

## Research Briefing

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# UK aid for LGBT+ inclusion

## Summary

Across the world, discriminatory laws and social attitudes [continue to exclude and marginalise lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and others](#) (LGBT+) on the basis of their gender identity or sexual orientation. This puts them at greater risk of violence and of experiencing worse socio-economic outcomes.

The ‘+’ symbol is used to include people whose identities do not fit typical binary notions of male and female, or who decide to identify themselves using other categories to describe their gender identity or their sexuality.

In 2022, the UK will [host the first global LGBT+ conference, “Safe to be me.”](#) The Government intends to use the conference to encourage other countries to introduce legislative reforms to protect and promote LGBT+ inclusion, address violence and discrimination, and ensure equal access to public services.

In many countries, the pandemic is [likely to have reinforced discrimination](#) and the marginalisation of LGBT+ people. However, a major barrier to assessing the degree to which is the case is the [lack of data on the lives of LGBT+ people worldwide](#) (especially in counties where there are restrictions against LGBT+ people). However, there have been news-reports that LGBT+ people have been [blamed for the spread of coronavirus](#) and experienced [reduced access to health services](#) (including for HIV/AIDS).

Prior to the pandemic, the World Bank estimated that sexual and gender minorities were already [likely to be overrepresented among the 40% of the world's poorest](#).

The UK seeks to use its aid spending and diplomatic reach to improve the lives of LGBT+ people globally, with a particular focus on Commonwealth states. Many members of the Commonwealth retain colonial-era legislation that criminalises or discriminates against LGBT+ people: As of July 2021, 35 of the 53 Commonwealth countries [had laws that criminalise homosexuality](#).

The all-party parliamentary group on global LGBT+ rights has called for the UK to [commit at least £55 million per annum on LGBT+ inclusion globally](#)—in [2020/21 it committed £5.5 million](#) to targeted international programmes. Note, however, this estimate does not include all projects that had LGBT+ people among their beneficiaries.

This briefing sets out the potential effects of the pandemic on LGBT+ people globally, UK diplomatic efforts to promote LGBT+ inclusion worldwide, and the strategy and spending of UK aid to support LGBT+ issues internationally.

## 1 Overview of global LGBT+ rights

According to the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association (ILGA), [in December 2020, of the 193 UN-member states](#):

- 69 had legal provisions criminalising same-sex sexual contact or de-facto criminalisation (36% of countries).
- Six states proscribed the death penalty for consensual same sex acts: Brunei, Iran, Mauritania, Nigeria (12 Northern states only), Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Five further states may impose the death penalty, but there is less legal certainty: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Qatar, Somalia, and the UAE.
- At least 51 had legal restrictions on the registration or operation of NGOs working on LGBT+ issues (26%).
- 57 provided some broad legal protections against discrimination on grounds on sexual orientation (30%).
- 28 allowed same-sex marriage, and 34 allowed same-sex partnerships (7% and 18%, respectively).
- Four had legal bans on conversion therapy (meaning the effort to alter an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ILGA, [State-sponsored homophobia report](#), 15 December 2020, pp25-29, 263

## Library briefings on global LGBT+ Rights

- [International LGBT+ rights and issues in 2020/21](#)
- [LGBT+ rights and issues in North Africa](#)
- [LGBT+ rights and issues in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

### 1.1 The pandemic has likely exacerbated inequalities

In many countries, the pandemic is likely to have reinforced discrimination and marginalisation of LGBT+ people.

However, a major barrier to assessing the degree to which is the case is the [lack of data on the lives of LGBT+ people worldwide](#). This means research often relies on estimates and surveys and it's difficult to see how different parts of the LGBT+ population are affected (this is particularly true in countries where there are restrictions against LGBT+ people).<sup>2</sup> Lack of data also means it is a challenge for aid donors, governments, and NGOs to identify the most effective areas in which to intervene.

The UK, as part of the international Equal Rights Coalition (see section 2, page 7) has called for [better national collection and reporting of data on LGBT+ issues](#), including violence and discrimination.<sup>3</sup>

While LGBT+ people may share some experiences of discrimination or abuse, they also exist as distinct groups with varied experiences, which can also be influenced by their age, ethnicity, income, health, and the country in which they live.

In 2020, the UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender published findings [on the effects of the pandemic on LGBT+ people](#).<sup>4</sup> This highlighted four major impacts.

