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FORUM: Economic and Social Council

ISSUE: Establishing Legal Protection for LGBTQ Communities in Eastern Europe

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POSITION: Deputy President

Introduction to Committee:

The Economic and Social Council, one of the six main organs of the United Nations, was established in 1945 and advances the three dimensions of sustainable development, respectively as economic, social and environmental. In order to achieve internationally agreed goals, the committee had provided a platform for international delegates from over 54 of the countries globally to participate in fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to solve issues around the world. Meetings are regularly held and such issues as human rights, social development, the status of women, crime prevention, narcotic drugs, and science and technology are usually reported back. Other regional commissions deal with special problems that people living in different geographical areas face. ESOSOC had five regional commissions that promote economic development and cooperation in their respective regions. While the Security Council's primary responsibility is maintaining peace, ECOSOC focuses on promoting social progress and better standards of living. Achieving international security and social progress go hand in hand. When war sets back development, the issues of poverty and the denial of human rights also greatly increase the risk of instability and violence.

Introduction to Issue:

Having different sexual orientations as the majority of people do had been the "stigma" of the LGBT group, that had cause them to live in discrimination. In centuries, homosexuals didn't have the equal rights of living and marriage because of their uniqueness, however, with the development of society, the ideology and values of people had been expanded and less conservative. In recent years, the acceptance of the LGBTQ group had become a trend, and they had gain more rights and authorities both jurally or daily, and there is an increasing number of the countries that had establish the legalization of homosexuality. But the majority of countries in Eastern Europe had maintained a conservative attitude, and the process of setting the legalization of LGBTQ had not been easy. According to the LGBT annual report published by ILGA, based on the national laws, policies, society and other relevant indicators, the three friendliest countries in Europe towards the LGBT group are Malta, Belgium and United Kingdom, while the three least friendliest countries are Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan, respectively. Especially in Eastern Europe, the support rate towards LGBTQ averagely is extremely low. According to statistics, in recent years in countries like Poland, the times of gay people demonstrating and protesting in public areas had declined. And yet, the majority of the countries in Eastern Europe still outlaw the proper rights that should be given to the LGBTQ group. The legal marriage of homosexuals in Eastern Europe had become an unsolved issue. Delegates are encouraged and expected to raise achievable strategies, negotiate and discuss together as an international group following the proper procedures in the house for resolution.

Key Terms:

LGBTQ

A general term which refers to the group of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, inter-sexual, asexual, and other non-normative sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression not mentioned above.

Gender equality



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Gender equality refers to the state in which access to rights or opportunities is unaffected by gender. This gender can be defined as both ideal and realistic gender. Gender equality, besides being a fundamental human right, is essential to achieve peaceful societies, with full human potential and sustainable development.

Homophobia

Culturally produced irrational fear of prejudice against homosexuals that sometimes manifests itself in legal restrictions or, in extreme cases, bullying or even violence against homosexuals.

Civil union

A voluntary union for life (or until divorce) of adult parties of the same sex

Hetero-sexism

Discrimination or prejudice against non-heterosexual people based on the belief that heterosexuality is the only normal and natural expression of sexuality.

Major Parties Involved:

ILGA

ILGA (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans And Intersex Association) A world wide federation campaigning for LGBTI rights since 1978. ILGA-Europe is a branch of ILGA taking charge of the regions in Europe and Central Asia, a driving force for political, legal and social change. Their vision is of a world where dignity, freedoms and full enjoyment of human rights are protected and ensured to everyone regardless of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. For these years, they had support LGBTI civil society worldwide through advocacy and research projects, and give grassroots movements a voice within international organizations. But the process of making LGBTQ legal is still in long struggle.

UNHRC

UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) is an intergovernmental system made up of 47 states that seeks to promote and protect human rights around the world. The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 in resolution 60/251, and is tasked with the responsibility of addressing and making recommendations with regard to particular human rights violations. In order to deepened its commitment to the LGBT community, the HRC had vastly expanded the funding and services, to achieve the goal of making LGBT having the equal human rights.

GLAAD

GLAAD is the abbreviation for Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. It was established in November 14th, 1985. For over 30 years, GLAAD has been at the forefront of cultural change, accelerating acceptance for the LGBTQ community through entertainment, news, and digital media to share stories from the LGBTQ community. The goal is to Lead the conversation, shape the media narrative and change the culture.

Poland

The attitude of Poland towards the LGBT community had always stayed negative, dozens of small towns have declared themselves free of "LGBT ideology". Politicians' hostility to gay rights has become a flashpoint. In 2019 a resolution of "expressing opposition to the promotion and affirmation of the ideology of the so-called LGBT movements" had passed, thanks to the resolution, An EU's culture and natural heritage project, which offers a £1.65 million (\$2.25 million) funding boost, applied by the southeastern Polish region of Podkarpackie in the Carpathian Mountains had been canceled. After nearly a third of Poland towns and



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municipalities declared "LGBT free zones," adopted the homophobic policies have been denied funding, the European Union has stepped in and denied funding to them. The news comes as sitting president Andrzej Duda won a re-election as part of the right-wing Law and Justice party. In his tenure, the nation has intensified its anti LGBT sentiment after Duda signed a "family charter" that pledged to "ban the propagation of LGBT ideology in public institutions." Further, he proposed an amendment that would prohibit same-sex couple adoptions.

