



# GA3: SOCHUM

USG AND PRESIDENT  
CHAIR OF GA3: SOCHUM  
ECE GÖKÇE

Agenda Item: Expanding and Legalizing  
LGBT Rights in Member States  
Current Date: 1990



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## **The Secretariat's Welcoming Letter**

Dear Delegate of BHMUN'21,

Since our first session in 2014, we have been establishing a platform where young innovators can have the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas, whilst also educating themselves on world affairs, so as to learn to approach worldwide issues from different perspectives. This year, the Academic Team of BHMUN has decided to form both General Assembly and Special Committees held according to the most significant historical events from 1990 - 1999.

The variety of committees will allow delegates to discuss many world problems from the viewpoints required by their assigned country and role. We ensure you that every committee will offer issues of interest according to this historical decade together with extremely creative ideas. We promise to provide all delegates with interesting and debatable crises in each committee and offer rewarding opportunities that will allow you to 'Innovate the Future' in every aspect of the conference.

Due to the global pandemic, this year's BHMUN will be held online. However, with the help of our devoted Organisation Team, we affirm that your expectations of our BHMUN conference this year will be surpassed by providing an exceptional experience that will meet your every need from the opening to the closing ceremony.

BHMUN is the first and only entirely historical Model UN conference in Turkey organised under Harvard procedure. Helping delegates verge upon historical issues from modern perspectives is exclusive to our conference. Hence, we believe that BHMUN is a truly unique experience for delegates all around the world, and it is for this reason that we give great value to the discussions delegates will hold on the contemporary issues that are considered timeless.

With all being said, we invite you to join us in BHMUN'21 for an unforgettable and unique experience.

Welcome!

BHMUN'21 Secretariat

## **Introduction to the Committee by the Secretariat**

### **Committee Description:**

The third committee of the UN General Assembly, SOCHUM, carries the goal of solving humanitarian problems around the world. However, it has been hard to solve some of these problems due to the political polarization of the world. Each time there was a way to solve a given problem, either the Western or Eastern bloc countries have opposed this decision and, therefore, it was not implemented. Yet, SOCHUM is dedicated not to stop trying to solve major humanitarian problems and, therefore the committee will meet again in the year 1990 and to try and solve the issues of LGBT rights and xenophobia.

Now, it is up to the delegates to decide upon what they are going to do: Follow the path of history or draw a path of their own. The delegates' performance will shape the flow of the committee and the BHMUN'21 Team will shape their crises in accordance with the flow.

*BHMUN'21 Secretariat*

## *Letter From the Under-Secretary-General*

Most distinguished participants,

I, as the Under-Secretary-General and President Chair responsible for GA3: SOCHUM, have the honor and privilege to welcome you all to the BHMUN'21 on behalf of our chair board members and every member of our Academic and Organization team.

I, Ece Gökçe, am a 10th grader and this will surely be the most memorable experience ever. I have always tried for the best and most academic and with our team, we have worked so hard to achieve this purpose. Our primary objective in MUN is to teach you delegates for gaining a diplomatic stance in your future careers while experiencing an entertaining conference.

In this committee, we have two agenda items which are; *Expanding and legalizing LGBT rights in Member States And Plan of action against Xenophobia*. You are expected to read the study guides, brainstorm, and research about the topic. This study guide is by no means written to limit your imagination. It is only written to inform you about what happened in history in regard to LGBT rights and to make sure that you attend the conference knowing everything you need to know about the agenda item.

Please bear in mind all of the questions in the “Questions to be Addressed” part should be discussed during sessions and must be included in the resolution paper. I hope you all have an unforgettable experience and I am looking forward to meeting you all. If you have any inquiries or/and questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via [ecegokce22@gmail.com](mailto:ecegokce22@gmail.com)

In the end, I would like to thank our Academic team and our Organization team for their efforts and help through the process, my Secretaries-General; Ahmet Özdemir, İnci Sevi Kaya, and my Deputy Secretary-General; Lara Mengü for their relentless support in making this conference unforgettable for us and the delegates.

With warm regards and respects,

Ece Gökçe

Under-Secretary-General and President Chair of GA3: SOCHUM

## **II. Introduction to the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee**



The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee (also known as the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee or SOCHUM or C3) is one of six main committees at the General Assembly of the United Nations. It was established in 1947. It deals with human rights, humanitarian affairs, and social matters. The Third Committee meets every year in early October and aims to finish its work by the end of November. All 193 member states of the UN can attend. As in previous sessions, an important part of the work of the Committee will focus on the examination of human rights questions.

