



# ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОБЩЕСТВЕННАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ «ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЕ ЛЮДЕЙ, ЖИВУЩИХ С ВИЧ»

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## Report by ASC LGBT and ARU PLHIV on necessary measures for effectively supporting and helping people living with HIV within the gay-lesbian community

*All people are born free and  
equal in their worth and rights.  
All rights and freedoms are universal,  
interdependent, indivisible and interrelated.  
Sexual orientation and gender identification  
are inherent elements of the worth  
and personality of each person and cannot  
serve as a basis for discrimination or transgression.*

**THE DZHOKJAKARTA SKY PRINCIPLES**

### Preamble

As a group of specialists in the protection of the rights of gays, lesbian, bisexuals and transsexuals, as well as specialists in the protection of the rights of people living with HIV, we have developed the following report in adherence to principles by which the All-Russia Social Committee (ASC) on Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgenders (LGBT) provides more effective help and support for homo- or bisexual people living with HIV (PLHIV) and PLHIV with gender identification issues. This work is based on ASC LGBT results presented at the All-Russia Union of People Living with HIV (ARU PLHIV) from 30 May to 6 June 2009 in Golitsino, Russia.

### ASC LGBT efforts

ASC LGBT participants recognize the importance of establishing a committee within the ARU PLHIV to address ARU PLHIV issues related to the help and support of LGBT as a closed stigmatized group.

ASC LGBT has developed recommendations and recommends that the ARU PLHIV establish a coordinating council so that LGBT PLHIV may receive effective help and support.

## Terminology

### *ASC target group*

The following definitions are presented so that ARU PLHIV can correctly understand the target group addressed by ASC LGBT and ASC LGBT can accurately represent the methods and goals of efforts within the ASC LGBT target group:

**ASC** – All-Russia Social Committee

**ARU PLHIV** – All-Russia Union of People Living with HIV

#### **LGBT**

Lesbian community

Gay community

Bisexual community

Transgender community

#### **OUTLINE**

**Homosexuals** – gays and lesbians

**Homosexuality**, in general, is one form of human sexuality arising from homosexual orientation (sexual attraction to one's own gender), homosexual identification (recognizing oneself as a person of homosexual orientation) and homosexual conduct (sexual acts with individuals of one's own gender).

In a more restricted sense, homosexuality is one of three primary sexual orientations determined by emotional, romantic (platonic), erotic (sensual) or sexual inclination exclusively towards people of one's own gender. The other two orientations are heterosexuality and bisexuality. Homosexuality exists in male and female forms.

**Lesbians** – homosexual women

**Gays** – homosexual men

**Bisexuality**, in general, is a state of human sexuality that includes or can include bisexual orientation, bisexual identification and/or bisexual conduct.

In a more restricted sense, bisexuality is one of many possible sexual orientations determined by emotional, romantic (platonic), erotic (sensual) or sexual inclination towards people of one's own gender, as well as people of the opposite gender, though not necessarily to the same degree or at the same time.

**Bisexuals** – men and women experiencing sexual-emotional attraction to people of both genders.

**Transgenders** – collective term denoting people whose social gender does not coincide with their biological gender.

**Transsexuality** – medical term denoting a condition in which the social and biological gender and psychological gender (or gender identification) of an individual do not coincide

Transsexuality is not associated with sexual orientation: a transsexual may be hetero-, homo- or bisexual (relative to the psychological gender), like any other person.

The primary difference between transsexuals and transgenders is a transsexual's desire to biologically change his gender and align it with his psychological gender, while a transgender is satisfied with adjusting his social role to his socio-cultural gender and accept that his gender identification differs from his biological gender.

**Transvestism** – efforts to dress in the clothing of the opposite gender.

**Transvestite** – a person that wears the clothing of the opposite gender.

Transvestism is not associated with sexual orientation. Transvestism may result from a sexual fetish expressed in sexual conduct in which sexual arousal or satisfaction is achieved through dressing in the clothing of the opposite gender.

Fetish transvestism is often observed in heterosexuals, many of which are married. Although this represents an early stage in the development of transsexuality, only a small portion of transvestites express transsexual desires.

