

## South East Asia Legal Environments for Men who have Sex with Men and Transgender People

This Policy Brief is adapted from the UNDP and APCOM report, titled 'Legal environments, human rights and HIV responses among men who have sex with men and transgender people in Asia and the Pacific: An agenda for action',<sup>1</sup> covering 48 countries and territories of the Asia and Pacific region.

The study considered legislation, cases, published research, policy reports and press reports, and drew from consultations with community representatives, legal experts and UN agencies. The following summarizes findings and recommendations relating to South East Asia with inputs from three of APCOM coalition members: Developed Asia Network (DAN), Insular Southeast Asia Network (ISEAN) and Purple Sky Network (PSN, covering the Greater Mekong Sub-region).

### CRIMINAL LAWS AND POLICE PRACTICES

COUNTRY/TERRITORY/SAR	LEGALITY OF MALE-TO-MALE SEX	APPLICABLE LAWS
Brunei	Illegal	<i>Penal Code</i> Section 377. Carnal intercourse against the order of nature. Penalty: fine or prison sentence up to 10 years. <i>Sharia</i> law also operates, which criminalizes sexual relations between male persons ( <i>Liwat</i> ).
Cambodia	Legal	
Indonesia	Partially-Legal	Legal, except in provinces or districts that have enacted local laws based on <i>Sharia</i> law (e.g. South Sumatra Province).
Lao PDR	Legal	
Malaysia	Illegal	<i>Penal Code</i> Section 377A. Carnal intercourse against the order of nature. Punishment: whipping and up to 20 years imprisonment. For less serious acts, Section 377D criminalizes "gross indecency", maximum penalty two years in prison. State-level <i>Sharia</i> law operates to criminalize sexual relations between males ( <i>Liwat</i> ) e.g. Section 82 <i>Syariah Criminal Offences Enactment 1995</i> (Sabah); Section 25 <i>Syariah Criminal Offences (Federal Territories) Act 1997</i> ; <i>Syariah Criminal Offences (State of Penang) 1996</i> . Penalty: imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or whipping not exceeding six strokes.
Myanmar	Illegal	Illegal. <i>Penal Code 1860</i> Section 377. Carnal intercourse against the order of nature. Penalty: up to 10 years imprisonment.
Philippines	Legal	Legal since 1823.
Singapore	Illegal	<i>Penal Code</i> Section 377A. Act of gross indecency by male with another male person. Since 2007, police do not proactively enforce the provision.
Thailand	Legal	Legal since 1956. Sex between men was criminalized from the early 1900s until 1956.
Timor Leste	Legal	Legal since 1975.

<sup>1</sup> Godwin, J. (2010). Legal environments, human rights and HIV responses among men who have sex with men and transgender people in Asia and the Pacific: an agenda for action. Bangkok: United Nations Development Programme. Accessible at <http://www.snap-undp.org/elibrary/Publication.aspx?ID=629>.

## LEGALITY OF MALE-TO-MALE SEX IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Four countries of the South East Asia sub-region have criminal sanctions for consensual sex between adult men (Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore). These countries have common law legal systems that were introduced during the British colonial era.

*Sharia* law, which is applied in Brunei, Malaysia and parts of Indonesia, also criminalizes the behaviors of MSM and transgender people.

No laws specifically prohibit male-to-male sex between consenting adults in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam or Philippines, all of which have legal systems significantly influenced by civil law traditions.

There are examples of punitive law enforcement practices that significantly impede HIV prevention. In some countries (e.g. Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia) there are reports of police harassment of MSM and transgender people, including some allegations of violence and abuse perpetrated by police.

### **Cambodia**

Cambodia's *Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation* (2008) has reportedly been used to harass and assault male, transgender and female sex workers, and to extort payments in exchange for release from detention. In enforcing the law, police reportedly confiscated condoms as evidence of sex work. The widespread police crackdown on the sex industry in Cambodia in 2008 resulted in sex workers being driven into a hidden, illegal and unsafe sex industry. Sex workers who were detained in the 2008 police crackdowns alleged rape by guards and other prisoners, beatings, deaths in custody and bodies left among inmates, lack of medication or medical care.

### **Indonesia**

At the provincial or district level there are examples of draconian laws that have been recently proposed or introduced and of selective policing targeting MSM and transgender people. Some provinces have introduced draconian measures influenced by conservative religious interests. *Sharia*-based laws such as those proposed in Aceh Province and enacted in South Sumatra create an intimidating atmosphere for MSM working in the small number of CBOs involved in HIV prevention and care.

