



## **Concept Note:**

### **Driving Analytical, Transformative Action (D.A.T.A.) – A Caribbean Regional Dialogue on LGBTQI D.A.T.A.**

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In partnership with:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Being LGBTI in the Caribbean –  
Implemented by UNDP and supported by USAID

## Background

Around the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) people continue to experience significant legal and social exclusion, which directly correlates with higher rates of poverty as well as disproportionate levels of violence. This correlation is evidenced in research undertaken globally, and recently throughout the Caribbean region.<sup>1</sup> Higher rates of poverty and disproportionate levels of violence against LGBTQI people also represent serious challenges to their human rights.<sup>2</sup> Through both lenses – socioeconomic empowerment and human rights – we see this significantly limits the social and macroeconomic development at the national and regional levels.<sup>3</sup> Yet, and due to the pervasive problem of a scarcity of national and regional statistical data, this makes it very difficult to combat historical exclusion and violence as well as to inform more inclusive economic recovery strategies.<sup>4</sup>

For many years, activists and leaders across the Caribbean have acknowledged and experienced a “glass ceiling” in the scope and depth of their engagement with governments and other key stakeholders as limitations in the availability of – and access to – quality data. Regional systems like PANCAP, CARICOM, and the development banks, among others, operate to address health, climate change, economic integration and academic research, yet overlook actual investments into LGBTQI economic livelihoods. Instead, economic livelihoods for LGBTQI people have predominantly been championed by civil society organizations.

From this championing by civil society, this then led to multiple concerted efforts in advocacy for the acceleration of implementation and publication of LGBTQI data collection, which has led to the creation of a significant body of regional Caribbean research. This now represents an unprecedented and unique perspective on LGBTQI people in the Caribbean – a surge in data that portrays their livelihoods, systemic challenges, and contributions.

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1 Open for Business 12 Country Caribbean Report in 2021 shows the economic cost of discrimination and the Inter American Institute of Human Rights et al Report, Human Rights Respect Sexual Orientation and Gender identity in the Caribbean and Latin America looks at decriminalization and socio-economic rights in the region through a legal lens. With a focus on LBQTM women, it is also important COC From Fringes to Focus reports. See Annex 1 for other reports.

2 Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these challenges for LGBTQI people, while also problematizing viable and inclusive plans to reinvigorate general livelihoods and economic outcomes.

3 See the Open for Business 12 Country Caribbean Report.

4 While the LGBTI Index proposed by UNDP has 51 indicators, no regional or national models have been developed to incorporate the socioeconomic concerns of LGBTQI people in the region. See also the Inter American Institute of Human Rights report.

## **The Challenge – Needing Transformative Action**

Amidst this surge in knowledge and data-driven analytics, and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, dissemination of these products has often been limited to one-off webinars. This has stymied the ability of organizations to work with influential stakeholders to turn the findings of the research into effective policies – i.e. the research now sits on various websites with little meaningful engagement. Further, and due to a lack of institutional leadership to bring this research and knowledge together to sensitize all stakeholders, many are unaware of this surge in knowledge. From that, many unaware organizations are likely to duplicate other’s effort and “reinvent the wheel” by engaging in redundant analytical efforts. And this cycle will only continue and remain unable to fuel the transformative action that is needed.

## **The Opportunity – We Have the Analytics**

It is with this backdrop and unprecedented opportunity that we propose regional roundtables (in-person with virtual options) to bring together important stakeholders – many of whom have not been leveraged prior on rights and inclusion.

Motivated by the numerous data collection efforts, we will convene said stakeholders to:

- (1) Create space for the dissemination of – and sensitization on – the data and findings of the research, in order to build a common and coordinated voice
- (2) Strategize to accelerate transformative action at the national, regional, and international levels
- (3) Establish a commitment to build national capacity to support country models for economic research and advocacy that is grassroots-centered, and builds on already collected data (see Annex 1 for various examples) at the country level.
- (4) Outline and identify viable policies, strategies and/or activities for adoption and application, fuelling movement at the domestic level

Aforementioned stakeholders will include those from the state (including Parliamentarians and members of statistical agencies), representatives from International Financial Institutions (including the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank), economists, regional commercial and national commercial banks, members of regional and international corporations, academia (academics as well as research institutions), the UN, and civil society.