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<sup>2</sup> World Bank, [Investing in a research revolution for LGBTI inclusion](#), accessed 17 December 2021

<sup>3</sup> Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), [Equal rights coalition strategic plan 2021 to 2026: Annex B](#), 6 July 2021, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>4</sup> UN Independent expert on sexual orientation and gender, [Impact of Covid-19 on LGBT persons](#), 2020

## 1) Scapegoating

In many countries, including [Turkey](#), [South Korea](#), [Uganda](#), [Iraq](#), and [Ukraine](#), individuals have sought to blame the virus and its spread on LGBT+ people, increasing the risk of LGBT+ people experiencing discrimination.<sup>5</sup>

## 2) Reduced access to health services, such as for HIV

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that globally many people, based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, face barriers to accessing healthcare. In addition to countries where LGBT+ activity is criminalised, discrimination and fear of seeking health services more generally worsens health access and health outcomes for LGBT+ people.<sup>6</sup>

According to a WHO survey of 135 countries and territories between January and March 2021, [94% reported some degree of disruption to their health services](#) over the time period. Major causes of the disruption included supply-chain and work-force interruptions, and fewer patients visiting due to fear of the virus and greater financial difficulties.<sup>7</sup>

Around 49% of HIV testing services globally reported some level of disruption during this period, and 46% of HIV prevention services.<sup>8</sup> This particularly impacts on gay men, men who have sex with men, and transgender people, who, together with sex workers and those who inject drugs, [represented 65% of global HIV infections in 2020](#).<sup>9</sup>

UNAIDS reports that those living with HIV have [also been at greater risk of dying from coronavirus](#), based on studies carried out in England and South Africa.<sup>10</sup> In England, people living with HIV were twice as likely to die from coronavirus than the rest of the population during the first coronavirus wave, beginning in March 2020.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Politico, [Turkey's LGBTQ community at risk amid rise in homophobic rhetoric](#), 24 July 2020, accessed 17 December 2021; Human Rights Watch, [Covid-19 backlash targets LGBT+ people in South Korea](#), 13 May 2020; The New Arab, [Prominent Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr blames coronavirus pandemic on gay marriage](#), 28 March 2020; Reuters, [LGBT+ group sues Ukraine religious figure linking coronavirus to gay marriage](#), 13 April 2020; all accessed 17 December 2021;

<sup>6</sup> WHO, [Breaking barriers: Towards more gender-responsive and equitable health systems](#), October 2019, p27, Box 4

<sup>7</sup> WHO, [Second round of the national pulse survey on continuity of essential health services during the Covid-19 pandemic](#), 22 April 2021, p5, accessed 17 December 2021

<sup>8</sup> WHO, [Tracking continuity of essential health services during the Covid-19 pandemic, January to March 2021](#), accessed 17 December 2021

<sup>9</sup> UNAIDS, [Global HIV and AIDS statistics: Fact sheet](#), accessed 17 December 2021

<sup>10</sup> UNAIDS, [Global AIDS update 2021](#), 14 July 2021, p210

<sup>11</sup> UK Health Security Agency, [HIV testing, new diagnoses, outcomes, and quality of access for people accessing HIV services: 2021 report](#), 1 December 2021, p9

### 3) Poverty rates were likely high before the pandemic

Sexual and gender minorities are [likely to be overrepresented among the 40% of the world's poorest](#), due to greater challenges in accessing education and employment, according to the World Bank.<sup>12</sup>

There are few studies of poverty rates and risk of experiencing poverty among LGBT+ people. The World Bank reports that in India and parts of Africa, for example, [many LGBT+ people are especially vulnerable to poverty](#). This is due to factors including family rejection and tendency to be employed in the informal sector, which leaves them with lower levels of support and social protection. Living in poverty also makes LGBT+ people more vulnerable to extortion and violence, which may force them to conceal their identity.<sup>13</sup>

### 4) Experience of violence

Stay-at-home restrictions introduced in response to the pandemic, coupled to existing stigma, are likely to have placed LGBT+ people at increased risk of violence if they lived with unsupportive families or housemates. However, global rates of domestic violence against LGBT+ people are unrecorded.