## **III. Introduction of the Agenda Item**

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” – Article I of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Deeply-embedded homophobic and transphobic attitudes, often combined with a lack of sufficient laws against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, expose many lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, and queers (LGBTQ+)

People of all ages and in all regions of the world commit egregious violations of their human rights. LGBTQ+ people are discriminated against in schools, hospitals, working areas and even sometimes they are mistreated and disowned by their own families. They are exposed to physical violence, sexually assaulted, tortured, and killed. In several countries, laws against cross-dressing are used to punish transgender people based on their gender identity and expression. And in 77 countries, discriminatory laws criminalize private, consensual same-sex relationships - exposing individuals to the risk of arrest, prosecution, imprisonment even, in at least five countries, the death penalty.

#### **IV. Key Terms**

**Sex:** Either of the two major forms of individuals that occur in many species. They are distinguished respectively as female or male especially based on their reproductive organs and structures.

**Gender:** Either of the two sexes when considered the social and cultural differences rather than biological ones. The term is also used more broadly to denote a range of identities that do not correspond to established ideas of male or female.

**Gender Identity:** A person's perception of having a particular gender, which may or may not correspond with their birth sex.

**Sexual Orientation:** A person's sexual identity in relation to the gender to which they are attracted; the fact of being heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

**Heterosexual:** Sexually and/or romantically attracted to people of the opposite sex.

**Homosexual:** Sexually and/or romantically attracted to people of one's own sex.

**Gay:** A person who is attracted to the same gender. It can refer to any gender in terms of female and male.

**Lesbian:** A female who is attracted to other females romantically, sexually, or emotionally.

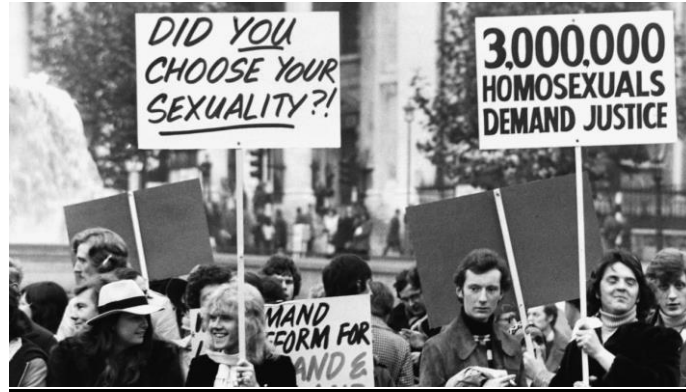
**Bisexual:** Sexually attracted not exclusively to people of one particular gender; attracted to both men and women.

**Homophobia:** Fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against homosexuality or homosexuals.

#### **V. Homophobia and Discrimination Against LGBTI**

Often Homophobia is based on religious beliefs and social norms. Intolerance to homosexuals particularly grew in the Middle Ages. The hate towards this sexuality didn't particularly exist until the rise of Christianity and Islam which often makes historians and psychologists lead homophobia back onto religious beliefs.

Psychologists also discovered that homophobia is not something one is birthed with but something one learns and adapts over the course of growing up. Homophobia didn't just bring negativity into the life of people but also gender stereotypes and for heterosexual people the feeling that they need to conform to those stereotypes to prove that they are heterosexual. For example, cars, beer, team sports, and emotionless disposition has been associated with masculinity while individual sports, an interest in art, and emotional expressionism in men are associated with homosexuality. Individuals express acute awareness of the negative, stigmatizing social representations of homosexuality, which construct it as an abnormality or deliberate subversion, although the impact varies by cultural group.



## VI. History of the Issue

Documented forms of homosexuality date back to ancient Egyptian and Greek societies, and attitudes towards homosexuality have always been controversial. The rise of Christianity in the early First Century AD led to greater condemnation of homosexuality, followed by differing attitudes throughout the later centuries.

It was not until after World War II that institutions were created on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community. LGBTQ+ movements during this time took place primarily in the United States of America and Europe. Greater awareness of homosexuality as a product of post-World War II globalization brought to light “political demands for fair treatment in mental health, public policy, and employment”.

