

## **Oral statement by the LGBTI Stakeholder Group at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

Delivered by: Best Chitsanupong, GATE's Human Rights Officer

My name is Best Chitsanupong. I am a trans youth from Thailand and a human rights officer from GATE, representing the voices of people who are underrepresented in UN spaces.

This statement is in consultation with over 340 organizations worldwide within the [LGBTI stakeholder group](#), part of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism.

As we reach the final 5 years of the 2030 Agenda, progress on SDG 5 remains unacceptably slow. Across the globe, LGBTI women and girls continue to face violence and exclusion from patriarchal society. Not because we, the LGBTI movement, failed, but because gender equality efforts failed us.

We are told the SDGs promise to “leave no one behind.” But why are LGBTI people still criminalized and facing gender based violence worldwide?

According to the [ILGA World database](#), over 64 countries still criminalize consensual same-sex sexual acts, and more than 10 criminalize diverse gender expressions and identities. According to [TGEU's](#) report, at least 5,000 trans people were reported murdered between 2008 and 2024.

At the current rate, it will take 286 years to close legal protection gaps and remove discriminatory laws worldwide.

However, we see a rising anti-gender movement distorting human rights and gender concepts aimed at gaining political power.

Too many governments recognize only two genders. Also, there are attempts to delegitimize the gender concept and replace “gender-based violence” with “sex-based violence” at multilateral organizations, excluding trans and gender diverse people from gender equality frameworks.

Given these challenges, SDG 5 Gender Equality cannot be achieved when LGBTI people are left behind.

We urge member states and stakeholders to:

- Meaningfully engage LGBTI CSOs in policy development to prevent and address gender-based violence
- Address funding disparities by sustaining resources for LGBTI movements as part of feminist and gender equality funding.
- Ensure decriminalization, full legal recognition, and protection of transgender and non-binary people.

Let me be clear: human rights are indivisible and universal. If LGBTI+ rights are under attack, human rights are under attack. The SDGs will fail if you fail us.