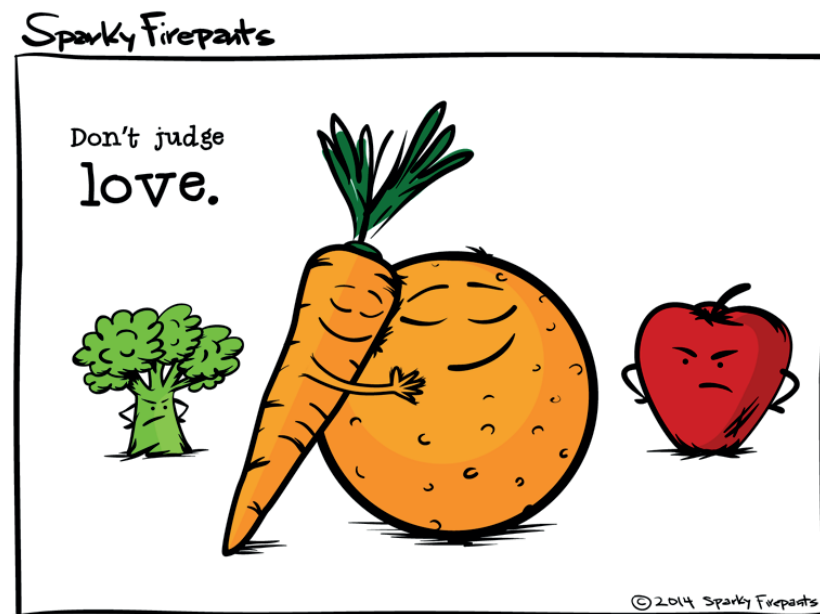
In 2013 the European Union published its first study about LGBT discrimination throughout Europe and therefore recognized the importance of the problem.

This issue is not very old in UN history and has not been discussed many times, yet. In December 2008 the topic has been debated on for the first time ever in the General Assembly initiated with a resolution submitted by the Netherlands and France calling for the security of these rights. Evoking an opposition statement by the Arab League and other nations, this resolution did not pass and these statements were left open for signatures.

Years later the Human Rights Council discussed this topic and passed some resolutions, but none of them have been in the General Assembly. (The past resolutions will be linked at the end of the committee guide, but while they might be an inspiration, they should NOT be copied into your own draft resolutions.)

Anyhow, the debates on this issue show its importance and the necessity to remain seized of this.

UN statement: "International law requires every country to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity"



<http://theslashpile.tumblr.com/lgbtqwebcomics>

4. Useful links and further research

Finally, we would like to provide you with some helpful information to get your research going. These links will be a good start to get a better overview.

A very helpful interactive map of the world:

<https://lgbt-rights-hrw.silk.co/>

And another VERY helpful report on the global situation of “state sponsored homophobia” and also information on specific countries from 2015:

http://old.ilga.org/Statehomophobia/ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2015.pdf

Some infographics, which are not only spectacular, but also provide you interesting facts and probably new information:

<http://infographicworld.com/lgbt-rights-around-world/>

Global statistics issued by the Human Rights Watch:

<http://reports.weforum.org/outlook-global-agenda-2015/global-leadership-and-governance/the-road-to-equality/>

United Nations’ report about the global discrimination against LGBT people:

<http://journalistsresource.org/studies/international/human-rights/global-discrimination-against-lgbt-persons-2015-united-nations-report>

United Nations campaign for sexual equality:

<https://unfe.org>

Comparing statistic on LGBT policies of European countries:

<http://cdn.konbini.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/4/files/2015/05/ILGA-Europe-Rainbow-Equality-Index-2015.jpg>

Yogyakarta Principles:

http://www.yogyakartaprinciples.org/principles_en.htm

Resolutions (for your inspiration)

Human Rights Council (July 2011):

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/148/76/PDF/G1114876.pdf?OpenElement>

Human Rights Council (October 2014):

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G14/177/32/PDF/G1417732.pdf?OpenElement>