The 1960s Civil Rights Movement in the US marked a turning point with its Stonewall Revolution, during which homosexuals resisted police raids in New York City. This period was followed by the 1970s gay liberation movement, during which groups organized advocacy organizations and planned public demonstrations. The 1990s overall yielded the greatest advancement for LGBTQ+ people, but inequality between groups based upon sexual orientation continued.





On the 10th of December 1948 and the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in which it is stated that 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.'

All over the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, or LGBT, people are still being subjected to discrimination and acts of brutal violence, torture, kidnapping, even murder. In 76 countries same-sex relationships are criminalized, in violation of basic rights. Many more states have lawfully banned discrimination against LGBT people. More and more countries now recognize the urgency and are pressing for action at the UN.

SOCHUM is intended to protect the basic human rights of LGBT people. But it doesn't only require changes in laws and policies; it takes changes in people's hearts and minds. Like the struggle against racism, like the struggle for gender equality, the struggle for LGBT equality will only be won if nations join together, if people speak out, if people defend the rights of others.

## **VII. Timeline**

1661 – English colony of Virginia criminalizes homosexuality.

1791 – The Kingdom of France becomes the first country in Western Europe to decriminalize homosexuality.

1867 – The first time in history that a self-proclaimed gay person spoke out in public for gay rights (Karl Heinrich Ulrichs).

1869 – The usage of the term “homosexuality” was published for the first time.

1889 — Legalization of homosexuality in Italy.

1969 – Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village, New York City, started on the night of the 27th/28th June.

1974 — The first decision of an international court on sexual orientation issues (European Court of Human Rights).

1978 – Harvey Milk became the first openly gay man elected to office in the American State of California.

1985 – France becomes among the first countries in the world to pass anti-discrimination legislation.

targeted towards anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination.

1988 — Sweden becomes the first country to adopt laws that protect homosexuals.

1989 — Denmark becomes the first country in the world that legally recognizes same-sex partnerships.

**GA3: SOCHUM will be simulated starting from 1990 and therefore, when delegates meet in this committee, the events given below will not have happened yet. However, they are important and must be known by the delegates because these are the events that happened during the decade of the 1990s. Also, these events can give you additional ideas that you can add to your resolution paper(s):**

1990 — The World Health Organization removes “homosexuality” from the list of mental illnesses.

1994 — The United Nations Human Rights Committee declared that laws concerning criminalizing same-sex relations are in violation of international human rights.

1999 — The Treaty of Amsterdam: The first international treaty to explicitly mention and protect sexual orientation.

## **IX. The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGBTIA/ILGA)**

### **A. History of ILGA**

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGBTIA, and in Europe ILGA) is an international organization bringing together more than 1,300 LGBTI groups from around the world. It continues to be active in campaigning for LGBTI human rights on the international human rights and civil rights scene, and regularly petitions the United Nations and governments. They are represented in 70+ countries across the world and are accredited by the United Nations for NGO ECOSOC consultative status.

ILGA was founded as the International Gay Association (IGA) in August 1978, at a fringe meeting of a conference of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality held in Coventry, England, at a meeting with representatives of 10 organizations from Australia, the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, and the United States. It changed its name to the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) in 1986.

The Coventry conference also called upon Amnesty International (AI) to take up the issue of persecution of lesbians and gays. After a 13-year campaign AI made the human rights of lesbians and gays part of its mandate in 1991 and now advocates for LGBTQ+ rights on the international level. ILGA was involved in getting the World Health Organization to drop homosexuality from its list of illnesses.

### **B. ILGA's Mission**

ILGA's mission is to:

- Act as a leading organization and be a global voice for the rights of those who face discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression and sex (intersex),
- Work towards achieving equality, freedom, and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex people through advocacy, collaborative actions, and by educating and informing relevant international and regional institutions as well as governments, media, and civil society,
- Empower their members and other human rights organizations in promoting and protecting human rights, irrespective of people's sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression and sex (intersex), and to facilitate cooperation and solidarity among ILGA World regions and members.
- promote the diversity and strengths of LGBTQ+ people around the world.

