



# Achieving equality

## New standards on the protection of LGBTI rights

Violence and discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons remain widespread around the world. In 2017, targeted and systematic attacks were perpetrated against LGBTI rights defenders and organisations in places including Azerbaijan, Chechnya, Egypt and Indonesia. Clear international legal standards can contribute to preventing and promoting accountability for such acts. They can also contribute to promoting dignity and equality for LGBTI persons, such as through recently enacted laws on gender identity in Argentina, Pakistan and Peru or those establishing marriage equality in Australia, Germany and Finland.



Nazeeha Saeed | Bahrain



*“The Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10 aim to address previous gaps and contribute not only to the eradication of violations, but also the reparation of the damages they cause around the world.”*

MAURO CABRAL GRINSPAN (ARGENTINA),  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL ACTION  
FOR TRANS EQUALITY (GATE)

■ In 2017, ISHR and ARC International collaborated to facilitate the elaboration of authoritative international legal principles on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). The Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10 (YP+10) provide a comprehensive roadmap for the development and reform of national laws, policies and practices to respect and uphold LGBTI rights.

The Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10:

- were developed following unprecedented consultation with civil society, rights holders, representatives of affected communities, and legal experts
- were adopted by a panel of 33 eminent experts following an intensive three day consultation in Geneva
- constitute an authoritative statement on international human rights law as it relates to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics
- complement the 2007 Yogyakarta Principles, updating them to reflect international legal developments over the last decade and to fill protection gaps, particularly with respect to trans and intersex issues and rights
- provide comprehensive and practical guidance to States and non-State actors as to the legislative, administrative and other measures required to fulfil their obligations under international law



*“The YP+10 will help civil society and other stakeholders hold governments accountable for fulfilling their obligations under international human rights law. In the context of violence against LBGTI persons, this accountability includes protection, support for victims, investigation of crime, and holding perpetrators to account, along with tackling structural violence.”*

JULIA EHRT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF TRANSGENDER EUROPE



Signatories to the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10 include Edwin Cameron (judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa), Victor Madrigal-Borloz (UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), Ajit Prakash Shah (former Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi), Sanji Mmasenono Monageng (judge of the International Criminal Court), and Maina Kiai (former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association), among many others.

Just two weeks after their launch, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights issued a significant Advisory Opinion on gender identity and non-discrimination, citing the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10 extensively and approvingly. The Court referred to YP+10 as a source of authoritative jurisprudence and as elaborating legally binding State obligations with respect to LGBTI rights.

*“It is unacceptable that LGBTI people still face discrimination, including in health care settings, leading to detrimental impacts on the realisation of their right to health. Discrimination on the grounds of SOGIESC needs to be addressed globally, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring there is no-one left behind. YP+10 is a very important step in this direction.*”

PROFESSOR DAINIUS PŪRAS (LITHUANIA), UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



 [@morgancarpenter](https://twitter.com/morgancarpenter)

‘Finally the Yogyakarta-Principles update, #YPplus10 are launched! Months in the making, and including necessary statements about legal protections from violence, ill-treatment and discrimination on grounds of sex characteristics.’



 [@victor\\_madrigal](https://twitter.com/victor_madrigal)

Delighted to share the issuance of Yogyakarta Principles plus 10, of which I am thankful and proud to be a signatory. Today as relevant as ever. We are free! #YPplus10 See all about the Yogyakarta Principles here: <http://www.yogyakartaprinciples.org>