Expected outcomes to **Drive Analytical, Transformative Action (D.A.T.A.)**:

1. Via numerous roundtables, to present the various research and sensitize in-person representatives from government (including Parliamentarians and those working in statistical agencies), economists, representatives from IFIs and the private sector, the UN, as well as a global audience through virtual means.

2. To present to each stakeholder policy options that are data-driven, and iteratively produce a plan of action that informs policy and development planning that are inclusive.
3. To explore opportunities for resources and developing country models that can support socioeconomic rights advocacy to advance national reforms.
4. Development of an intersectional working group to mainstream economic inclusion, presenting a unified voice on the needs of the Caribbean community and what each stakeholder can do to work for their inclusion.

### **Civil Society Processes and Keynotes**

To ensure this process prioritizes the participation of civil society, the organizers will create a CSO Working Group. This will be comprised of at least 2 LGBTI organizations from each select country to guide the creation of the roundtables, especially working toward the inclusion of their governments and other stakeholders.

The organizers are currently brainstorming keynote speakers to provide introductions or key messages, including from leaders in the Caribbean, academia, economists, the UN, and economic development, among other sectors.

### **Key Details**

The format will be roundtables, including a moderator and panelists - see Annex 2 for a list of suggested panelists. For the budget, see Annex 3. Proposed location and date: **Barbados**, for approximately 30 stakeholders – **exact date TBD depending on pandemic restrictions, potentially the second or third quarter (calendar year) of 2022.**

## ANNEX 1

### List of Socioeconomic/Human Rights Reports produced in the Caribbean Region

#	Name of Report	Who produced it	Description	What Year
1	A Legal Gap Analysis of Law Affecting the Right to Mental Health for Women, Girls and LGBT persons in the Eastern Caribbean	ECADE/EJA/ KT	Report on Mental Health in the Eastern Caribbean	2020
2	LGBTI in an Era of COVID	Kaleidoscope Trust	A <a href="#">Report</a> about the impact of COVID on LGBTIQ people in the commonwealth.	2020
3	Over Policed/Under Protected	UCTRANS/ Outright	119 responses done in 11 Caribbean countries ( <a href="#">regional</a> draft)	March 2021
4	Open for business 12 country Caribbean Report	Open for Business	Economic analysis <a href="#">report</a> of 12 countries in Caribbean included LGBT+ people in the Caribbean as well as LGBT+ members of the Caribbean diaspora, gathering information from 2,167 respondents. A survey of potential tourists to the Caribbean region, including those who are LGBT+ as well as heterosexual and cisgender, drawing on responses from 1,435 respondents. 21 in-depth interviews with business leaders.	June, 2021
5	<i>Encuesta Nacional DR</i>	UNDP	DR <a href="#">Report</a> It involved a survey with 7,122 responses from all over the country, and Dominican men and women abroad. The report provides evidence of the social and economic costs related to the exclusion and discrimination.	2021
6	The Human Rights to Respect Sexual Orientation and Gender identity in the Caribbean and Latin America	International Bar Association, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, and ILANUD	Examine the socio-economic and legal impact of discrimination and violence towards LGBTI persons, or individuals perceived as such, in the Caribbean and Latin America.	2021
7	From Fringes to Focus-Caribbean Report	COC Netherlands and Caribbean partners	The 9 national and regional <a href="#">reports</a> speaks to the socioeconomic issues of LBTQM populations living in the region	2021
8	Attitudes towards Sex and Sexuality in the Caribbean	CADRES	Amalgamation of <a href="#">report</a> from 2013 to 2019	2021
9	Legislating to address Hate Crime Against L.G.B.T persons in the Commonwealth	Human Dignity Trust	<a href="#">Report</a> on Legislating hate Crime in the Commonwealth Wealth	2019
10	LGBTI Index	UNDP	A <a href="#">report</a> to 51 indicators with five dimensions, health, education, economic empowerment, civil and political participation,	2018

11	I have to Leave to Be Me: discriminatory laws against LGBT people in the Caribbean	Human rights Watch/ECADE	<a href="#">Report</a> produced for seven countries in the Eastern Caribbean	2018
12	Safety, Legal Protections of LGBTQ people in Caribbean	ARCUS	A <a href="#">Report</a> on three countries or a mix of countries and priority themes in the Caribbean region where needs and/or the potential for change are greatest.	2018

