



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Empowering LGBTI Youth: Advancing Sustainable Development

September 20, 2024 | 10:00 - 11:30 am (EDT)

In-person: Outright International, 216 E 45th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Online: Zoom

Organized by: LGBTI Stakeholder Group (RFSL, Outright International, COC Netherlands). The event was co-sponsored by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, UNDP, UN Women, the Major Groups for Children and Youth, and CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality.

Background on the event (one paragraph)

This side event, held on the sidelines of the Summit of the Future, focused on the role of LGBTI youth in advancing sustainable development, social equity, and inclusion. Participants explored the ways LGBTI youth are at the forefront of sustainable development, social justice, and environmental sustainability. Through panel discussions and presentations, the event showcased initiatives led by LGBTI youth that contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and offered insights on supporting and scaling these efforts through cross-sector partnerships.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The importance of recognizing and including LGBTI youth in sustainable development initiatives.
- How LGBTI youth use digital platforms to build solidarity, advocate for human rights, and foster inclusive communities.
- The role of LGBTI youth in promoting gender equality and social justice globally.

- Barriers faced by LGBTI youth, including discrimination and limited access to digital technologies.
- The critical need for youth-friendly, queer and feminist funding to empower LGBTI youth-led initiatives.
- How affirming the dignity and rights of LGBTI persons contributes to peaceful, equitable societies.
- Intersectional challenges of LGBTI youth related to climate justice, digital inclusion, and peacebuilding.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Establish inclusive policies that specifically address the challenges faced by LGBTI youth.
- Support LGBTI youth-led initiatives through targeted, youth-friendly funding that embraces queer and feminist principles.
- Expand digital literacy programs and improve access to digital platforms for marginalized LGBTI communities.
- Foster partnerships across sectors to amplify the voices of LGBTI youth in decision-making processes related to sustainable development.
- Promote greater protection of LGBTI persons' rights to build peaceful and inclusive societies.
- Encourage international organizations and tech companies to collaborate in making online spaces safer for LGBTI communities.

Webpage to find more information: <https://www.lgbtistakeholdergroup.org/>