

**ENGAGING WITH THE  
UK GOVERNMENT:  
A GUIDE FOR LESBIAN,  
GAY, BISEXUAL  
AND TRANSGENDER  
ACTIVISTS WORLDWIDE**

**Stonewall's vision is of a Britain, and a world, where one day every single person will not only be entitled to fair treatment and respect but will be afforded fair treatment and respect.**

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# FOREWORD

Since 1989 Stonewall, and tens of thousands of supporters, has campaigned long and hard to secure some of the strongest legal protections in the world for British lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Finally, in July 2013, we completed our journey to full legal equality with the introduction of equal marriage in England and Wales.

However, we know that in many countries lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are still denied fundamental human rights. Brave activists are fighting for equality across the world. In daring to be themselves and demanding the same rights that others take for granted they often put their own lives at risk.

At Stonewall we are committed to supporting activists around the world. The UK Government has also pledged its support to national and grassroots initiatives that advance the human rights of LGB & T people. This guide is to help you access the assistance now available from the UK Government and Stonewall to campaign in your own country.

Stonewall is proud to stand with the international movement of human rights activists. We hope it grows in strength and that one day, within all of our lifetimes, in every country, city, village and street lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people will at last be able to live as equal citizens.

## **Ben Summerskill**

Chief Executive, Stonewall



**‘Internationally, the LGB & T community continues to experience abuse of their human rights, including torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, restrictions on their freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and discrimination in employment and access to health services and education. They also continue to be subjected to violence and hate crimes.**

**Our clear message is that human rights are universal and should apply equally to all people, as enshrined in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To render consenting same-sex relations illegal is incompatible with international human rights laws, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.’**

UK Foreign Secretary **William Hague**, 17 May 2013

# PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

Across the world lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGB & T) are often detained and tortured at the hands of the state. Such people are harassed and denied access to education, healthcare or the criminal justice system. In 78 countries same-sex sexual activity is illegal, and in five it’s punishable by death. Only 59 countries have laws to protect people from discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. Same-sex couples are provided legal recognition in only 31 countries, but this ranges from full marriage equality to limited rights to property and inheritance.

The UK Government has said it wants to see an end to this inequality and is committed to promoting the human rights of LGB & T people.

At Stonewall we know from our own experience that equality comes through effective movements, at a national and community level, that draw on the support of foreign governments and organisations when required. The UK Government can be a useful ally for grassroots movements. It has access to decision makers and can help to influence their thinking on LGB & T equality.

If the UK Government is to be helpful it’s important that UK officials working overseas work closely with national and grassroots LGB & T organisations. Any assistance from the UK Government needs to be sensitive to the situation of LGB & T individuals and activists, so it’s important that officials understand their concerns.

As an activist campaigning for the human rights of LGB & T people in your country, you know the challenges you face. You know the kind of support you need and the kind of support you don’t need. This guide aims to help you understand how the UK Government works around the world so you can build a working relationship with the UK Government in your country.

# SECTION ONE

## ABOUT THE UK GOVERNMENT AND GLOBAL LGB & T EQUALITY

The UK Government can play an important role in supporting LGB & T equality globally. It has strong diplomatic relations – especially with Commonwealth countries – makes a significant contribution to international aid and plays a full role in international bodies like the United Nations. The UK Government has said that human rights apply equally to all people, everywhere. Across the world they want to see laws which discriminate against LGB & T people dismantled and laws which protect LGB & T people put in place. They know that LGB & T people don't want special rights, but the same human rights as everyone else.

