



Key findings and observations

Building inclusive democracies: A guide to strengthening the participation of LGBTI+ persons in political and electoral processes

This document presents some key findings and observations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) publication **'Building inclusive democracies: A guide to strengthening the participation of LGBTI+ persons in political and electoral processes'**, released in November 2023 and authored by Lluís Juan Rodríguez. Extensive background and supportive information are available in the main publication, including descriptions of and links to many resources available online.

1. **Political representation of LGBTI+ persons** is small and limited. Official and reliable data are difficult to find, but according to one comprehensive survey, in 2013 there were 107 openly LGBTI+ members of parliament (MPs) holding office at the national level in 24 countries. Available information from the following decade suggests little improvement in general. Research has shown that the representation of LGBTI+ leaders in elective office typically has a positive impact on the adoption of legislation and policies recognizing the rights of the population, and the role of supportive allies is also a key factor to success.
2. **Political parties** in various regions and from diverse ideological backgrounds have supported the participation of LGBTI+ leaders in decision-making and elective office, including by recognizing the rights of the community in their foundational documents and policies, adopting voluntary candidate quotas and nominating LGBTI+ candidates, providing training for LGBTI+ party members, and supporting the work of internal LGBTI+ groups and networks or associated entities.
3. Around the world, **electoral management bodies** (EMBs) have adopted policies to guarantee the right to vote of trans and non-binary persons without discrimination, including respectful identification procedures, training for polling staff and targeted voter education campaigns. Some examples include the electoral administrations of Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, India, Pakistan and Peru.
4. LGBTI+ intergroups and caucuses have been created within the **parliaments** of several countries, including Brazil, North Macedonia, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the European Union. These parliamentary platforms gather MPs from different political parties to promote legislation recognizing the rights of LGBTI+ persons – for example, in areas such as decriminalization of same-sex relations, non-discrimination laws, legal recognition of trans identities, marriage equality, protections on the bodily integrity of intersex persons and the prohibition of so-called conversion therapies.
5. In several countries, anti-LGBTI+ statements and hate speech spread by politicians and the media have led to an increase of **violence against LGBTI+ persons** in political and electoral processes. Strategies to prevent and counter this violence include violence monitoring initiatives, awareness-raising campaigns, hate crime and hate speech legislation, and training of security and criminal justice personnel, among others.