Gendered lockdowns were introduced in some countries, including Colombia, Panama, and Peru, where men and women were only allowed out on alternate days. This led to police [attacks against trans women](#), and members of the public [attacking](#) and [harassing](#) trans people.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> World Bank, [LGTI people are \(likely\) overrepresented in the bottom 40%](#), 3 August 2015, accessed 17 December 2021

<sup>13</sup> World Bank, [The economic cost of stigma and the exclusion of LGBT+ people: A case study of India](#), 2014, p26

<sup>14</sup> A. Perez-Brumer and A. Silva-Santisteban, [Covid-19 policies can perpetuate violence against transgender communities](#), AIDS Behav., 2020, pp1-3; The Guardian, ["Separation by sex:" Gendered lockdown fuelling hate crime on streets of Bogotá](#), 8 May 2020; Human Rights Watch, [Panama's gender-based lockdown and the resilience of transgender activism](#), 21 July 2021; accessed 17 December 2021

## LGBT+ inclusion and the pandemic

- Devex, [Criminalization and stigma limit LGBTQ access to health care in Africa](#), May 2021
- Human Rights Watch, [Global trends in LGBT rights during the Covid-19 pandemic](#), February 2021
- Human Rights Watch, [LGBTQ inequality and vulnerability in the pandemic](#), June 2020
- International Labour Organization, [Covid-19 and the world of work: A focus on people living with HIV](#), June 2020
- Commonwealth Equality Network and Kaleidoscope International Trust, [LGBTI+ in the Commonwealth in the Covid-19 era](#), May 2020
- Outright International, [Vulnerability amplified: The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on LGBTIQ people](#), May 2020
- Asia Pacific Transgender network, [Trans resilience report—stories of hope, pain and survival from the trans movement during the Covid-19 pandemic](#), 2020

## 2

## UK diplomatic efforts

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has previously noted that because LGBT+ rights remain a sensitive issue in many countries, and work on such issues may create a backlash, much UK diplomatic work is [not openly reported](#).<sup>15</sup> This makes its effectiveness difficult to assess.

### Commonwealth

Many Commonwealth countries retain colonial-era legislation that criminalises or discriminates against LGBT+ people. As of July 2021, 35 of 53 Commonwealth countries [have laws that criminalise homosexuality](#).<sup>16</sup>

In 2018, Prime Minister Theresa May [apologised for these laws](#), stating they were “wrong then, and they are wrong now.” She said the UK Government was ready to support any Commonwealth Government who wanted to reform legislation that made such discrimination possible.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Human rights and democracy: 2016](#), 20 July 2017, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>16</sup> FCDO, [Human rights and democracy: 2020](#), 8 July 2021, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>17</sup> Number Ten, [PM speaks at the Commonwealth joint forum plenary: 17 April 2018](#), accessed 17 December 2021

The UK has funded several programmes supporting Commonwealth governments to reform discriminatory legislation—see below, page 10.

## Equal Rights Coalition

The UK and Argentina are co-chairs of the [Equal Rights Coalition](#) (ERC), which has 42 member states.<sup>18</sup> In July 2021, the UK hosted a virtual conference for the coalition, which agreed a [five-year strategy to protect LGBT+ people and promote their rights](#).<sup>19</sup>

The strategy [includes plans](#) to increase work with faith leaders to discourage discrimination, end the death penalty and criminalisation of LGBT+ conduct globally, and enact legislation against discrimination and hate-speech.<sup>20</sup>

The ERC also published a [commitment to protect LGBT+ rights during the pandemic](#). This called on donor governments to ensure their humanitarian funds include a response to the needs of marginalised communities, including LGBT+ groups.<sup>21</sup>

## UK to host first global LGBT+ conference, 2022

In June 2022, the UK [will host the first global LGBT+ conference](#), “Safe to be me,” chaired by Lord Herbert as the UK’s special envoy on LGBT+ rights.

The Government plans for the summit to focus on encouraging legislative reforms, addressing violence and discrimination, and ensuring equal access to public services for LGBT+ people.<sup>22</sup>

The NGO, The Baring Foundation, has called for the UK [to demonstrate “concrete leadership”](#) at the summit by addressing the underfunding of UK aid spending on LGBT+ issues.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> FCDO, [Equal rights coalition](#), last updated 14 December 2021

<sup>19</sup> FCDO, [Equal rights coalition: Strategic plan 2021 to 2026](#), 6 July 2021, accessed 17 December 2021

<sup>20</sup> FCDO, [Equal rights coalition strategic plan 2021 to 2026: Annex B](#), 6 July 2021, accessed 17 December 2021

<sup>21</sup> FCDO, [Equal rights coalition statement on coronavirus and the human rights of LGBT+ persons](#), 15 May 2020, accessed 17 December 2021