**MSM** – men having sex with men

The term MSM is used to minimize the stigmatization of this group of men by emphasizing behavior that influences the risk of HIV infection and not self-identification of men in the context of sexual orientation.

MSM include homosexuals, bisexuals and heterosexuals engaged voluntarily in sexual conduct as a result of their sexual preferences, as a result of forced isolation from women or by coercion.

**WSW** – women having sex with women

WSW include homosexuals, bisexuals and heterosexuals engaged voluntarily in sexual conduct with individuals of their own gender as a result of their sexual preferences or as a result of forced isolation from men.

**LGBT** – This term first appeared in English to generally include lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders.

LGBT is a unification of communities which, despite several differences, are subjected to stigmatization and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identification.

*Therefore the target group of ASC LGBT is lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders living with HIV.*

ASC LGBT workers have recommended an addition term: **LGBT+**

**LGBT+** – individuals from LGBT communities that are living with HIV.

### **Purpose of ARU PLHIV and recommendations by ASC LGBT in regard to ARU PLHIV efforts with the ASC target group**

The primary goal of ARU PLHIV is to improve the quality of live of people living with HIV.

Based on this goal, ASC has developed a list of basic requirements that ASC participants feel should be fulfilled to improve the quality of life of LGBT+.

In addition, ASC participants recognized that not all communities were represented, including LGBT; therefore, ARU PLHIV should urgently set about monitoring the needs of all target groups-lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders living with HIV.

Detailed monitoring provides ARU PLHIV with a more comprehensive understanding of requirements.

In addition, ASC participants believe that the determination and fulfillment of ASC LGBT requirements in itself contributes significant and positive results towards improving the quality of life of LGBT+.

Although LGBT+ is the primary ASC target group, fulfillment of most requirements has a positive effect not only on the ASC target audience but also on the rest of the PLHIV community. In general, ASC has noted that most requirements are not specific. They are only specified in regard to LGBT+ as a stig-

matized group by the remainder of the PLHIV community, workers at AIDS service organizations (ASO), society and the government. At the same time, LGBT+ experience self-stigma and stigma from the HIV-negative LGBT community.

For this reason, ARU PLHIV should conduct detailed studies into the possible transfer of some LGBT+ requirements to other PLHIV groups.

To achieve this, ASC LGBT recommends the establishment of an interagency commission composed of leaders and representations of other ASCs as soon as possible.

ASC LGBT has developed four problem-solving levels associated with requirements for improving the quality of life for LGBT+.

**1) inside ARU PLHIV**

**2) among organizations providing services to LGBT+ (e.g., ASO, LGBT, rehabilitation centers, etc.)**

**3) in society**

**4) on the governmental level**

### **Requirements and recommendations for action for ARU PLHIV on various levels**

ASC LGBT has determined the following primary requirements:

**Requirement 1:** Respectful regard for LGBT+ needs

**Requirement 2:** Be part of society

**Requirement 3:** Equal regard for all participants of informal unions independent of sexual orientation and gender identification

**Requirement 4:** Acceptance of LGBT+ and their self-identity by ASO specialists

**Requirement 5:** Non-discrimination against LGBT+ in state and non-profit institutions that provide LGBT services

**Requirement 6:** Receiving reliable information from specialists without consideration for their views on LGBT, as well as knowledge and skills on how to work with specialists

**Requirement 7:** Psycho-emotional support for LGBT+ in difficult life situations

**Requirement 8:** Access for LGBT+ to all existing LGBT services

**Requirement 9:** Services for the immediate social environment

**Requirement 10:** Access to services for LGBT+ addicted to psychoactive substances and co-addicted people

**Requirement 11:** Access to information regarding current LGBT+ services

**Requirement 12:** Family support

**Requirement 13:** Acknowledgement of sexual needs

**Requirement 14:** Need for legal protection against homophobia

**Requirement 15:** Decriminalization of HIV transfer from person to person

### **ASC LGBT suggests the following measures and actions to resolve the fulfillment of requirements and effective efforts inside ARU PLHIV:**

1) Establish conditions so that all ARU PLHIV actions consider LGBT+ equal to ARU PLHIV members and so that their needs are considered throughout the organization. Research has to be conducted to determine the level of stigmatization of LGBT+ in ARU PLHIV and ASO. As soon as possible, an ARU PLHIV ethical code should be adopted and an ethical committee be elected within the organization so that the needs of LGBT+ are not ignored in the development of policies and programs by ARU PLHIV and projects by partnership organizations.