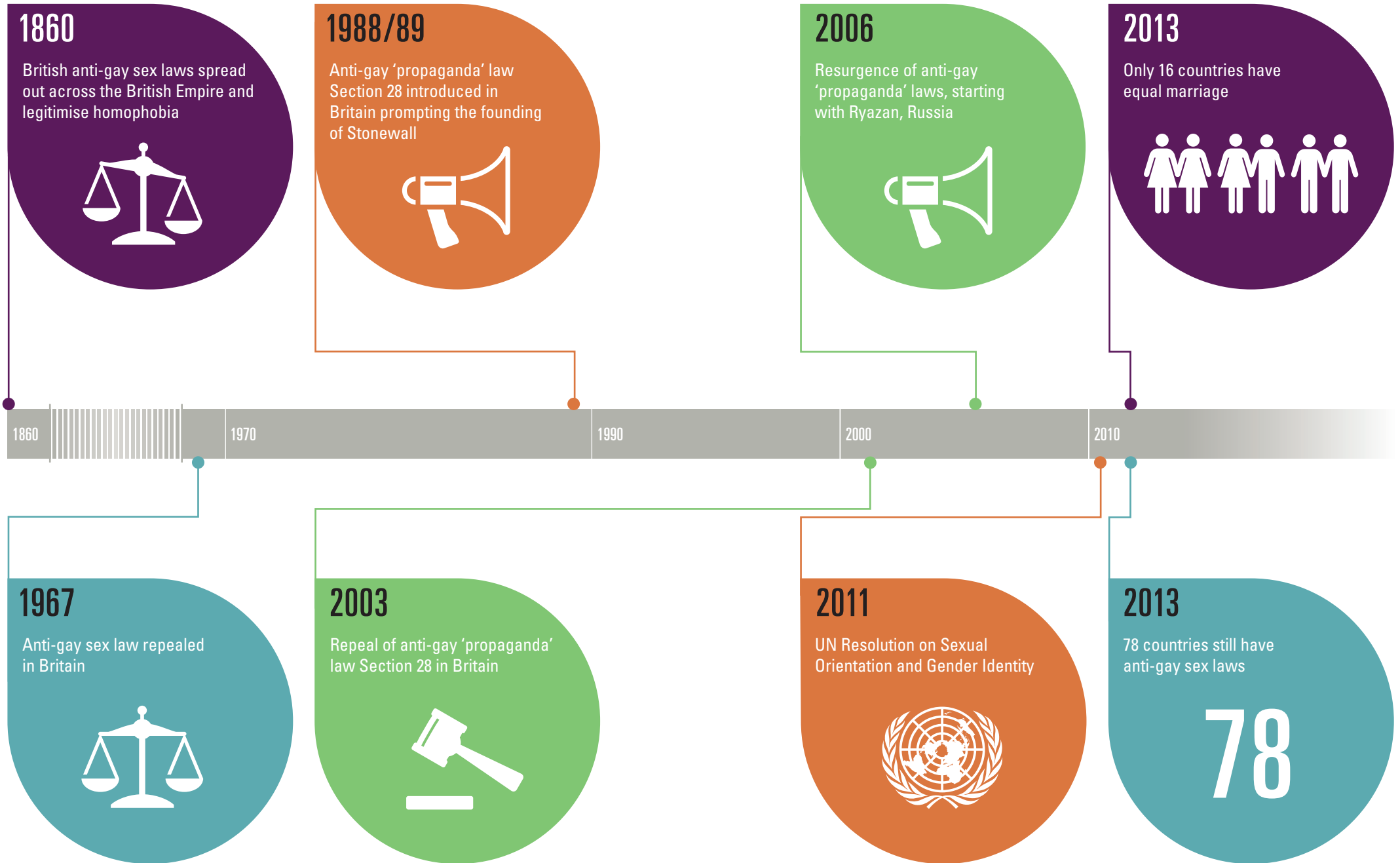
There are two main UK Government departments with international offices that play an important role in the UK Government's global support for LGB & T equality: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development.

### THE UK FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is responsible for the UK's relationship with other countries. It also promotes UK interests overseas. These interests are very varied and can change with different governments. However, successive UK Governments have all said that human rights are important. They believe that, along with democracy, human rights will protect citizens, improve global security and secure political freedom globally.

Another important role of the UK FCO is to build the UK's prosperity. To do this they help UK businesses wanting to invest in or export their products to the country concerned. As the UK FCO promotes prosperity it seeks to make sure that UK business does not abuse human rights and that the rights of UK citizens living in other countries are upheld.

**GLOBAL LGB & T EQUALITY, THE JOURNEY SO FAR...**



## THE UK DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Department for International Development (DFID) delivers the UK's programme of international development aid and works to end poverty.