<sup>22</sup> FCDO and Government Equalities Office, [UK to host its first LGBT conference](#), 16 May 2021, accessed 16 December 2021

<sup>23</sup> Baring Foundation, [A line in the sand—this is a year for the UK to show concrete leadership on international LGBTI rights](#), 18 May 2021, accessed 16 December 2021

## 3 UK aid

### 3.1 Forthcoming aid strategy, 2022

A new UK aid strategy is due to be published [in early 2022](#).<sup>24</sup>

The Government has said that promoting open and inclusive societies is one of its [seven priorities for UK aid spending in the future](#).<sup>25</sup> This includes the promotion of human rights and combatting discrimination, with a “particular [focus on disability and LGBT+ rights](#).”<sup>26</sup>

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) also intends to [increase diplomatic efforts at all levels](#) and ensure its aid spend supports “marginalised and minority groups.”<sup>27</sup> This is in line with the department’s [policy paper to “leave no one behind,”](#) which commits it to use aid to eradicate poverty and challenge the social barriers that deny people opportunity, including those based on gender and sexual identity.<sup>28</sup>

### 3.2 How much aid is spent on LGBT+ issues?

The Government does not report levels of aid spending on LGBT+ inclusion and rights, in line with Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reporting practices.<sup>29</sup>

Because aid spending on LGBT+ projects is not formally reported, we only have estimates of spending levels.

#### Government statements

In December 2020, the Government said that for 2020/21, [just under £12.3 million](#) had been allocated from the aid budget to support LGBT+ rights.<sup>30</sup> In July 2021, the FCDO said it [spent £5.5 million](#) on targeted international programmes protecting and promoting the rights of LGBT+ people in 2020/21.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>24</sup> HL Deb, [25 November 2021](#), c1007

<sup>25</sup> FCDO, [UK official development assistance \(ODA\) allocations 2021 to 2022: Written ministerial statement](#), 21 April 2021, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>26</sup> HL Deb, [16 December 2021](#), c476

<sup>27</sup> FCDO, [Outcome delivery plan 2021 to 2022](#), 15 July 2021, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>28</sup> FCDO, [Leaving no one behind: Our promise](#), updated 9 March 2019, accessed 21 December 2021

<sup>29</sup> PQ 32404 [[Caribbean: Overseas aid](#)], 21 July 2021

<sup>30</sup> HL Deb, [17 December 2020](#), c1727

<sup>31</sup> PQ 33101 [[LGBT people](#)], 19 July 2021

In October 2021, the Department said it was [committed to £3 million](#) of funding for LGBT+ rights “this year,” with a focus on addressing discriminatory legislation.<sup>32</sup> It is uncertain whether this relates to a financial or calendar year.

Note that other programmes will include LGBT+ people among their beneficiaries, while not being specifically targeted at them alone.

The Government states it would “not be appropriate” to specify where UK-funded LGBT+ programmes work, citing their sometimes-sensitive nature and concerns for the safety of activists.<sup>33</sup> The requirements of reporting aid spending to the OECD is also cited by the Government as a reason why this information is not available.<sup>34</sup>

## **Baring Foundation estimate and call to spend 0.3% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) on LGBT+ issues**

In 2020, the Baring Foundation [estimated that the UK spent £14.6 million—or 0.08% of ODA—on LGBT+ issues](#) globally in 2017/18. This is a likely underestimate, being calculated from reported spending on three programmes (UK aid connect, Commonwealth 18-20 fund, and Magna Carta Fund). Other aid programmes are likely to have benefited LGBT+ people.<sup>35</sup>

ODA refers to aid intended to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

Using the same measure, the Global Philanthropy Project [ranked the UK government fourth highest in the world for its ODA spending on LGBT+ issues](#). The Swedish government spent proportionally the highest in 2017/18, at 0.4% of ODA.<sup>36</sup>

The Baring Foundation called for aid spending on LGBT+ people to [be raised to an average of 0.3% of UK ODA spending](#) over the next five years.<sup>37</sup> In 2021, this would be equivalent to around £33 million, from a £10 billion ODA budget.

