



*It's time for us
to stand*
united

YVC IGNITERS! call for united action
against stigma, discrimination and
violence based on SOGIE.



*It's time for us
to stand
united*

We, young gay and bisexual men and young transgender people living in Asia and Pacific recognize that, we and our young lesbian and bisexual women peers do not have to live in a world that is dominated by stigma, discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, sexual preference, gender identify or gender expression. We believe that as young people we should be acknowledged and recognized as the models of courage, love, equality and justice. A world that treats everyone with acceptance, respect, equality and justice is our dream.

However our world is dominated by religious and cultural extremism that makes us sinners, laws that criminalize us, stigma and discrimination that deprive us of love and affection, biases and prejudices that isolate us from the world we rightly deserve. Many young gay, bisexual, transgender and

intersex people face severe challenges in their lives as a result of their sexual orientation, sexual preference, gender identify or gender expression preventing them from living the full potential of their lives.

Made worse by these social denominators, we have also become increasingly vulnerable to the HIV epidemic. 600, 000 young people live with HIV in our region. Over 330 young people are infected everyday, more than 14 an hour. 95% of all new HIV infections are among adolescents of young key population to which young gay, bisexual and transgender people belong. We do not have access to life saving health services and treatment because we are being discriminated, stigmatized and criminalized. The health services are not friendly towards us and do not respect our sexuality nor our gender identity.



As YVC IGNITORS! we believe that it is time for us to stand united to make a difference in our region. We call upon all actors including governments, local, national, regional and international civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, UN Agencies and other such entities to:

1 Remove all laws and policies that criminalize sexual orientation, sexual preference, gender identity and gender expression. Protect our human rights and our right to live as free and equal human beings.

2 Establish laws that protect LGBTI people in general from all kind of stigma, discrimination, violence and harassment based on sexual orientation, sexual expression, gender identity or gender expression. Promote our human rights and ensure access to justice.

3 Empower young LGBTI people to live the full potential of their lives through ensuring stigma and discrimination free schools, work places and social spaces. Create enabling environments for the integration of young LGBTI people in to societies.

4 Facilitate state sponsored access to identity document changing processes for young transgender men and women. Ensure the right of all citizens to claim identity documents that reflect their true gender.

5 Support and invest in rights and health movements lead and serving young LGBTI people. Facilitate civic engagement of young LGBTI people in social and political realms to ensure meaningful engagement.



About YVC IGNITORS!

IGNITE! is a mentorship program launched by YVC to develop the next set of young gay and transgender leaders in Asia and Pacific. The on going program is consisted of 9 mentees coming from Bhutan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The two-year program contains 4 workshops and implementation of 2 small-scale projects by each mentees.

Read more in our website : www.youthvoicescount.org



Prepared by Youth Voices Count and IGNITE! Mentees:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| -Brian, Philippines | -Pema, Bhutan |
| -Erky, Indonesia | -Qui, Vietnam |
| -Daina, India | -Ranaka, Sri Lanka |
| -Myo, Myanmar | -Tamani, Fiji |
| -Moon, Pakistan | |

www.youthvoicescount.org