## **X. Current Situation**

The committee of SOCHUM will take place in the year 1990. Nations that do not recognize same-sex unions or ban them on religious, cultural, or moral grounds view the adoption of an international law protecting LGBTQ+ human rights as an affront or threat to their national sovereignty or traditional society itself. Part of the issue lies in the complexity of human rights definitions and degrees of legality and protections for LGBTQ+ individuals. There is wide variation and distinction globally - ranging from the criminalization of homosexuality to protection limited to employment only to recognition of same-sex marriage.

Extreme disapproval was voiced from opposing states who argued that the resolution was defining an entirely “new category of people” that would disrupt the traditional values of family and society. The Human Rights Council has not adopted any legislation, although the discrimination, which is internalized and interpreted from country to country, is greatly varied. For much of the Middle East, Africa, the Non-Aligned Movement, and all nations that politically uphold and enforce the notion that marriage is confined to a union between a man and a woman, the implications of an international law mandating non-discrimination policies toward LGBTQ+ individuals may appear to overstep the bounds of international jurisdiction and interfere with domestic affairs.

## **XI. State of LGBT Rights Around the World**

Being openly gay is illegal in more than 70 countries and can result in severe punishment, sometimes even death. There is no same-sex marriage in Asia or the Middle East, America, Europe, or Africa.

Marriage is an important issue in Western countries but elsewhere in the world, LGBTQ+ people can struggle to simply stay out of jail. The countries shaded in the map below are those where there is a law that prohibits homosexual acts in part or all of the country. Most of these countries fall within two main categories just over half are former colonies mostly in Africa that inherited discriminatory laws but never repealed them, while the others are majority Muslim countries.

In Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and, ten other countries worldwide, homosexuality can be punished by death. These countries follow Sharia law, where the death penalty is still in use. In most of these countries, homosexuals are no longer actively searched for and killed, the death penalty has not been enforced in most of these countries in a while, but this doesn't make the people, specifically the LGBTQ+ individuals, feel safer. There are over seventy countries where same-sex relationships are criminalized, and LGBTQ+ individuals fear for their safety.

## **XII. Questions to be Addressed**

1. What are the ongoing difficulties faced by LGBTI individuals?
2. What are the ways to provide, LGBTI individuals, a better life?
3. Are the current efforts done by the member states enough to assure a safe living?
4. What can countries do to prevent discrimination?
5. How can governments and NGOs cooperate in order to solve the issue?
6. How protecting LGBTI rights can be ensured from a global perspective?
7. What can the international community and governments do to assure that religion and the LGBTI community can co-exist in peace?
8. How can the efforts be improved to assure that LGBTI individuals don't fall victim to violent groups?
9. How can the LGBTI individuals who were psychologically or physically abused be integrated back into society?
10. What can be done to raise awareness about discrimination based on gender orientation and gender identity?

### **XIII. Further Research**

Delegates may refer to the following resources for further research:

- <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/discrimination/pages/lgbt.aspx>
- <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-difference-between-sexual-orientationand-gender-identity/>
- <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/>
- “History of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Social Movements.” American Psychological Association, American Psychological Association, <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/history>
- “Homophobia.” Homophobia - an Overview | ScienceDirect Topics, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/psychology/homophobia>
- Anderson, Eric. “Homophobia.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/homophobia>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_LGBT\\_history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_LGBT_history)
- <https://www.equaldex.com/timeline/1960s>
- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/LGBTUNReports.aspx>
- <https://www.unfe.org/en/about>.
- <https://www.unfe.org/en/global-film-series>.
- <https://www.hrw.org/topic/lgbt-rights>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Lesbian,\\_Gay,\\_Bisexual,\\_Trans\\_and\\_Intersex\\_Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Lesbian,_Gay,_Bisexual,_Trans_and_Intersex_Association)•<https://ilga.org/what-we-do>
- <https://gaymarriage.procon.org/view.timeline.php?timelineID=000030>
- <https://76crimes.com/2015/05/07/islamic-state-has-reported-15-lgbtiexecutions/>
- <https://76crimes.com/100s-die-in-homophobic-anti-gay-attacks-statisticsupdates/>
- [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Discrimination/A.HRC.19.41\\_English.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Discrimination/A.HRC.19.41_English.pdf)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Lesbian,\\_Gay,\\_Bisexual,\\_Trans\\_and\\_Intersex\\_Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Lesbian,_Gay,_Bisexual,_Trans_and_Intersex_Association)
- <http://ilga.org/>
- <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11879.doc.htm>