Malta

According to the LGBT annual report published by, Malta has been chosen as the friendliest country to LGBT communities in Europe, Malta has always been lauded for its LGBT rights and awareness in the 21st century. Rights for LGBT is part of the country's constitution. Since 2004, Malta has banned all discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and expression and sexual orientation. LGBT citizens can openly serve in Malta's military and a law enacted in 2014 gives these people the right to be in civil unions. Most notably, Malta has banned conversion therapy. However, it has been reported that access to reproduction assistance and surrogacy are still banned for same-sex couples in Malta. As of 2017, same-sex marriage in Malta is legal. With the onset and development of LGBT rights, Malta continues to foster an encouraging impact on LGBT friendly Malta socially. By 2015, Malta earned a historic first place in the International Lesbian-Gay Association's Rainbow Europe's League for LGBT Rights by granting 88 per cent of total rights. In 2006, a mere 18 percent of the Maltese population were in favour of same-sex marriage, while a poll in 2016 demonstrated that 65 percent were then in favour.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The UN had taken many strategies and conferences to deal with the issues of gaining more rights to the LGBT community. In 2011, The United Nations Human Rights Council has approved a resolution granting equal rights to homosexuals and heterosexuals. In 2015, The UN issued a joint statement calling for an end of targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and bisexual people. The statement proposed governments to do more to address homophobic and transgender violence and discrimination, as well as abuse of bisexual people, and expresses the commitment of UN entities to support member states in taking relevant actions. The U.N. refugee agency has played a crucial role in assisting LGBTQ people in fleeing violence and persecution too, they helped them resettle in countries that are more welcoming to LGBTQ people. They have repeatedly updated their guidance on how to effectively and sensitively assist LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers. When the U.N. released its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, many countries committed to interpreting their language to ensure that LGBTQ people are not left behind.

Timeline

(Year)	(Event)
2005	The United Kingdom establishes civil unions for gay couples.
2009	Norway and Sweden become the sixth and seventh countries in the world to legalize same-sex marriage.
2012	the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution on extrajudicial killings that included crimes motivated by the victim's sexual orientation and gender identity. This was the first time that was mentioned in a UNGA passed resolution.



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2013	France legalized same-sex marriage. Russia enacts “gay propaganda” laws criminalizing public support for gay rights or identity. the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights launched the UN’s free&equal campaign to promote understanding of the human rights of LGBTQ people. The campaign has reached an estimated two billion people through traditional and social media, and generated a stream of widely shared materials.
2014	Estonia became the first former Soviet republic in Eastern Europe to approve gay civil unions. The United Kingdom, Scotland and Finland legalize same-sex marriage.
August, 2015	In August 2015, the U.N. Security Council held its first meeting to address the human rights of LGBT community under ISIS.
30,June,2016	The resolution “Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity” had passed by the United nations Human rights council.
June, 2018	The Czech government has backed the draft of same-sex marriage legislation, putting the country on track to become the first eastern European country to legalize same-sex marriage in the European Union.

Possible solutions:

Locating LGBTQ protection organizations will contribute in different activities can help communities to gain their rights. Encouraging the development of LGBT support groups sends a clear message that the organization is supportive of everyone and that LGBT discrimination won't be tolerated. In some cases, youth has experienced resistance from school administration to the establishment of gay-straight alliances (GSA). GSA give LGBT students the opportunity to have a dialogue about bullying and find support from one another. Similarly, corporations that support LGBT groups communicate that diversity is a priority and discrimination isn't an organizational value. They find community, support and reassurance from affinity groups that focus on LGBT issues.

Protective policies the workplace and schools can help improve the equality of LGBT groups as observed in countries worldwide. In 28 states in the U.S, employment can be terminated if you publicly identify as LGBT. Developing organizational policies that ban this type of discrimination deters negative behavior and encourages an open and inclusive workplace climate. On February 26, 2018, the Manassas Park City School Board added LGBT to their general anti-discrimination policy. Protective policies in schools allow students and staff to feel comfortable expressing their individual identity and provide assurance that they'll have a safe learning environment.

Donating to LGBT protection organizations and supporting their advocacy, education and research efforts can help them empower LGBTQ human rights organizations and defenders worldwide. Having enough fund can greatly support the movements, campaigns and the propaganda of the organizations. Also, the capital fund is available for providing more rights to the LGBT community. Spend money on supporting the LGBT related businesses can be an available strategy too.

Inspire volunteers to invest effort and time in global fight to end human violations against LGBTQ, while being exposed to the workings of an international non-governmental organizations. Volunteers can contribute to the



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success of making monumental progress for LGBT rights and equality across the world. They can make a real difference in areas ranging from informing the public of LGBT related laws and acts to volunteering at LGBT award ceremonies or marches to supporting the LGBT youth and community. By volunteering for gay and lesbian rights abroad, volunteers can help through crisis intervention, counseling, and disease prevention.

Raising public awareness by publicize the equal between homosexual and heterosexual through public benefit campaigns, public speeches, and prevent homophobia and discrimination against the LGBTQ population. It is also important to note that discrimination occurs unintentionally. A derogatory comment may not be meant to intimidate an LGBT person or make them feel marginalized. Training is key to helping citizens gain understanding and empathy. For example, an activity that examines common stereotypes provides an awareness of misconceptions about the LGBT community and how misguided remarks can poison a living environment. On a larger scale, instituting a Safe Zone training that teaches people about hurtful language, how to intervene, when discrimination occurs and how to provide intentional support to LGBT community members signals expectations in an environment that is free of hate speech and disrespectful behavior.



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