2) Consolidate and expand LGBT+ participation in ARU PLHIV activities and establish conditions under which LGBT+ have equal chances of participation in organized and informal communities and unions.

3) Develop mechanisms for coordination within the framework of ARU PLHIV to develop and realize cross-over projects based on an ethical code that eliminate duplicity of action and consider particular characteristics of PLHIV groups.

4) Provide ASO representatives with knowledge and skills for working with LGBT+ and prepare representatives from LGBT institutions for working with HIV-positive individuals.

5) Develop an informational campaign to establish a positive image of PLHIV within the LGBT community and address stigma towards PLHIV.

6) Develop a series of events for workers in organizations and institutions to improve understanding regarding the requirements of working with LGBT+ and develop skills for working with this category of clients (patients).

7) Collect data on friendly specialists and organizations that have the skills and desire to work with LGBT+ and develop mechanisms for the development of LGBT+ psycho-emotional support services, the improvement of these services and improved access to these services.

8) Work towards the approval of standards on the development and accessibility (paid and free) LGBT+ services, such as sex change, facial plastic surgery and psychological support. Establish a continuously updated system of collecting data on LGBT+ friendly specialists and organizations, as well as regularly monitor the accessibility of these services.

9) Regard the PLHIV social environment as an important target group of ARU PLHIV efforts and adapt all organization activities so that the needs of the social environment are considered. Conduct research on the needs of the PLHIV social environment, develop effective methods for providing assistance to new target groups and consider the specific requirements of the LGBT+ social environment during the development of methodological approaches.

10) Recognize that some LGBT+ members are addicted to psychoactive substances and co-addicted people and that some narcotic drug users have LGBT sexual orientation and gender identification and experience multifaceted stigmatization that limits access to services. Conduct consultation within ARU PLHIV and with interested organizations and independent experts to develop tactics for improving access by LGBT+ drug users and co-addicted members to necessary services.

11) Acknowledge the importance of information availability regarding current LGBT+ services and develop a continuously revised database of existing effective LGBT+ services and undertake necessary activities so that as much of target audience as possible is aware of services.

12) Acknowledge the existence of single-gender families and that single-gender families have the same rights as mixed-gender families. Adapt services for supporting heterosexual families and expand them so that they fulfill the needs of single-sex families.

13) Recognize that the need for sexual contact is important not only for heterosexuals but also for homosexuals, bisexuals and transgenders, and establish conditions for which such needs are not disapproved of by heterosexual members of ARU PLHIV.

14) Establish conditions for which open homophobic behavior is considered unethical and condemned by ARU PLHIV leadership and member body. Advance equal and unprejudiced relations towards each ARU PLHIV member, regardless of his biological gender, sexual orientation, gender identification,

prior infringement of law and use of psychoactive substances. Record occurrences of homophobia and corresponding evaluation of detailed actions.

15) Conduct research with leading specialists-from psychology, immunology, jurisprudence, sociology, etc.-and possibly human-rights organizations on Article 122 of the Russian Federal Criminal Codex citing factors for controlling epidemic development. Adopt a substantiated position based on this research.

**ASC LGBT suggests the following measures and actions for effective ARU PLHIV efforts with organizations servicing LGBT+ (ASO, LGBT and rehabilitation centers):**

1) Organize the collection of information on the needs and instances of denied needs to monitor and develop actual measures for countering disrespectful regard for LGBT+ needs.

2) Develop a mechanism for organizations that support various communities to encourage friendly LGBT+ relations and work towards positive cooperation between LGBT+ and LGBT communities with other organizations. Develop and begin an informational campaign with the leadership of LGBT organizations to establish a positive image of PLHIV within LGBT communities.

3) Advance the importance of an equal, respectful regard for all people, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identification, within organizational standards.

4) Conduct a series of events for workers in organizations and institutions to improve understanding regarding the requirements of working with LGBT+ and develop skills for working with this category of clients (patients).