Police reportedly interpret laws concerning prostitution as applying to homosexuality and transgender people who gathering in public places. There are reports of arbitrary harassment, summary arrest and detention of *waria* and MSM by the police.

The Province of South Sumatra passed by-laws against prostitution in 2004. The *Perda* (by-law) on *Eradication of Prostitution* states that prostitution is defined as an act committed on purpose by any individual or a group with the intention to seek sexual pleasure outside legal marriage with or without receiving gratification, either in the form of money or in other forms. The acts of 'prostitution' are defined to include homosexual acts and sodomy.<sup>2</sup>

In September 2009, the legislature of Aceh passed the *Qanun Jinayat* (Islamic Criminal Law). Article 33 of the proposed law provides for 100 lashes for homosexual acts, or a penalty of 100 grams of gold and/or 8 months prison. The law also proposes stoning as a punishment for adultery. The Ordinance was enacted by the Aceh Legislative Council. Approval from the Governor of Aceh is mandatory before a provincial law can be formally enacted. Once the *Qanun* Bill has been accepted by the Governor of Aceh, it remains subject to the final endorsement of the Minister of Home Affairs of the national government as a prerequisite to entering into force. The local Governor has not endorsed the bill and has suggested revisions.

Despite the lack of confirmation of the *Qanun Jinayat*, there are reports of *Sharia* police harassing sexual minorities in Aceh. *Sharia* police reportedly harass transgender people who work at beauty parlours, on the grounds that *Sharia* law prohibits men working in female environments.

<sup>2</sup> *Regional Regulation of the City of Palembang (South Sumatra)*; No.2/2004: *Eradication of Prostitution* see: International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (2007) *Human Rights Abuses Against Sexual Minorities in Indonesia* Appendix A.

In March 2010, the Asia Conference of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association (ILGA), scheduled to be held in Surabaya, was cancelled due to threats from radical Islamic groups. A police permit to hold the conference was withdrawn on the grounds that attacks by Islamic groups were anticipated. In April 2010, Islamic Defenders Front interrupted a three-day human rights training workshop for *waria*. The event was organized by the National Human Rights Commission. Islamic Defenders Front members reportedly stormed the hotel where the workshop was being held, destroyed property and assaulted participants. Orders were given by local public security officials for the Commission to stop the event and move venues.

There is no protection against sexual assault or rape for men. The Indonesian *Penal Code* rape provisions (Art. 285) only protect women.

The *Pornography Law of 2008* defines pornography broadly to include any picture, photograph, conversation, body language or other messages through various forms of communication and/or public performance that contain obscenities that violate the norms of morality. Educational materials for HIV prevention and other purposes are not intended to be within the definition of pornography. Nonetheless, there are concerns that this definition is so broad that the law may act as a disincentive to use of explicit images or messages in health promotion materials that relate to homosexuality. Indonesia's Constitutional Court has upheld the validity of the *Anti-Pornography Law*.

*Guidelines for Broadcast Behavior and Broadcast Program Standard* were issued by the Indonesian Broadcast Commission in 2004. Article 49 on Homosexuals/Lesbians states:

Broadcasting institutions can broadcast programmes which report, discuss, or contain a story on homosexuality and lesbian [sic], within the following parameters: the programmes may not promote and depict homosexuality and lesbian as an acceptable practice within society;

except for news programmes, those discussing or containing a story on homosexuality and lesbian may only be broadcast on 22.00 to 03.00 hours of the time zone of the broadcasting station.

## **Malaysia**

There have been a number of prosecutions for sodomy and gross indecency in the last decade. The legal environment for MSM and transgender people in Malaysia is considered by MSM groups to have deteriorated since 2000. Media coverage of prosecutions have contributed to a climate in which MSM fear public visibility. Media portrayal of gay characters on state owned television and radio stations are also prohibited.

While prosecutions for sodomy generally only occur in exceptional circumstances, police harassment of MSM and transgender people is frequently reported. There have been numerous documented incidents of police harassment of MSM in public parks and police raids of social venues over the last decade. There are reports of harassment and abuse of transgender people when detained by police. Some report that they have been victims of sexual violence by police.

Transgender persons (*mak nyah*) have been detained and prosecuted under the *Minor Offences Act 1955* for "indecent behavior" and in some instances *Sharia* law has been applied to Muslim citizens to punish cross-dressing with fines.