The UK DFID normally focuses on a few specific issues in each country that it works with. These issues include education, economic growth, healthcare, climate and environment, food and nutrition, emergency aid support, preventing violent conflict and helping civil society, public institutions and the media to work together effectively.

The UK DFID is interested in making sure that all people benefit from its work to stop poverty. This means it wants to make sure that LGB & T people are not left out.

## THE UK FCO OR UK DFID IN YOUR COUNTRY

The UK FCO has a worldwide network of around 270 diplomatic offices, otherwise known as diplomatic missions, employing over 14,000 people. These offices can go by different names depending on their location. In Commonwealth countries the diplomatic office is normally called a High Commission. In non-Commonwealth countries the name Embassy is used. Diplomatic offices which deal primarily with the interests of UK travellers and have limited diplomatic function are called Consulates.

The UK DFID will normally be based in the same office or grounds as the UK FCO. Where the UK DFID has a small presence, the same staff members may perform both UK FCO and UK DFID roles.

It is important to remember that although diplomats and UK DFID staff work as representatives of the UK Government they themselves are not political in any way.

To find your nearest UK FCO or UK DFID office, visit their websites:

- [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office)
- [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development)

If you can't find the information you need on the web then please get in touch with us at Stonewall and we will help.

# SECTION TWO WHAT THE UK GOVERNMENT CAN DO

There are many ways the UK FCO and UK DFID might be able to support your work for LGB & T equality. This section includes a number of different ideas to get you started. As you develop a relationship with UK DFID and UK FCO officials you will come up with new ideas that work well in your country.

Please let Stonewall know how things are going so we can make sure we support your work with UK government officials in the UK and can share lessons with other activists.

## HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING

Every year the UK FCO draws up a list of 'countries of concern' for specific attention. It also has a list of issues it focuses on globally. These include freedom of expression, abolition of the death penalty, ending violence against women, prevention of torture and the promotion of equality and non-discrimination.

The UK FCO in your country monitors human rights there and regularly reports back to the UK Government in London. This monitoring supports both the in-country work of the UK FCO and UK DFID and the work of UK Government offices at the United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe, the Commonwealth Secretariat and other international organisations. It also informs political decision makers in the UK and the work of other UK Government ministries, such as the Home Office (the UK's Interior Ministry). Every year a report is produced that helps to set future priorities.

The latest report can be found here: [www.hrdreport.fco.gov.uk](http://www.hrdreport.fco.gov.uk).

It is important that this document includes the situation of LGB & T people in your country. The UK Government needs to know what is going on so that it can make informed decisions about what issues to prioritise.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- » Tell the UK FCO in your country about the issues LGB & T people face.
- » Give them evidence supporting your arguments, for example newspaper reports, opinion polls or case studies of people who've been attacked or discriminated against.
- » If you can, refer to the UK FCO's thematic priorities. So for example you might talk about how LGB & T people in your country have their right to freedom of expression repeatedly violated.
- » Let Stonewall know about the issues you are raising with them so we can share this information with our FCO officials in the UK.



## THE UK FCO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT

Based on the information they receive from civil society organisations, local media and other sources UK FCO officials will raise issues of concern with your national government. Concerns are often raised privately, where diplomats might speak one-to-one with key decision makers and ask them to take action to uphold human rights.

For areas of significant concern UK FCO officials might ask a senior UK politician to either write or speak privately to their counterparts in the country in question. Sometimes UK diplomats or politicians will take a more public approach and openly criticise or praise a government's actions. Public criticism is normally the last resort. The UK Government usually finds it better to hold robust discussions and challenge policies behind the scenes. This makes it easier for decision makers to change their views and defend their reasons for doing so, rather than appearing to have policy dictated by the West.

The UK FCO likes to hear from activists on the ground before it speaks out publicly. They recognise that it is grassroots activists who could become the targets of a backlash of public opinion if things go wrong.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » If you don't hear the UK FCO talking publicly about equality, make sure you ask them if they are having private discussions with your government.
- » Ask the UK FCO to speak to the decision makers in your country and press for changes you want to see to laws, policy and practice.
- » Let the UK FCO know what you think the risks and benefits are of criticising your government publicly and of having private discussions with your government.
- » Let Stonewall know about your concerns so we can talk to the UK FCO in the UK and help to make sure they are sensitive to the situation and take appropriate action.

