

Universal Declaration of LGBTQ Rights and Freedom of Gender Expression

Preamble

Whereas all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights;

Whereas every person has the inherent right to live with dignity, safety, equality, and respect regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, or personal appearance;

Whereas humanity is enriched by diversity in identity, culture, relationships, expression, and ways of life;

Whereas lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and other sexual and gender diverse people have contributed throughout history to the advancement of human civilization while often experiencing discrimination, exclusion, persecution, and violence;

Whereas freedom of identity and freedom of expression are fundamental aspects of human liberty;

Whereas every person has the right to express themselves through clothing, appearance, hairstyle, mannerisms, and personal presentation;

Whereas crossdressing and other forms of gender-nonconforming expression are legitimate forms of personal expression and shall not be grounds for discrimination, punishment, humiliation, or denial of equal rights;

Whereas equality, respect, and protection of human dignity are essential foundations of peaceful and just societies;

The peoples of the world affirm this Universal Declaration of LGBTQ Rights and Freedom of Gender Expression as a shared commitment to liberty, equality, and human dignity.

Article 1 — Human Dignity and Equality

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Every person is entitled to the protection of these rights without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, or appearance.

No person's worth, humanity, or rights shall be diminished because of who they are or how they express themselves.

Article 2 — Freedom of Identity

Every person has the right to understand, define, and express their own identity.

No person shall be forced to conceal, deny, or change their identity in order to receive equal treatment, safety, education, employment, healthcare, housing, or participation in society.

Article 3 — Sexual Orientation Rights

Every person has the right to experience and express their sexual orientation with dignity and freedom.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and other sexual minority persons shall enjoy equal rights and protections.

No person shall face discrimination, punishment, or exclusion because of their sexual orientation.

Article 4 — Transgender Rights

Every person has the right to live according to their gender identity.

Transgender people have the right to recognition, respect, safety, and equal participation in society.

No person shall be denied opportunities, services, or protection because they are transgender.

Article 5 — Freedom of Gender Expression

Every person has the right to express themselves through clothing, appearance, hairstyle, voice, mannerisms, and personal presentation.

Gender expression is a form of individual freedom.

A person's appearance shall not be used as a reason to deny them dignity, equality, employment, education, housing, healthcare, or social participation.

Article 6 — Right to Crossdress

Every person has the right to wear clothing and present themselves in ways traditionally associated with another gender.

Crossdressing is recognized as a legitimate form of personal expression.

No person shall be punished, harassed, excluded, or discriminated against solely because they crossdress.

The right to crossdress applies regardless of whether a person identifies as transgender, nonbinary, gender-nonconforming, or any other identity.

Article 7 — Freedom of Personal Appearance

Every person has the right to make personal choices regarding clothing, makeup, hairstyle, accessories, and appearance.

Personal presentation shall not determine a person's character, ability, morality, or value.

Societies should respect diversity in appearance and self-expression.

Article 8 — Freedom from Discrimination

Every person has the right to equal treatment before the law and in society.

Discrimination based on LGBTQ identity or gender expression is incompatible with human dignity.

No person shall be denied employment, education, healthcare, housing, public services, or legal protection because of identity or expression.

Article 9 — Protection from Violence and Harassment

Every person has the right to live free from violence, threats, intimidation, bullying, and harassment.

Violence or abuse directed at individuals because of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or appearance is a violation of human rights.

Communities and governments should work to prevent and address such harms.

Article 10 — Privacy and Personal Autonomy

Every person has the right to privacy and control over personal decisions regarding identity, relationships, body, appearance, and expression.

No person shall be forced to disclose private information about their identity or personal life against their will.

Article 11 — Bodily Autonomy and Healthcare

Every person has the right to healthcare without discrimination.

Healthcare shall be provided with dignity, respect, informed consent, and attention to individual needs.

LGBTQ people shall not be denied appropriate care because of identity or expression.

Article 12 — Family and Relationships

Every person has the right to form relationships and families based on mutual respect, care, and consent.

LGBTQ individuals and couples shall receive equal dignity and protection.

The diversity of families shall be respected as part of human society.

Article 13 — Rights of Children and Youth

Every child and young person has the right to safety, education, respect, and protection.

LGBTQ youth and young people who express themselves differently shall be protected from bullying, violence, and exclusion.

Young people deserve environments where they can grow with confidence and dignity.

Article 14 — Education

Every person has the right to education without discrimination.

Educational institutions should encourage respect, understanding, and awareness of human diversity.

Students shall be protected from harassment based on identity, expression, or appearance.

Article 15 — Employment and Economic Equality

Every person has the right to work and participate in economic life without discrimination.

Employment decisions shall be based on ability, qualifications, and conduct rather than sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or appearance.

Article 16 — Freedom of Thought, Culture, and Belief

Every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and culture.

These freedoms should be respected while protecting the equal dignity and rights of others.

No belief or tradition should be used to justify violence, persecution, or denial of fundamental human rights.

Article 17 — LGBTQ Community and Culture

LGBTQ people have the right to form communities, preserve history, celebrate culture, and advocate for equality.

The contributions and experiences of LGBTQ people are part of human history and deserve recognition.

Article 18 — Public Participation

Every person has the right to participate fully in civic, political, cultural, and social life.

LGBTQ people have the right to represent themselves and contribute to decisions affecting their lives.

Article 19 — Freedom from Forced Conformity

No person shall be forced to conform to social expectations regarding gender, sexuality, clothing, or appearance.

Human diversity shall be respected as a natural part of humanity.

Article 20 — International Responsibility

Governments, organizations, and individuals share responsibility for protecting LGBTQ rights and freedom of gender expression.

Nations should work toward eliminating unjust discrimination and promoting equality, safety, and understanding.

Article 21 — Responsibilities and Respect

Rights exist alongside responsibilities.

All people should respect the dignity and freedoms of others.

A society that protects diversity while respecting others creates greater freedom for everyone.

Article 22 — Commitment to Equality

The recognition of LGBTQ rights and freedom of gender expression strengthens human rights for all people.

Equality does not require people to be identical; it requires that every person's dignity and rights are protected.

Final Declaration

We affirm that every person has the right to live openly, safely, and authentically.

We recognize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and other diverse identities as part of the human experience.

We affirm the right of transgender people to live according to their gender identity.

We affirm the right of every person to express themselves through clothing, appearance, and presentation, including the right to crossdress without fear of discrimination or punishment.

We declare that diversity is a strength of humanity and that freedom, equality, and dignity belong to all people.

We call upon individuals, communities, institutions, and nations to uphold these principles and build a world where every person can live with respect and freedom.

Adopted as a universal declaration of equality, dignity, liberty, and human expression.