

PARTICIPATION OF LGBTI+ PERSONS IN POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Date and time: Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 09:00-10:15 EST

Location: Virtual

Registration is required. Register here:

https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eevDzqbnT8yyvTEkUadVrw

On the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT), join us for a virtual event on “Participation of LGBTI+ persons in political and electoral processes” organized by UNDP and the Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN.

The last decades have shown an unprecedented improvement in social acceptance of gender and sexual diversity. Despite the progress made, LGBTI+ persons around the world still experience widespread social exclusion, discrimination and violence. More than 60 jurisdictions still criminalize same sex relations and there have been attempts to increase punishments in some countries. Restrictive legal frameworks, discriminatory policies and regressive social attitudes also impact the ability of LGBTI+ persons to fully participate in political and electoral processes. As voters, candidates, elected representatives, political party members, electoral administrators, activists and civil society representatives, LGBTI+ persons face numerous challenges that undermine their political rights. An increasing number of national governments, electoral management bodies (EMBs) and civil society organizations and movements have taken steps towards making electoral and political processes more inclusive for LGBTI+ citizens.

The 2021 UN General Assembly Resolution 76/176 “Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections” urges States to terminate discriminatory laws, regulations and practices that hinder the public participation of persons and discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, among other characteristics.¹

UNDP is currently finalizing a publication on political and electoral participation of LGBTI+ persons. This publication aims to learn from these practices and offer guidance and practical tools for stakeholders in different countries to protect and promote the political rights of citizens with diverse sexual orientation, sex characteristics and gender identity and expression, and ensure their access to the electoral process.

This event will provide a platform for governmental representatives, civil society organizations, UN agencies and programmes to share progress and challenges in advancing the full participation of LGBTI+ persons in political and electoral process and contribute to an ongoing discussion about critical challenges facing LGBTI+ persons in political and electoral life and how these can be addressed in the best way. It will also present preliminary findings of UNDP’s upcoming guidance.

The event will be held in English and feature simultaneous interpretation to Spanish and French.

¹ UN General Assembly (2021): Resolution 76/176 “Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections”.
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3955076>

Provisional programme

09:00-09:05	Welcome and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Moderator: Sarah Lister, Head of Governance, UNDP
09:05-09:15	Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H.E. Ambassador Ana Jimenez de la Hoz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations- Ulrika Modeer, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP
09:15-09:30	Short presentation of preliminary findings of UNDP's upcoming publication: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lluís Juan Rodríguez, Lead Author
09:30-09:55	Panel discussion
09:55-10:10	Q&A
10:10-10:15	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Craig Jenness, Director, Electoral Assistance Division, UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)
10:15	Thank you

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