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<sup>32</sup> PQ 56768 [[Developing countries: Gender recognition](#)], 25 October 2021

<sup>33</sup> PQ 143931 [[Overseas aid: LGBT people](#)], 4 February 2021

<sup>34</sup> PQ 32404 [[Caribbean: Overseas aid](#)], 21 July 2021

<sup>35</sup> Baring Foundation, [Leading the way: The role of global Britain in safeguarding the rights of the global LGBTI+ community](#), 20 November 2020, pp6-7

<sup>36</sup> Global Philanthropy Project, [2017-2018 global resources report: Government and philanthropic support for LGBTI communities](#), undated, p106

<sup>37</sup> Baring Foundation, [Leading the way: The role of global Britain in safeguarding the rights of the global LGBTI+ community](#), 20 November 2020, p15

## APPG on global LGBT+ rights call for £55 million spend per annum

In September and October 2020, the Chair of the all-party parliamentary group (APPG) on global LGBT+ rights, Crispin Blunt MP, wrote to the Foreign Secretary calling for at least £55 million per annum to be spent on LGBT+ programmes.<sup>38</sup>

In November 2020, in [response to the APPG Chair](#) on whether the forthcoming Integrated Review of Defence, Security, Development and Foreign policy was an opportunity for the UK to “make real the rhetorical commitment to LGBT+ people globally,” the Prime Minister answered, “yes it does.” He did not give a specific figure on funding.<sup>39</sup>

### 3.3

## What interventions does UK aid make?

Policies to improve LGBT+ inclusion can focus on several topics: Addressing societal discrimination through work with civil society and through education, seeking legal reform, and raising visibility through media and better collection of data. The OECD has argued that [legal reform is particularly important](#), given laws help shape social norms, in addition to discouraging potential offenders.<sup>40</sup>

### Political representation

The FCDO programme, the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy, supports 18 Commonwealth countries across sub-Saharan Africa and South east Asia to [improve the representation of marginalised groups, including LGBT+ people](#).<sup>41</sup> Running from 2018 to 2020, it worked with 30 Commonwealth legislatures—[outcomes included](#) a conference on LGBT+ inclusion.<sup>42</sup>

### Legislative reform

In April 2018, the UK [announced a £5.6 million programme](#) to work with civil society groups on legislative reforms, to run for two years.<sup>43</sup> The Human Dignity Trust, Kaleidoscope Trust, the Royal Commonwealth Society and

<sup>38</sup> APPG on Global LGBT+ Rights, [PM commits to delivered British leadership in funding global LGBT+ rights](#), 19 November 2020, accessed 16 December 2021

<sup>39</sup> HC Deb, [19 November 2020](#), c504

<sup>40</sup> OECD, [Society at a glance](#), March 2019, section 1.3.3

<sup>41</sup> Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy, [Advancing inclusive and accountable democracy in the Commonwealth](#), accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>42</sup> Westminster Foundation for Democracy, [Commonwealth partnership for democracy](#), accessed 21 December 2021

<sup>43</sup> PQ HL6918 [[Commonwealth: LGBT people](#)], 1 May 2018

Sisters For Change, as part of the Equality and Justice Alliance, [were responsible for implementing the programme](#).<sup>44</sup>

In September 2020, the FCDO announced a £3.2 million successor programme, the Commonwealth Equality Project, to run in 2020/21. This focused on supporting legislative reform.<sup>45</sup>

The UK also funds the Human Dignity Trust’s “Changing laws, changing lives programme,” which has run since 2018, and [also works on legislative reform](#). From 2018 to 2020, the scheme supplied four Commonwealth governments, at their request, with five draft bills on LGBT+ issues.<sup>46</sup>

While welcoming the UK’s work with the Commonwealth, the Baring Foundation has [criticised the narrow geographic limits of the UK’s work on few countries](#). However, as the Foundation notes, some of the countries that are most restrictive towards LGBT+ rights are also ineligible to receive UK ODA, due to their middle- and high- income status.<sup>47</sup>

## Working with civil society

From 2018 to 2022, the Government will [provide up to £12 million to the “Strong in diversity—bold on inclusion” programme](#) to work in five African cities to engage and train civil society leaders, journalists and LGBT+ people to promote better representation and dialogue.<sup>48</sup> The Baring Foundation states [the programme was paused in 2020](#) in response to the pandemic.<sup>49</sup>

The UK [also funds the Commonwealth Equality Network](#), which is a network of organisations in Commonwealth countries working to challenge the criminalisation of LGBT+ people and [advocating for their inclusion](#).<sup>50</sup> This includes a programme to support civil society organisations work with parliaments and governments to improve equality and inclusion in 13 commonwealth countries<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Human Dignity Trust, [New equality and justice alliance to lead £5.6 million Commonwealth programme to reform discriminatory laws](#), 27 April 2018, accessed 17 December 2021