*Sharia* law is recognized in the states of Malaysia as a personal law applying exclusively to Muslims and applied by 'Syariah' courts. Offences are defined by the *Syariah Criminal Code Enactment* to include offences for male-to-male sex and cross-dressing. In 1983, the Conference of Rulers in Malaysia decided that a *fatwa* prohibiting sex change operations should be imposed on all Muslims, with the exception of hermaphrodites. Cross-dressing is also prohibited by *fatwa*. Thus, Muslim *mak nyahs* could be charged in the Syariah Court for violating the tenets of Islam. Muslim surgeons are also prohibited from carrying out sex-change operations.

## Myanmar

Sodomy is an offence and police use public order laws against MSM suspected of involvement in sex work. Little is known about law enforcement practices or the effect of the law on HIV responses. In 2007, a man was sentenced to seven years in prison for committing homosexual acts. In 2010, a popular national news journal *Bi-Weekly Eleven* published an article criticizing homosexuals, quoting a former psychology professor who claimed homosexuality can cause mental illness and encourages sexual crimes.

## Philippines

Philippines does not criminalize male-to-male sex, however police harassment of MSM and transgender people is reported to occur. Laws being used by police to harass MSM and transgender people include the anti-vagrancy and anti-prostitution laws (*Revised Penal Code* Article 202), anti-public scandal law (*Revised Penal Code* Article 200), the *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act* and vague laws that pertain to moral turpitude. The vagueness of many of these laws makes it easy for law enforcement agencies to interpret them to harass or extort money from MSM and transgender people.

Police have used the presence of condoms, used or unused, as evidence to prove that male prostitution is encouraged in establishments such as gay clubs, bath houses, movie houses and bars. Condoms as evidence of prostitution are used to instigate police raids and threaten MSM and transgender people with charges.

The *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (Republic Act No. 9208)* expanded the definition of prostitution to cover transactional sex between males. Prior to the enactment of the anti-trafficking law, prostitution was a crime committed by females only. Raids in gay venues have used the anti-trafficking law as a basis, because its gravity makes it easier for the police to extort money.

## Singapore

Section 377 *Penal Code*, which criminalized carnal knowledge against the order of nature, was repealed in 2007. Section 377A remains in force, which criminalizes acts of gross indecency between men. In 2007, the Prime Minister of Singapore, Hon. Lee Hsien Loong, stated that Section 377A is not actively enforced by Government. Prosecutions for male-to-male sex are also brought under other provisions, such as Section 354 *Penal Code* ('molest' or 'outrage of modesty') or Section 294(a) *Penal Code* (doing an obscene act in public) or Section 19 (soliciting in a public place) of the *Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act*. There are reports of police harassment of MSM and transgender people, censorship of prevention materials with explicit images, and police raids on venues where HIV education takes place.

Singapore's *Free-To-Air Television Programme Code* states as follows:

Broadcasters should bear in mind the importance of the family as the basic unit of society in Singapore. The sanctity of marriage should be respected...Information, themes or subplots on lifestyles such as homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transsexualism, transvestism, paedophilia and incest should be treated with utmost caution. Their treatment should not in any way promote, justify or glamorise such lifestyles. Explicit depictions of the above should not be broadcast. Programmes on sex education should not ...encourage or promote unnatural sex acts.

## Thailand

The rapid rise in HIV prevalence among MSM in Bangkok from 2001 to 2006 illustrates the harm to HIV prevention that can be caused by a hostile legal environment. HIV prevalence rose from less than 10 percent in the late 1990s to more than 28 percent by 2006. Police conduct impeded HIV responses during a Social Order Campaign that saw strict policing of bars and saunas. Police harassment effectively forced the removal of condoms at sex-on-premises venues for MSM because, although sex between men is not illegal in Thailand, prostitution is illegal and a condom can be used as evidence of prostitution. In the context of the government's Social Order Campaign, the Thai Ministry of Public Health faced major hurdles in attempting to change the Interior Ministry policy and the practices of local police.

## Vietnam

Homosexuality is not criminalized. However, in 2002, Vietnam's state-run media declared homosexuality a 'social evil' on par with drug use and prostitution, and proposed laws to allow the arrest of gay couples. A report by the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs stated the behavior of MSM was "associated with HIV and the social evils of prostitution and drug use". MSM generally keep their sexual behaviors hidden, due to stigma and fear of discrimination. In 2008, the head of the STD, HIV and AIDS Prevention Center in Hanoi stated "[t]hose who are open about their sexuality cannot even get an ID card or work for public companies".