5) Conduct an informational campaign to reach as many of the LGBT institutions in the country as possible. The success of the campaign is partially to be judged on its influence on reducing LGBT+ stigmatization.

6) Advance in all organizations and institutions the understanding that lack of knowledge and skills for working with LGBT+ is not a valid basis for failure to provide full and quality information. Assist organizational leadership in the development of a provision on equal, respectful relations to all clients (patients), regardless of sexual orientation and gender identification.

7) Provide all interested individuals and organizations with an informational database of LGBT+ friendly specialists and organizations that provide these services.

8) Provide for increased understanding of the necessity of specialized services for LGBT+ and their accessibility. Involve all interested structures and organizations in the development of a network of these services on both federal and regional levels.

9) Provide for increased understanding among ASO and LGBT organizations of the importance of providing needed services for the social environment as a factor in improving the quality of life of PLHIV. Undertake all possible measures to explain the need for expanding the scope of activities of grant and sponsoring organizations supporting HIV/AIDS organizations in order to provide for the development of services required by the PLHIV social environment.

10) Conduct a series of events for workers of organizations and institution to improve understanding regarding the need for efforts targeting LGBT+ drug users and co-addicted, as well as the development of skills for working with this category of PLHIV.

11) Advance the importance of informatization by ASO and LGBT organizations regarding current LGBT+ services and help in the provision of detailed information from organizations providing these services.

12) Advance among ASO and other organizations the importance of supporting family relations-including heterosexual, homosexual and transgender couples-and work towards the expansion and necessary measures for the adaptation of existing services for heterosexual families to the needs of single-sex and transgender families. At the same time, work towards the creation of new services for mixed-sex, single-sex and transgender families and support LGBT organizations currently active in seeking equal rights for heterosexual, homosexual and transgender families.

13) Activate LGBT communities to conduct informational campaigns on the value of all types of sexual conduct considered legal by current legislative to remedy the unilateral transfer of information on the importance of sex exclusively in heterosexual relations.

14) Advance the importance a provision in standards on equal, respectful relations to all visitors, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification and promote change in relations based on prejudices-objective and non-discriminatory-by organizational workers. Demonstrate to ASO and other organizations opinions regarding homophobia from organizational and individual points of view as compared to cases involving ARU PLHIV participants and promote LGBT organization activities regarding legal assistance for LGBT+ faced with homophobia.

**ASC LGBT suggests the following measures and steps to ARU PLHIV  
in social efforts to resolve issues and provide effective assistance to LGBT+:**

1) React to each instance of infringement on the human rights of LGBT+.

2) Analyze difficulties that prevent people from becoming a part of their needed communities and develop tactics to minimize these barriers.

3) Promote open-mindedness in society based on factual information regarding the existence of single-sex and transgender families and the need for accepting these families as equals to mixed-sex families. Demonstrate before society the harmfulness of the stereotypical representation of single-sex and transgender families as inadequate, as well as advance equal social regard for single-sex and transgender families.

4) Demonstrate facts before society regarding the harmfulness of assigning sole blame to PLHIV for viral infection during sexual contact and advance social understanding to equalize responsibility for possible infection as a result of voluntary sexual relations. Change the stereotypical view of PLHIV in regard to spread of the epidemic and the appropriateness of criminal charges.

ASC LGBT suggests the following methods of influence for successful and effective work with the government to resolve issues related to possible difficulties in the effective fulfillment of LGBT+ needs:

1) Convey the importance of recognizing single-sex and transgender families to governmental bodies and promote legislative initiatives to equalize the legality of single-sex and transgender families with that of mixed-sex families and adapt need-based family social institutions to single-sex and transgender families, as well as mixed-sex families.

2) Advance the position of ARU PLHIV to the government on the necessity of legislation to elevate the status of homophobia to that of xenophobia, based on existing data regarding the danger of homophobia. Promote legislative initiatives regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identification.

3) Analyze difficulties that prevent people from becoming part of their needed communities and develop tactics to remove barriers that occur on the state level.

4) Advance the position of the union regarding the need to abolish Article 122 of the Russian Federal Criminal Codex, based on conducted research, and promote, based on expert support, legislative initiatives to decriminalize the sexual behavior of HIV-positive individuals, resorting to the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation if needed.

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