*In Uganda the UK FCO has been working closely with other diplomatic offices to voice concerns over the 'anti-homosexual' bill there. The UK Government has repeatedly raised its concerns with senior figures in the Ugandan Government, including the President. UK FCO officials have worked to make sure their diplomatic efforts are based on what Ugandan activists believe will be helpful.*

## THE UK FCO'S WORK WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The UK Government is an active member of many international organisations that have a focus on human rights and international development. These include the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, the Commonwealth and the Council of Europe. The UK Government often works through these organisations on concerns that are shared by many different countries. This is known as multilateral diplomacy.

At a country level, the UK FCO often works closely with other European Union members who are like-minded, such as the Netherlands, France or Belgium. A full list of European Union members can be found at [www.europa.eu/about-eu/countries](http://www.europa.eu/about-eu/countries).

If the European Union gives aid to your country, your government will have signed up to an agreement as a condition of receiving aid. This might include agreeing to discuss human rights. On sensitive issues European countries often speak out together as the European Union, rather than as individual countries. This is often in the form of a formal public statement of concern delivered to the host government called a 'démarche'.

The UK also plays an active role at the United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review Process. This process scrutinises the human rights record of different countries and makes recommendations for improvements. The UK has made many recommendations for countries to address issues of discrimination against LGB & T people.

Sometimes UK FCO officials might assist civil society organisations to write their own report on their government's record on LGB & T equality. These 'shadow reports' can be submitted to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review Process and help inform debate and recommendations.

*Stonewall has been supporting and working with activists to make sure the UK Government is briefed prior to a Universal Periodic Review of their country. In 2012 and 2013 the UK Government raised issues of LGB & T equality at several Universal Periodic Reviews including Botswana, the Bahamas, Tonga, Tuvalu and Montenegro.*

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Ask the UK FCO to raise key issues at the United Nations Universal Periodic Review and make sure they are well informed about the issues affecting LGB & T people. Ask for their support to write a 'shadow report' on the human rights of LGB & T people in your country.
- » Let Stonewall know about what you have asked the UK FCO to raise at the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review of your country. We will help by making sure the officials in the UK know about the issues you would like raised.
- » Ask the UK FCO and DFID to make sure concerns about equality are raised with your government as part of its aid agreement with the European Union.
- » Ask the UK FCO and DFID to make sure its European Union colleagues are looking at key issues and are consulting with LGB & T equality organisations and activists.
- » If you think it's necessary for your government to be publicly criticised, encourage the UK FCO to lead on a European Union démarche. If you can, present examples to support this.

**'Around the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are targeted, assaulted and sometimes killed. Children and teens are taunted by their peers, beaten and bullied, pushed out of school, disowned by their own families, forced into marriage ... and, in the worst cases, driven to suicide.**

**LGB & T people suffer discrimination because of their sexual orientation and gender identity at work, at clinics and hospitals, and in schools – the very places that should protect them ...**

**... Let me say this loud and clear: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are entitled to the same rights as everyone else. They, too, are born free and equal. I stand shoulder to shoulder with them in their struggle for human rights.'**

**Ban Ki-moon**, United Nations Secretary General, 11 December 2012

## CONNECTING YOU WITH DECISION MAKERS

The UK DFID and UK FCO officials in your country will normally have access to members of government, business leaders and NGO leaders at the highest levels. There are many practical ways in which they can help activists meet decision makers and make the most of their discussions.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Ask the UK DFID and the UK FCO to make sure you and other LGB & T equality activists are invited to diplomatic functions where other NGO leaders and national decision makers will be.
- » Ask the UK DFID and the UK FCO to make sure you and other equality activists are invited to participate in consultations between government and civil society.
- » Ask the UK FCO to host round-table discussions with decision makers and activists on key issues facing LGB & T people.