## LAWS RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION

### Philippines

Legislation enacted in 2007 provides legal protection for public social workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation.<sup>3</sup> Legislation enacted in 1998 prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender or sexual orientation in the Philippines National Police.<sup>4</sup>

In 2008, *House Bill 956 Anti-Discrimination Bill* sought to prohibit a wide-range of practices and policies that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. It covers discrimination in the workplace, educational institutions, health centers, commercial establishment, police force, and the military.

The decision of the Supreme Court in the *Ang Ladlad case* (2010) clarifies that provisions of the Constitution relating to equality before the law and non-discrimination extend to LGBT populations. This may have far-reaching (but as yet untested) implications in terms of challenging discriminatory practices (particularly in government services and the public sector).

Ang Ladlad, a national advocacy group for the rights of LGBT people, was denied registration by the Commission on Elections in 2009. Ang Ladlad applied to be included in the list of groups that are eligible to be a political party. The Commission on Elections rejected the application because the group "tolerates immorality which offends religious beliefs". In 2010, the Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, directed the Commission on Elections to grant Ang Ladlad's application for party-list accreditation.<sup>5</sup> The Court held that the Constitutional principle of non-discrimination requires that laws of general application relating to elections be applied equally to all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. The Court stated:

From the standpoint of the political process, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender have the same interest in participating in the party-list system on the same basis as other political parties similarly situated...Hence, laws of general application should apply with equal force to LGBTs, and they deserve to participate in the party-list system on the same basis as other marginalized and under-represented sectors.

The Court based its decision on the equal protection clause of the Constitution. Moral disapproval of an unpopular minority was not a legitimate state interest sufficient to require the Court to uphold the Commission's discriminatory application of the law. The Court also regarded the Commission's decision as in violation of the rights of members of Ang Ladlad to freedom of expression and association.

### Timor Leste

The *Labour Code* protects against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and HIV status.

<sup>3</sup> *An Act Providing for a Magna Carta of Social Workers*, Rep. Act No. 9432, 11 April 2007, Section 17(a).

<sup>4</sup> 10th Congress of the Philippines. Fifth Special Session, 1998. Republic Act No. 8551: *An Act Providing for the Reform and Reorganization of the Philippine National Police and for Other Purposes*, Section 59.

<sup>5</sup> *Ang Ladlad LGBT Party represented by Danton Remoto v. Commissioner of Elections*, Supreme Court of Philippines at Baguio City, 8 April 2010. <http://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/jurisprudence/2010/april2010/190582.htm>

## LEGAL STATUS OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

### Indonesia

The Department of Social Affairs classifies transgender people (*waria*) as mentally handicapped under the national 'cacat law' (*Mentally Disabled Law*). This effectively denies *waria* the right to work or reduces them to working in low-paid jobs in the hidden economy. It is possible for inter-sex and post-operative transsexuals to legally change sex on identity cards. Although a legal mechanism to change sex exists, it requires documentation that most *waria* do not have. Transgender people are often unable to acquire basic legal documentation.

### Malaysia

Sex-reassignment surgery and gender reassignment therapy are legal in Malaysia, although transgender people cannot change their identity cards to reflect their new gender. Without proper documentation, transgender people face harassment and persecution from the police and religious authorities, are refused employment and are deprived of the right to marry. In 2004, a man who had undergone a sex change and was previously a woman lost his bid to the Ipoh High Court to be legally recognized as a male.

### Philippines

In general, transgender people in Philippines have no legal right to change their gender on identity documents such as passports and the electoral register. In 2008, the Supreme Court of the Philippines allowed a person to change the name and gender on his birth certificate. This was an exceptional case, since the person was born intersex (with both male and female characteristics).

In 2007, the Supreme Court denied the petition of a transsexual to change the entry as to sex and first name recorded by the office of Civil Registrar. The Court said that considering that there is no law recognizing sex reassignment, the determination of a person's sex at the time of birth is immutable.<sup>6</sup>

### Singapore

The *Women's Charter* was amended in 1996 to allow transgendered individuals who have completed their sex reassignment surgery the right to marry someone of the opposite sex. The same amendment also added a provision that voids same-sex marriages. In 1973, Singapore legalized sex-reassignment surgery. Government policy allows post-operative transgender people to change the legal sex on their identity cards (but not their birth certificates).

