

## 4th Pro Bono Conference and Legal Ethics Forum

-

### LGBT access to justice and pro bono support Session Planning

#### Background Informations

**Aim** - This session will focus on regional legal and other barriers faced by these groups and ways that pro bono initiatives can help more modernize thought, legal norms, etc., to provide access to justice rights to these persons.

#### Facilitator

**Nicholas Booth**                      UNDP Regional Office                      [nicholas.booth@undp.org](mailto:nicholas.booth@undp.org)

#### Co-Presenters

**Daw Ywet Nu Aung**                      Tharapu Law Firm

**Katie Sweatman**                      K&L Gates                      [Katie.Sweatman@klgates.com](mailto:Katie.Sweatman@klgates.com)

**Preeda Saiupparat**                      Upparat Law Office                      [upparatlawoffice@gmail.com](mailto:upparatlawoffice@gmail.com)

**Seth Gurgel**                      PiLnet                      [sgurgel@pilnet.org](mailto:sgurgel@pilnet.org)

**Celine Martin**                      Destination Justice                      [celine@destinationjustice.org](mailto:celine@destinationjustice.org)

#### Session Plan

**Total Session Minutes: 75 min**

<b>Activity Step</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Material</b>
<b>1.</b>	Introduce speakers and session	5min	Facilitator - Nicholas Booth	speakers
<b>2.</b>	Presenters to outline legal supports available and local barriers to justice experienced by LGBT clients in each of their jurisdictions	4min / each	All co-presenters	speakers / video - projector?
<b>3.</b>	Group discussion / debate. Breaking the audience in 6 groups managed by a co-presenter/facilitator. All group can discuss all the questions and then share the key points	2min	Facilitator - Nicholas Booth	
<b>3.1.</b>	Breaking session / Ideas for questions: → What are some of the challenges for people	25min	All co-presenters	paper and pens for the

	<p>identifying as LGBT to access legal services?          What are some of the legal issues that people identifying as LGBT may face?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ What strategies could generalist organisations adopt to safely promote to the community that they support people who identify as LGBT?</li> <li>→ What are the types of questions that you could ask a client who has not disclosed that they identify as LGBT to ascertain whether they require particular support?</li> <li>→ How would you safely provide support to someone who identifies as LGBT if you worked in a country where there are not laws protecting people who identify as LGBT from discriminatory conduct?</li> <li>→ How to engage or train legal professionals and police officers to approach LGBT cases?</li> </ul>			participants;
<b>3.2.</b>	Sharing the key points	3min / group	Facilitator - Nicholas Booth	White or black board
<b>4.</b>	Q&A and wrapping up	5 min	Facilitator - Nicholas Booth	

## LGBT Context in Myanmar

After raising the concern about LGBT context in Myanmar, Bruce Lasky assured on 13 August 2015 that he *“had a discussion about the issue of bringing up the law reform issue on legalizing homosexuality with some of our colleagues in Myanmar. It is thought that this should not be a problem. There was a conference/workshop in Myanmar last year that openly directly addressed this issue. As the issue is a non-political one, and not overly sensitive, we think this should be ok and it in-line with a global/regional movement of law reform advocacy”*.

However, on 20 August 2015, *“Mandalay Division’s Border and Security Affairs minister has vowed to crackdown on LGBT couples that engage in “inappropriate” public displays of affection and pledged an increased presence at the city’s moat and western dock areas”*<sup>1</sup>.

## Proposed Resources

Kaleidoscope Australia, *A Guide to Best Practice in Determining Applications for Refugee Status Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Grounds*, 22 June 2015, pp. 17 & 22, available at <http://www.kaleidoscopeaustralia.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Best-Practice-Guide-22nd-June-2015.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> Democratic Voice of Burma, *Mandalay govt vows crackdown on same-sex couples*, 20 August 2015, available at <http://www.dvb.no/news/mandalay-govt-vows-crackdown-on-same-sex-couples/56396>