*In Croatia in 2012 the UK Embassy supported a round-table policy meeting with the Gender Ombudspersons' Office to prepare for the introduction of comprehensive civil partnership legislation. Activists, academics and government officials discussed the key issues and a Stonewall representative was invited to Croatia to share the UK's experience of securing civil partnership legislation and moves that were underway at the time to campaign for equal marriage.*

## SUPPORT FOR LGB & T EVENTS

UK DFID and UK FCO officials are sometimes able to publicly support cultural events such as Pride parades or film festivals. This enables them to signal support for LGB & T human rights and send a message to a host government. Sometimes if it is not advisable to do something publicly, they may be able to show their support more discreetly.

## Ugandan Pride



### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Invite UK DFID and UK FCO officials to march with you at Pride or speak at any events, such as receptions or public meetings.
- » Invite them to mark International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) with you.
- » Ask UK DFID or UK FCO officials to fly the rainbow flag during IDAHOT or Pride.
- » Ask UK government officials to wear rainbow pin badges, or a 'Some People are Gay. Get Over It!' t-shirt during IDAHOT or Pride season. You can request free 'Some People are Gay. Get Over It!' t-shirts by emailing [international@stonewall.org.uk](mailto:international@stonewall.org.uk) or you can use the design to print your own. The design can also be used as a poster and we're happy to make you one if you send us a translation. It is already available to download in a number of languages from [www.stonewall.org.uk/international](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/international).
- » Ask UK government officials to show their support by using their official Twitter or Facebook accounts or by blogging.

*In Jamaica in 2012 the British High Commission supported a public forum on homophobic bullying in schools in partnership with the Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG). The British High Commissioner spoke at the event and, along with ten other Ambassadors and High Commissioners signed an article in the Jamaican press which spoke of the need for Jamaicans to work for open, inclusive and honest dialogue to end discrimination and oppression.*

## **UK BUSINESSES AND THE UK FCO**

UK diplomats are responsible for promoting UK trade and prosperity. Their role is to promote UK businesses overseas and to make sure they uphold the same human rights standards in their international operations that are expected from them in the UK.

Through Stonewall's Global Diversity Champions programme we now work with over 120 international businesses with headquarters in the UK to help them improve equality in their workplaces. Increasingly they ask us how to support their LGB & T staff in countries with laws which discriminate against them. Business leaders want their staff to be able to be open about who they are because they recognise that when people are allowed to be themselves in the workplace their performance is improved. This presents an opportunity for creative partnerships between the UK FCO, UK businesses and LGB & T equality activists worldwide.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- » Ask the UK FCO to put you in contact with any UK businesses in your country that might be concerned about LGB & T equality.
- » Get in touch with us at Stonewall to find out which UK businesses are in our Global Diversity Champions programme. We can let them know you are keen to meet with them in your country.
- » Offer to brief the UK FCO and UK businesses on what it is like to be an LGB & T person in your country and to meet with any LGB & T expatriate staff.
- » Consider how you might develop joint programmes on LGB & T equality in the workplace. Stonewall will be happy to advise you on how we did it.

## **UK DFID PROGRAMMES**

In the main countries where the UK DFID works it makes funds available to national governments to spend on specific themes. This is often called 'general budget support'. To qualify for this type of aid the country government has to agree to a set of 'partnership principles'. They need to show the UK DFID what they plan to do under each of the following areas:

- Reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals for global development. These universally agreed goals will change in 2015 and will be replaced with something new, but they will still be an important part of the UK DFID's work.
- Respecting human rights. This includes all the rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and applies equally to LGB & T people.
- Improving their public financial management, promoting good governance and transparency, fighting corruption and being more accountable to their citizens.

In countries where the UK DFID provides the government with general budget support there are some key opportunities for UK DFID advisers to support LGB & T equality.

Before they make an agreement to give general budget support UK DFID officials will always research the human rights situation in a country. The UK DFID raises any concerns with the country's government at an early stage and any opportunities for making improvements are agreed from the outset. While a country is receiving general budget support, the UK DFID can raise awareness of the needs of LGB & T people with national governments in specific areas. For instance, this might include improving access to sexual healthcare for gay men or the challenges facing LGB & T people who have been ostracised by their community.

In some cases the UK DFID might decide not to give aid to a country or might suspend aid which is agreed. This is normally because a country's government has not taken effective action to implement the partnership principles. This so-called 'conditionality' of aid can be controversial.