### Thailand

In 2009, regulations were introduced to require male-to-female transgender people (*kathoey*) to live as women and receive hormone therapy for one year and consult a psychiatrist before a sex-change operation. The regulations ban sex-change operations for under-18s and require 18-20 year olds to have parental permission for a sex-change operation. *Kathoey* remain legally male, even after sex reassignment. Their identification cards and passports show them to be male. *Kathoey* cannot legally marry a man.

### Vietnam

In 2008, a Government Decree was issued to allow sex-change operations in prescribed circumstances. The Decree allows surgery for hermaphrodites and people born with certain genital abnormalities, but not for people who are physically of one sex and request gender reassignment surgery. The decree does not permit sex-change for those who are already in their original gender, as determined by medical and

<sup>6</sup> *Silverio v Republic*, 22 October 2007, GR No. 174689, see: <http://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/news/courtnews%20flash/2007/10/10220703.php/>

genetic testing. The Decree ensures the privacy of, and prohibits discrimination against, people who have legally undergone surgery. Reassignment is only legal following approval by government health officials. Those who have been legally sexually reassigned will be provided with a health certificate, which enables them to change birth certificates, marriage licenses and other personal documents.

## ASEAN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

In 2009, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights was established to promote human rights within the regional context, bearing in mind national and regional particularities and mutual respect for different historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, and taking into account the balance between rights and responsibilities. The Commission's functions include to develop an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration with a view to establishing a framework for human rights cooperation through various ASEAN conventions and other instruments dealing with human rights. The Commission is the overarching human rights institution in ASEAN with overall responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN. The Commission has the potential to be an important body for promoting and protecting the human rights of MSM and transgender people.

## CONCLUSIONS

Responses of the law and justice sectors of South East Asian countries are generally lagging behind health sector responses to HIV among MSM and transgender people. The dramatic rise of HIV prevalence among MSM in Bangkok in 2001–2006 provides a useful case study that demonstrates the harm to HIV prevention efforts that can be caused by a hostile legal environment.

Although homosexual behavior is not criminalized in Philippines, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Cambodia, there are concerns that selective policing of prostitution or trafficking offences involves harassment of MSM and undermines HIV prevention.

Some progress in aligning justice sector and health sector responses has occurred in Cambodia, which has introduced a national policy that recognizes the need for protective laws to support HIV responses among MSM. The Cambodia *National Strategic Framework and Operational Plan on HIV/AIDS and STI for MSM 2008–2011* provides a model for the region, in that it addresses the need for anti-discrimination laws and sensitization of police. More work is required in Cambodia to ensure that policing of sex work does not undermine prevention efforts.

In Indonesia, the situation is complex due to the devolution of law making powers to provinces and districts. At the national level, the President's statement at the Bali ICAAP Congress in 2009 was highly significant to breaking silence and challenging stigma regarding MSM and transgender people. However, whereas the overall social and political climate is generally improving in Indonesian society for MSM and transgender people, at the local level there are examples of draconian laws that have been introduced (e.g. Aceh) that add to stigma and of selective policing targeting MSM and transgender people.

In the Philippines, the Supreme Court judgment in the *Ang Ladlad Case* has sent out a very positive message regarding the importance of government authorities according equal treatment to LGBT populations under the law.

The legal environment for MSM and transgender people in Malaysia has deteriorated, with adverse consequences for HIV prevention and peer support services. Singapore also has repressive laws that contribute to stigma and thereby impede HIV prevention and peer support services.

Cultural acceptance of transgender people varies significantly across the sub-region. Even in countries such as Thailand where gender non-conformity receives a high degree of social acceptance, there has been little progress in formally recognizing transgender people's rights to non-discrimination and gender identity. Apart from Indonesia and Singapore, countries in South East Asia do not provide transgender people with the right to have their gender of choice recognized by law.

Repressive legal environments can result in a range of adverse consequences for HIV prevention, care, support and treatment services.

Direct adverse impacts include:

1. HIV prevention outreach workers harassed, threatened or detained by police.
2. Condoms confiscated as evidence of sex work or illegal same-sex sexual conduct.
3. HIV education materials censored.
4. Police raids on events where HIV education takes place.

