

Embracing Diversity: Standing in Solidarity with LGBTQIA+ Communities

Please use the following resources and instructions as a facilitation guide for holding a discussion session with your movement, group, community or organisation on Thursday 1 June as part of #BlackBandThursday.

You will need a laptop or ability to watch video footage online together as part of your session.

Duration: 1 Hour

Proposed agenda and methodology:

Introduction (5 minutes):

Welcome participants to #BlackBandThursday for June 2023. For this month we will be taking action on and will be standing in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+(lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual) community across the world as part of Pride Month.

Make sure that participants have the following context for the discussion to follow.

- Pride Month highlights the ongoing struggle for LGBTQIA+ rights and brings attention to the persistent disparities and challenges they face. It aims to raise awareness about the importance of equal rights, non-discrimination, and inclusive policies for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Pride Month is a time for us as inequality activists to show solidarity. LGBTQIA+ rights are an inequality issue because LGBTQIA+ individuals face discrimination, marginalisation, and systemic inequalities. They have been denied basic rights and protections, subjected to violence and hate crimes, and faced social stigmatisation. In many places around the world, LGBTQIA+ individuals continue to face legal discrimination, restricted rights, and social prejudice.
- For example, last week the [Federal Shariat Court in Pakistan](#) made a regressive ruling which significantly impacts transgender rights under the Transgender Rights Act of 2018. This regressive ruling undermines the fundamental rights and dignity of transgender individuals in Pakistan but also highlights a larger global issue of discrimination and marginalization faced by the transgender community worldwide.

- For this #BlackBandThursday we stand in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ communities. To understand the struggles facing LGBTQIA+ people better, we will look at recent examples from Uganda, Pakistan and Jamaica.
-

Videos : LGBTQIA+ Rights in Uganda, Pakistan and Jamaica (30 mins)

Video 1 & 2

- Show a short explainer video highlighting the situation in Uganda.
- Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvERN9i9hfU>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ekp_LXf4Sac

Video 3 & 4

- Present a short explainer video showcasing the situation in Pakistan.
- Link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MC4l_IHmz0
- Link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_9eGHeyneM

Video 5

- Presenter shows a debate on LGBTQ rights in Jamaica
- Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSHH7SRjhDY>

Discussion and Reflection (30 minutes):

Hold a facilitated discussion for participants to explore the challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ people across the world, and what we can all do to challenge and change this situation.

- How do laws and legislation undermine the rights of LGBTQIA+ people in your context?
- How do we challenge norms and beliefs around LGBTQIA+ people in context such as these?
- Encourage participants to share their thoughts and experiences from their own countries
- Discuss how inequality and LGBTQIA+ rights intersect and why we need to have intersectional approach
- How do we stand in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ people across the world?

Take action by wearing your black band and share messages of solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community. Post a picture or video of your Black Band action on Twitter using the hashtags #BlackBandThursday #FightInequality.