It is important to recognise that the UK DFID does not take these decisions lightly. In most cases when the UK DFID has stopped giving aid to specific countries it is because those countries have broken a number of different principles on

a number of different occasions, not simply because of their record on human rights. For example the government might be refusing to tackle high levels of corruption and at the same time there might be widespread human rights abuses.

Some governments may claim that the UK DFID has suspended aid because of demands to protect the human rights of LGB & T people. They may use this in propaganda against LGB & T people. There is often a lot of misinformation about why aid has been refused or suspended. If the UK DFID refuses or suspends aid to your country you should contact them and ask them to provide a simple explanation on why they have done so.

The decision to stop general budget support does not mean that the UK DFID will not support other types of aid to a country. For instance they may change from giving general budget support to funding NGOs directly that are working in that country. This is something you might like to suggest to officials.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Make sure that the UK DFID has information on any challenges regarding the human rights of LGB & T people in your country. Ask them to raise these concerns with your government before granting general budget support and throughout the agreement.
- » Ask Advisers at the UK DFID to consider the specific needs of LGB & T people when they think about how to reduce poverty, including in awarding grants.
- » Ask the UK DFID to help make sure the government consults LGB & T people, for example in the development of strategies for reducing poverty.

*The UK DFID has supported programmes for men who have sex with men. This includes providing funding for the 'Global Forum on Men Who Have Sex with Men' from 2009–2012, to support capacity building, knowledge gathering and high-level advocacy.*

## THE UK DFID'S JOINT WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A very large amount of UK aid is given to international bodies which run aid programmes. Activities run by these international bodies, also called multilateral organisations, include work on healthcare, peacekeeping, education and economic growth.

The main recipients are:

- The European Commission
- The World Bank
- United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

These organisations may have significant programmes in your country. It is important that the UK DFID advocates for the needs and human rights of LGB & T people at these institutions, with both their international and national offices.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Ask the UK DFID to raise the specific concerns of LGB & T people in your country with any of these institutions working in your country. They may be able to put you in touch with these organisations if appropriate.
- » Ask the UK DFID to make sure these institutions consult LGB & T organisations on the programmes they develop.
- » Let Stonewall know what you are asking the UK DFID to do so we can make sure their UK-based officials know as well.



## UK DFID AND UK FCO FUNDING

There are a number of different ways that the UK FCO and UK DFID might fund LGB & T organisations in your country.

- The UK FCO Bilateral Programme Budgets, often known as ‘small funds’. These are normally for small amounts (under £10,000). These can be helpful for supporting one-off events such as Pride. They can be accessed through the UK FCO in your country.
- The UK FCO Human Rights and Democracy Fund. This fund can provide multi-year project funding and can be accessed through the UK FCO in your country.
- The Global Poverty Action Fund Impact Window. To get these funds you need to have a well-developed partnership programme with a sizeable UK aid agency. It has to include service provision that will directly help to reduce poverty.
- The Global Poverty Action Fund Community Partnership Window. This also requires a partnership with a small UK-based NGO or an organisation run by people from your country living in the UK.

The details of these funds are available on the UK DFID and UK FCO websites.

- [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office)
- [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development)

Once you have a clear idea of which fund you might apply for, it’s a good idea to ask to meet with the UK FCO or UK DFID in your country to get their early opinion on whether the fund is suitable for you or your organisation.

## World Pride



# SECTION THREE

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### CONTACTING THE UK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BASED IN YOUR COUNTRY

You can normally find the contacts of key people in the UK Embassy or High Commission on their website. Different job titles are given to diplomats depending on the responsibilities they have:

- Ambassador, High Commissioner (in Commonwealth countries) or Head of Mission is the name given to the most senior UK diplomat in the country.
- Deputy Ambassador, Deputy High Commissioner or Deputy Head of Mission is the next most senior diplomat.
- You might also hear the name First, Second or Third Political Secretary. These are the next levels down from the Deputy Ambassador, with Third being the most junior.

Staff that work on programmes at the UK DFID are normally either an Adviser or a Programme Manager. Each Adviser has a specific thematic responsibility such as Health Adviser or Senior Education Adviser, while a Manager tends to have broader responsibilities.

It is usually better to make an appointment by email or telephone with a named individual.

