

Luíza Drummond Veado, Outright International

ECOSOC Partnership Forum

“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.”

My name is Luiza Veado, and I work at Outright International, a global organization working towards the realization of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer - or LGBTIQ - persons. Today I am also speaking on the behalf of the LGBTI Stakeholder Group.

Today, we are here to think of a way to work together towards rebuilding a world severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, and how we can get back on track for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In order to do so, it is a necessity that we ensure that no groups that are marginalized, including LGBTIQ populations, are left behind in protection, inclusion and meaningful participation in building a better future.

Despite our presence around the globe, in development movements and humanitarian response, LGBTIQ populations have been made invisible in most sustainable development conversations and in crisis responses. The COVID-19 crisis was a clear example of this. The pandemic has impacted all lives across the planet, but those who were already at the margins were especially hard hit, and LGBTIQ populations were left with no specific policies that would protect them or support them when the first hit came.

My organization, Outright International, led a report on the situation of LGBTIQ people during the first year of the pandemic and created the biggest fund for supporting LGBTIQ persons on the ground to maintain their work and access their most basic needs. This was only made possible with the support of Member States, businesses and individuals who understand the importance of leaving no one of our siblings behind. It is really telling that in our first round of grant requests, over half of them were for money to pay for food to feed LGBTIQ people on the ground. The impact was enormous and we must ensure this never happens again as we move forward and prepare ourselves to deal with future crises.

As the world seeks to build back better, it is critical that LGBTIQ populations can meaningfully participate in COVID-19 recovery-related decision-making, implementation, and evaluation processes. Specifically, LGBTIQ populations must be central in the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals, globally, regionally and locally. There is no Agenda 2030 if an entire population is left behind.

I end by saying that LGBTIQ populations are not only in need of support and protection, but are also those who are daily delivering services, strategizing for recovery, and willing to share expertise and build together a better future for all.

Thank you.