Indirect adverse impacts, which are often more profound and pervasive than direct impacts, include:

1. high levels of stigma associated with homosexuality and gender variance, which drives MSM and transgender people underground and makes them difficult to reach by HIV services;
2. under-representation of identified MSM and transgender people in policy and management of HIV programs, leading to lack of resourcing for research and targeted programmes;
3. lack of provision of appropriate HIV services for MSM and transgender people, as a result of lack of funding, research and appropriate policies;
4. legitimization of discrimination and unethical treatment by health care workers, including aversion 'therapy' for homosexuality and maintaining diagnostic criteria that stigmatize transgender status as a 'disorder';
5. low self-esteem among MSM and transgender people, meaning that they fail to protect themselves or their partners from HIV and do not access HIV services;
6. failure of schools to address sexual orientation and gender identity issues in their curriculum;
7. lack of legal protections from discrimination, and poor education and work opportunities for MSM and transgender people, with the result that many turn to sex-work, greatly increasing their vulnerability to HIV.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Governments should:

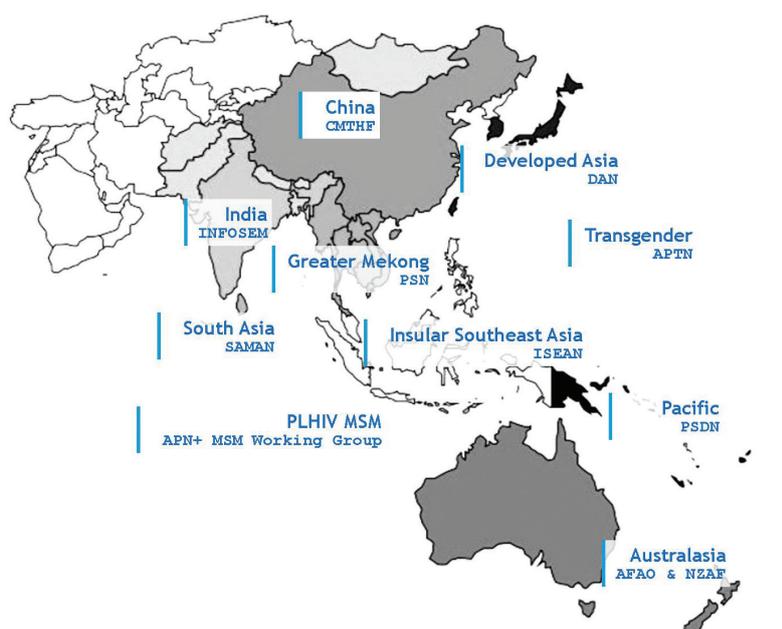
1. Repeal laws that criminalize sex between consenting adults.
2. Halt police harassment, violence and selective enforcement of prostitution, obscenity, vagrancy and other public order offences targeting MSM and transgender people.
3. Enact anti-discrimination laws in relation to sexual orientation and transgender status.
4. Provide legal recognition of gender reassignment and 'third sex' status.
5. Define justice sector responsibilities relating to the rights of MSM and transgender people in national HIV and AIDS plans.
6. Encourage National Human Rights Institutions and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights to provide leadership on sexual orientation and transgender human rights issues.
7. Ensure parliamentarians, police, judges and justice ministry officials have access to evidence-based information and are trained on the epidemiology of HIV and the harmful public health impacts of punitive laws and law enforcement practices relating to MSM and transgender people.
8. Support community-based education and advocacy regarding the human rights of MSM and transgender people, and access to legal aid for MSM and transgender people who have experienced human rights violations.

9. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Human Rights Commission should take proactive measures to promote and protect the human rights of MSM and transgender people and encourage member states commit to action to review discriminatory laws and policies, with priority given to repealing laws criminalizing male-to-male sex.

## About APCOM

The Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM) was launched at the 8th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (8th ICAAP, Colombo) in 2007. It is formed as a coalition composed of community, government and donor sector representatives, along with UN partner organizations. The community sector is composed of 8 sub-regional and 2 regional MSM and TG networks within Asia and the Pacific. The intention is to strongly advocate regionally and globally for increased investment in line with the need for scale up and increase coverage of MSM HIV intervention programming, research to address gaps in knowledge, and the promotion of individual rights for MSM and transgender people across Asia and the Pacific region.

SUB-REGIONS	ORGANISATIONS
Australasia	Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations (AFAO) and New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF)
China	China Male Tongzhi Health Forum (CMTHF)
Developed Asia	Develop Asia Network (DAN)
Greater Mekong	Purple Sky Network (PSN)
India	India Network for Sexual Minorities (INFOSEM)
Insular Southeast Asia	Insular Southeast Asia Network (ISEAN)
Pacific	Pacific Sexual Diversity Network (PSDN)
South Asia	South Asian MSM and AIDS Network (SAMAN)
PLHIV MSM	APN+ MSM Working Group
Transgender	Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN)



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