UK missions are normally staffed by a mixture of people from the country where they are based as well as UK members of staff. Receptionists will almost always be country nationals while most diplomats and senior advisers in the UK DFID will be UK nationals.

It is understandable that you may not feel comfortable telling a national member of staff the nature of your business. If this is the case then you can just say you want to talk about human rights. Asking to speak to one of the Political Secretaries is normally a good starting point for the UK FCO. For the UK DFID the most sensible place to start could be with one of the Advisers or Programme Managers.

Don't forget, if you are not sure feel free to ask Stonewall to help put you in touch with the right people.

Keep your introductory email brief. We suggest you include the following:

- Start off by saying that if you've not sent your email to the right person, could they please let you know who the best person to contact would be.
- State who you are and who you work for.
- Explain briefly what you are contacting them about.
- Politely request a confidential meeting at the UK Embassy.
- Outline the key things you would like to discuss at the meeting.

## YOUR FIRST MEETING

When you arrive at an office you will need to clear security so make sure you remember to bring some form of photo identification, for example, a passport if you have one, and leave enough time for security checks. You will probably be asked to leave mobile phones, cameras, laptops or tablets with security so don't rely on electronic documents. Make sure you print out copies of everything you need.

It is important to be well prepared for your meeting. Although you may want to see great things come out of a meeting, remember this is just a first step towards building an effective working relationship. Think about what you want to get out of a meeting and try to keep it realistic and practical.

If you are planning to go along to meet the UK FCO or UK DFID with other activists arrange to have a pre-meeting to determine what you all hope to achieve. The UK FCO and UK DFID know that different activists have different strategies and ideas of what LGB & T equality might look like, so you shouldn't feel obliged to agree on a single position before you meet them. However, it is important to be able to allow each other space to speak and to show respect for different views.

## USEFUL LINKS

- [www.stonewall.org.uk/international](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/international)
- [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office)
- [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development)

# SECTION FOUR TOP TIPS



1

Do your research carefully. Read the UK DFID and UK FCO web pages on your country. Read the UK FCO Human Rights Report and note any references it makes to your country.

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2

Try to link what you want with the themes that the UK DFID or UK FCO work on in your country.

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3

Provide factual evidence for your arguments. Use research, case studies and newspaper or other media reports.

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4

Think about the purpose of the relationship. What do you want to get out of the meeting? Make sure you're asking for something realistic and specific.

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5

Make sure you have key information about your organisation and LGB & T equality issues to hand. It is often good to have a short paper you can leave with the officials you speak with.

6

Be ready to have a conversation and build a relationship. Officials don't respond well to overt criticism or verbal attack so avoid being confrontational, however frustrated you might feel.

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7

Before you leave try to establish what will happen next, even if it is just meeting again in a few months.

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8

Make sure you are clear what the UK FCO is happy to have shared *outside* of the meeting and what needs to remain *confidential*. Let them know what you are happy to have shared more widely too.

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9

It can be difficult to arrange a first meeting as the UK FCO and UK DFID officials are very busy so don't be put off if your request for a meeting is turned down the first time. Keep trying.

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10

Send an email to [international@stonewall.org.uk](mailto:international@stonewall.org.uk) to tell us how your contact with the UK Government is developing. We have links with the UK FCO and UK DFID in the UK and can let them know they're doing a good job or press them to do more.

WE ARE PROUD TO WORK INTERNATIONALLY



Send your translation of 'Some People are Gay. Get Over It!' to [international@stonewall.org.uk](mailto:international@stonewall.org.uk) and we will make it into a poster for you.

**'The day we spent at Stonewall was very useful and inspiring. Thank you for your time and for sharing your expertise.'**

Roman Kollárik, Q-centrum, Slovakia

**'It was great to visit Stonewall and share ideas and understanding on how to work for LGB & T equality. Although our situation in Uganda is very different I went away feeling encouraged that Stonewall is standing with us.'**

Clare Byarugaba, Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law in Uganda

**'Your journey from Section 28 to marriage equality inspires us as we campaign for our fundamental human rights.'**

Igor Kochetkov, Russian LGBT Network

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**'All human beings are born equal  
in dignity and rights.'**

Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights