

DFID's approach on LGB&T rights

DFID recognises that the realisation of human rights **underpins sustainable development**. Through its development programmes, DFID aims to support civil society, governments and others to build open economies and open societies in which citizens have freedom, dignity, choice and control over their lives, and institutions are accountable, inclusive and responsive. Across our work we will seek to **protect the human rights of LGB&T people**, and to ensure that all groups are able to share in the benefits of development, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

How we will work

Progressive shifts in the context for LGB&T people in developing countries will ultimately be driven by **local change**, including shifts in social attitudes and increased political support for human rights. DFID is already gaining considerable experience of working on a number of sensitive issues that cut across national and international politics, social, political and religious values. This includes DFID's work on female genital mutilation (FGM) and safe abortion where, through sensitive work with local stakeholders, identifying local champions and building coalitions we have been able to support changes in attitudes and locally led policy change.

In order to move DFID's work on LGB&T rights into the next phase, DFID should focus on:

- Building clarity and narrative around non-discrimination in development, positioning LGB&T as a core development issue;
- Identifying and engaging with the Southern voices that are beginning to emerge;
- Building new relationships (with civil society and the private sector for example) for indirect influence on decision-makers and on society;
- Developing and utilising evidence to support sustainable change.

This work will be taken forward through our existing '**inclusive development**' **work**, consolidating with existing policy and programming momentum around girls and women, 'Leave No One Behind', and the DFID framework on disability. An inclusive development approach will bring these components together rather than setting them up as fragmented priorities.

International engagement

Multilateral fora – DFID's priority will be to hold the line in our policy objectives including principles of equality and non-discrimination.

Bilateral discussions - DFID Ministers and others, including Foreign and Commonwealth Office counterparts, can productively raise issues to build high-level support for the human rights of LGB&T people. We should also

increase engagement with **non-state actors** including civil society because of their ability to work with a range of actors in the South.

Policy and programme

- 1 Facilitating Southern voices at country level, regionally and internationally, through building local relationships, and working with existing stakeholders that are supporting progressive change on sexual rights where there are opportunities to do so.
2. Developing new partnerships with civil society and the private sector for more effective influencing in relation to decision-makers and with communities and societies. This will be driven primarily from the centre through existing fora.
3. Embedding an inclusive development approach centred on evidence of what works and integrating with policy and programme investments in women and girls, 'Leave no-one behind' and disability.
4. Evidence-based analysis and policy-making that supports an inclusive development approach.

In addition, a number of other areas were identified and will be taken forward. These include:

- Including homophobia in DFID's ongoing work on **social norms** (behaviour change group) within DFID.
- Including sexual orientation and gender identity as part of the social impact analysis in DFID's **Smart Rules** - this has been completed and was launched in July 2014.
- The **DFID LGB&T staff network** has identified actions to support to local staff participation and will also continue to provide information and guidance to support LGB&T staff mobility.

DFID programmes

There is a need to **better understand local context** and to **engage with local actors**, which can help move DFID to a place where relevant issues can be taken up in a joined up, less reactive way. Tools and guidance will be useful for signposting how this can be done effectively through a light-touch approach.