



September 4, 2015

Dr. Jim Yong Kim
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Dr. Kim:

We write on behalf of the Council for Global Equality, a coalition of 29 human rights and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) advocacy organizations that together seek the full and fair inclusion of LGBT populations into economic, political and social policies worldwide.

Council members have been impressed with your personal leadership in speaking to the moral and economic imperatives of this goal. We take this as reflecting not only your personal beliefs, but recognition, as World Bank President, of a policy need that deserves the Bank's urgent attention: one impacting the economic empowerment, sound health policies, and social inclusiveness of countries around the globe.

We are concerned, however, with the slow pace and indeterminate direction of discussions with regard to Bank adoption of a gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression safeguard. We ask for your intervention, as President, to streamline, speed, and focus these discussions with a view to an early and impactful result.

In the meantime, we are eager that the Bank strengthen its understanding of LGBT-related realities in the countries it serves. We urge that the Bank move swiftly to commission extensive research into the living situation of LGBT individuals in client countries, the economic impacts of exclusion, and ways to strengthen inclusion and participation of LGBT communities in World Bank-financed projects.

We greatly appreciate the formation of the "SOGIE task force" but strongly urge the Bank to dedicate staff resources to this important work. This includes but is not limited to hiring experienced, fulltime staff that can give proper attention to global LGBT policy matters and support the work of the task force. We hope that decisions on these matters can be confirmed as early as at the Bank's annual meetings in Lima.

We believe that, under your guidance, the Bank can play an historic and overdue role in impacting the welfare of LGBT people worldwide, in ways that will redound to the benefit of inclusive, forward-looking economic growth and political stability.

If we can partner with your staff as a resource in these efforts, we are at your disposition.

With deep respect we remain

Sincerely yours,



Mark Bromley
Council Chair



Julie Dorf
Senior Advisor



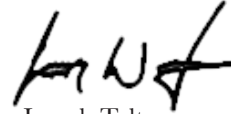
Michael Guest
Senior Advisor



Debra Hauser
President
Advocates for Youth



Timi Gerson
Director of Advocacy
American Jewish World Service



Joseph Tolton
Executive Director
The Fellowship Global



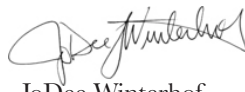
Mark Lagon
President
Freedom House



George Ayala
Executive Director
The Global Forum on
MSM & HIV



Rev. Pat Bumgardner
Executive Director
Global Justice Institute



JoDee Winterhof
Senior Vice President for Policy
and Political Affairs
Human Rights Campaign



Shawn M. Gaylord
Advocacy Counsel
Human Rights First



Graeme Reid
Director
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and
Transgender Rights Program
Human Rights Watch



Lori L. Jean
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles LGBT Center



Kate Kendall
Executive Director
National Center for
Lesbian Rights



Mara Keisling
Executive Director
National Center for
Transgender Equality



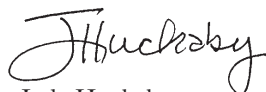
Justin Nelson
Co-Founder & President
National Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce



Rea Carey
Executive Director
National LGBTQ Task Force



Selise Berry
Founder & CEO
Out and Equal
Workplace Advocates



Jody Huckaby
Executive Director
PFLAG National



Kerry Kennedy
President
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights