

INEQUALITY IN A GLOBAL CRISIS: LGBTQ+ POPULATION



Nonprofit organizations, which depend on philanthropic support from the community to carry out their critical missions, will continue to be affected by the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19. The constituencies they assist will be impacted differently based on race, class, gender, disability and a multitude of other descriptors.

The implications of COVID-19 cannot be generically applied to all constituencies. Some constituencies are suffering at a far higher rate than others and philanthropists are looking for more than a “one-size fits all” solution.

While recognizing that gender and sexuality-based discrimination existed long before the coronavirus pandemic, this document provides an overview of how its effects are compounded by the current crisis and what solutions are being suggested.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM EXISTING DATA

- Local, national, and international events like annual pride parades and music and dance festivals that gather the LGBTQ+ community and solidify a sense of community and belonging have been canceled.
- Certain health indicators across LGBTQ+ populations, including smoking and cancer rates, are indicators of higher Covid-19 incidences.
- Some LGBTQ+ youth are forced to live with families of origin, where they are often closeted or face hostile and violent behavior in response to their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- The increased isolation of LGBT people during stay-at-home orders could lead to increased suicide rates, which are already disproportionately high for LGBTQ+ individuals.
- In many communities, LGBTQ+ people face discrimination and barriers to access in healthcare. Discriminatory attitudes among healthcare workers lead LGBTQ+ people to avoid or delay accessing healthcare.
- Discrimination in employment markets and higher rates of job loss are resulting in a disproportionate amount of uninsured LGBTQ+ workers.
- Some religious conservative groups in the U.S. and other countries are perpetuating historical stigma by blaming the coronavirus crisis on the LGBTQ+ community, putting LGBTQ+ individuals at higher risk for incidences of hostility and violence.
- Many local and national nonprofit organizations serving the LGBTQ+ population in the U.S. are reporting profound trouble with fundraising due to the financial impacts of coronavirus.

LESSONS FROM THE AIDS/HIV EPIDEMIC

- Life has to be adjusted for coexistence with the virus and new cultural norms have to be established.
- Anxiety, uncertainty, and stigmas need to be acknowledged and addressed.
- Education, conversation, and the spread of accurate information tailored to specific communities is critically important.
- Community activism and collaboration can facilitate fundraising and healthcare solutions.
- A sense of greater responsibility and community can emerge.

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COMMIT TO STOPPING STIGMA AND BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCY BY:



1. Sharing the need for social and financial support for marginalized groups.



2. Maintaining privacy and confidentiality of those seeking healthcare.



3. Quickly communicating the risk or lack of risk associated with products, people, and places.



4. Raising awareness about COVID-19 without increasing fear.



5. Sharing accurate and accessible information about how the virus spreads.



6. Speaking out against negative behaviors and the exclusion of marginalized groups.



7. Being cautious about the images that are shared to avoid reinforcing stereotypes.



8. Engaging with marginalized groups in person and through social media.



9. Thanking healthcare workers, responders, and those providing essential services.



10. Nonprofit leaders: having discussions with your board about the relationship between justice/equity and your mission.

RESOURCES

- [Washington Blade](#)
- [Daily Beast](#)
- [Time](#)
- [MSNBC](#)
- [Forbes](#)
- [The Conversation](#)
- [BBC News](#)
- [Vice](#)
- [Vice](#)
- [The New Yorker](#)
- [NPR](#)
- [The San Francisco Chronicle](#)
- [USA Today](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign](#)
- [GLADD](#)
- [Family Equality](#)
- [Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice](#)
- [National Center for Lesbian Rights](#)

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