

PHM Comment on provisional agenda item 6.3 Improving the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons of the 133rd Session of the WHO Executive Board

PHM acknowledges the effort made by Member States to address the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer persons (LGBTQ). However, more work should be done to address the significant barriers to health that LGBTQ persons face.

The WHO and Member States should conceptualize LGBTQ health issues beyond HIV/AIDS and depression. Structural and physical violence should be recognized as major determinants of health for LGBTQ persons. There is widespread systematic discrimination against LGBTQ persons. Homosexuality has been criminalized in some countries. And attacks against LGBTQ persons occur in all WHO regions. These factors result in poor health outcomes and compromise access to health care. LGBTQ persons have experienced abuse due to their sexual orientation and are at an increased risk of drug and alcohol abuse as well as poor mental health. These are all significant health issues that should be more widely researched and addressed in partnership with LGBTQ persons.

The invitation for Member States to merely note report EB 133/6 is insufficient. MMI and PHM calls upon Member States to adopt a resolution that:

- Condemns legislation that criminalizes LGBTQ persons and any violence or hostility directed at LGBTQ persons
- Promotes engaging in consultations and the developing strategies which lead to a broader understanding of determinants of health for LGBTQ persons, including structural and physical violence, discrimination and the criminalization of homosexuality
- Establishes a working group charged with:
 - Integrating the health needs of LGBTQ persons and communities across all global health efforts and WHO activities
 - Promoting and conducting further research that will inform concrete interventions addressing the physical and mental health of LGBTQ persons.
 - Reporting regularly to the Secretariat on the progress of its activities