<sup>45</sup> FCDO, [Human rights and democracy report: 2020](#), 8 July 2021, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>46</sup> Human Dignity Trust, [Changing laws, changing lives—HDT secures renewed UK funding \[...\]](#), 9 October 2020, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>47</sup> Baring Foundation, [Leading the way: The role of global Britain in safeguarding the rights of the global LGBT+ community](#), 20 November 2020, pp12, 16, 22

<sup>48</sup> Hivos, [UK Government commits £12 million to promote LGBT+ inclusion](#), 26 March 2019, accessed 21 December 2021

<sup>49</sup> The Baring Foundation, [A line in the sand \[...\]](#), 18 May 2021, accessed 21 December 2021

<sup>50</sup> HL Deb, [12 October 2020](#), c863; Commonwealth Equality Network, [Homepage](#), accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>51</sup> Westminster Foundation for Democracy, [WFD and Kaleidoscope Trust launch programme on equality in the Commonwealth](#), 29 October 2020, accessed 20 December 2021

## Health

UK aid has also supported LGBT+ people within general health programmes. However, two HIV/AIDS programmes have seen reduced commitments from the UK in 2020-21—see below.

### 3.4 Effects of spending reductions from 2020

In November 2020, the UK Government announced it intended to spend [0.5% of Gross National Income \(GNI\) on ODA in 2021, down from 0.7%](#) in the seven years from 2013. It cited the impact of the pandemic on the UK's public finances and economy.<sup>52</sup>

In July 2021, the FCDO said its unpublished impact assessment on country-level changes in UK aid spending showed “no evidence” that programmes targeting those with protected characteristics [were more likely to be reduced or discontinued than other programmes](#).<sup>53</sup>

HM Treasury forecasts that its fiscal tests to restore spending to 0.7% of GNI [will be met in 2024/25](#).<sup>54</sup>

Programmes seeing reductions include UN AIDS, which coordinates international action on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. UK contributions will [be reduced from £15 million in 2020 to £2.5 million in 2021](#). UN AIDS said this will affect its support for LGBT+ people.<sup>55</sup>

Also [affected is Unitaid](#), an NGO which works to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases more cheaply in low- and middle-income countries, including HIV/AIDS.<sup>56</sup> It will see funding reduced from £77 million to £5 million. The UK has previously been the second largest donor to the organisation. Unitaid in its most recent annual review, published in November 2020, the programme [was rated as “A,”](#) the second highest rating.<sup>57</sup>

However, the Government has announced [an additional £7 million over three years to the Robert Carr Fund](#) to provide health services and advocate for the rights of inadequately served populations, including LGBT+ people.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Commons Library, [The 0.7% aid target](#)

<sup>53</sup> PQ 21233 [[Overseas aid](#)], 2 July 2021

<sup>54</sup> HM Treasury, [Autumn Budget and Spending Review](#), 29 October 2021, accessed 2 December 2021, p7

<sup>55</sup> UNAIDS, [UNAIDS statement on UK's proposed reduction in financial support](#), 29 April 2021, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>56</sup> Unitaid, [UK government funding cuts: Statement from Unitaid's chair and executive director](#), 10 June 2021, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>57</sup> FCDO DevTracker, [Unitaid: Market shaping: Annual review, November 2020](#), updated 8 November 2021, accessed 20 December 2021

<sup>58</sup> FCDO, [Ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030](#), 10 June 2021, accessed 20 December 2021

## Further reading on development and LGBT+ inclusion

- Institute of Development Studies, [Donor support for the human rights of LGBT+](#), June 2021
- Institute of Development Studies, [Interventions to address discrimination against LGBTQI persons](#), June 2021
- Global Philanthropy Project, [Diving deeper: Under the surface of LGBTI embassy funding data](#), June 2021
- Institute of Development Studies, [LGBT rights and inclusion in small island developing states](#), February 2021
- The Baring Foundation, [Leading the way: The role of global Britain in safeguarding the rights of the global LGBTI+ community](#), November 2020
- OECD, [Over the rainbow? The road to LGBTI inclusion](#), June 2020
- Global Philanthropy Project, [2017-2018 global resources report: Government and & philanthropic support for LGBTI communities](#), undated
- Department for International Development, [Approach on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights](#), February 2016

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