

January 11, 2016

Dr. Jim Yong Kim
President, World Bank Group
1818 H Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20433

Dr. Kim:

We write on behalf of civil society from 19 countries around the world to request your renewed attention to the issues affecting development opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) communities globally.

We were greatly encouraged by your words in early 2014, that *“eliminating discrimination is not only the right thing to do; it’s also critical to ensure that we have sustained, balanced and inclusive economic growth in all societies — whether in developed or developing nations, the North or the South, America or Africa.”* We strongly agree with your sentiment and have since urged the Bank to take specific actions to promote your vision.

In particular, we have, for several years already, asked that the World Bank allocate new resources to guide this work and to study the unique costs of sexual orientation and gender identity-based discrimination around the world. Specifically, our requests have focused on three broad objectives:

- **More research** into discrimination faced by LGBTI populations in countries served by the Bank, and the economic costs of these populations’ marginalization;
- **More Bank resources to support this agenda**, with at least one senior (H level) staff appointment similar to the position that was created for a Disability Advisor; and,
- The purposeful inclusion of LGBTI populations in Bank programs through **adoption of a freestanding gender and LGBTI safeguard policy.**

These requests have been recommended by a range of leaders both within and outside the Bank. We are disappointed, however, that we have not seen more progress in these areas.

As a matter of urgent priority, we ask that you appoint the LGBTI Advisor before the Spring meeting of the Bank, and that the incumbent be given the necessary institutional and financial resources to be able to move forward on this critical agenda.

We have appreciated your strong words of encouragement on these issues. But we ask now for your direct involvement in these administrative decisions, with a view to ensuring the strongest possible attention of the Bank to LGBTI issues in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Human Rights Campaign
Council for Global Equality

Access Chapter 2, South Africa
Advocates for Youth, USA
AIDS Healthcare Foundation, USA
American Jewish World Service, USA
Anti-Defamation League, USA

Bank Information Center, USA
Beijing Gender Health Education Institute, China
Beijing LGBT center, China
Biblioteca Popular Maestro Alfredo Bravo, Argentina
Bisi Alimi Foundation, United Kingdom
Çavaria, Belgium
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), USA
Center Global, a program of the DC Center for the LGBT Community, USA
Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos – PROMSEX, Perú
Chapter Four Uganda, Uganda
Colectivo Amigos Contra el Sida, Guatemala
Diversencia Foundation, Bolivia
Freedom House, USA
GAYa NUSANTARA Foundation, Indonesia
GayLatino, Paraguay
Gender Action
Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), USA
Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches, USA
Hivos, The Netherlands
Human Rights First, United States
Inida HIV AIDS Alliance, India
Kunst TLGB - Unidos Todos AC, Argentina
Liga Colombiana de Lucha Contra el Sida, Colombia
LLH - The Norwegian LGBT organization, Norway
Los Angeles LGBT center, USA
METRO Charity UK, United Kingdom
Micro Rainbow International, International
MSACV – Colombia, Colombia
National Center for Transgender Equality, United States
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of the United States (NGLCC), USA
Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, USA
PFLAG National, USA
REDTRANS, Nicaragua
SIPIA, México
Socios En Salud, Perú
SOMOSGAY, Paraguay
Stonewall, United Kingdom
VIA LIBRE, Perú
Women’s Media Center, USA
Youth Builders Initiative, Nigeria