## ANNEX 2 POTENTIAL LIST OF PANELISTS

#	Name of Report	Panelist name	Contact	Objective
1	A Legal Gap Analysis of Law Affecting the Right to Mental Health for Women, Girls and LGBT persons in the Eastern Caribbean	Richie Maitland	<a href="mailto:richiemaitland@human dignitytrust.org">richiemaitland@human dignitytrust.org</a> or richie.maitland@gmail.com	To explore legal gap analysis.  To identify costing and system investment in mental health services
2	LGBTI in an Era of COVID	TBD	jesse.sperling@kaleidoscope trust.com	To COVID economic damage to LGBTIQ organizations in the commonwealth.  To identify mitigating strategies that can support membership
3	Over Policed/Under Protected	Liesel Theron	lieslt.consultancy@gmail.com	Examine systemic gaps in the justice system impacting trans populations.  Identify right enforcement and protection systems at national level.
4	Open for business 12 country Caribbean Report	Phil Crehan	phil.crehan@gmail.com	To anchor the economic cost of discrimination and violence in the Caribbean.  To identify opportunities for developing a regional response because of findings.
5	<i>Encuesta Nacional D.R.</i>	TBD	karin.santi@undp.org	To sharing economic impact of violence and discrimination.  To identify country model approaches to address concerns to address economic livelihoods

6	The Human Rights to Respect Sexual Orientation and Gender identity in the Caribbean and Latin America	Leonardo Raznovich	leonardo.raznovich@gmail.com	To identify common systemic barriers in the region To identify economic livelihood strategies that can be leveraged through a transnational lens.
7	From Fringes to Focus- Caribbean Report	Liesel Theron	lieslt.consultancy@gmail.com	To identify strategies that can promote a grassroots approach at the national level because of findings To share findings that inform systemic barriers to economic needs because of findings.
8	Attitudes towards Sex and Sexuality in the Caribbean	Peter Wickham	peter.w.wickham@gmail.com	To share findings for regional and national comparison To identify country models for dismantling systemic structural violence that promote exclusion.
9	Legislating to address Hate Crime Against L.G.B.T persons in the Commonwealth	TBD	Alistair Stewart alistairstewart@humandignitytrust.org	It identifies legal findings and strategies to support national advocacy. To identify strategies for implementation.
10	LGBTI Index	TBD	karin.santi@undp.org	To identify the application of LGBTI indicators in sustainable development planning. To address application of LGBTI inclusion for SDG 8, 16 & 17 to regional and national development and policies.
11	I have to Leave to Be Me: discriminatory laws against LGBT people in the Caribbean	Kenita Placide	kenita74@yahoo.com	Identify findings that promote systemic violence against LGBT persons. Identify systems that support rights enforcement and protection of LGBT victims of violence and discrimination in the region

12	Safety, Legal Protections of LGBTQ people in Caribbean	TBD	Adrian Coman acoman@arcusfoundation.org	Identify systemic weaknesses that impact right enforcement and protection in the region.  Identify national justice Investments in that is C transform systemic change.
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### Annex 3 Proposed Budget Summary

Budget Item	Summary Cost
Cost of flights for 30 persons @ 1000 per flight	\$30,000.00
COVID testing and protocols \$150 test and marks and sanitizers	\$9,000.00
Cost of accommodations for 3 nights @ \$200 for 30 persons	\$18,000.00
Stipend for 30 persons @ \$100 per day	\$9,000.00
Cost of venue for 2 days@ \$2500 per day.	\$5,000.00
Catering for 30 @ \$100 per day for 2 days	\$6,000.00
Stipend for 12 Panelist @ \$500 each	\$6,000.00
Translations for 3 persons @ \$200 per hour for 6 hours for 2 days	\$7,200.00
Rapporteurs Report @\$ 500 per day for 3 days	\$1,500.00
Hosting fees for 5 person @\$300 per person	\$1,500.00
Printing and Materials	\$9,000.00
Consultant fees	\$8,000.00
Contingency	\$7,000.00
Total Cost	\$117,200.00