3. Jean Chong, Asia Feminist LBQ Network

My name is Jean Chong, from Singapore. I represent CSOs and youth organizations from 25 countries that convened for a forum on 13-14 November.

LGBTIQ+ individuals face significant barriers in accessing SRHR information in comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). This is further amplified when they face inadequacies and exclusions in policies related to CSE. In addition, the focus of an abstinence-based approach to sexuality education without providing adequate safe sex knowledge leaves LGBTIQ+ individuals unable to obtain life-saving information and leaves them vulnerable to contracting infections (STIs), unwanted pregnancies, and sexual abuse.

We call on governments to design and provide inclusive CSE content and curricula that includes the needs of LGBTIQ+ people.

LGBTIQ+ individuals face significant barriers when using SRHR services. These experiences include the stigma surrounding SRHR issues, the widespread assumption of compulsory cisgendered identities, the lack of gender-affirming and inclusive care, and anti-LGBTIQ+ discrimination. This erases the diverse experiences of LGBTIQ+ individuals and leads to misunderstandings, suboptimal care, and discriminatory encounters during medical appointments.

We call on governments to develop healthcare policies that explicitly address the healthcare needs of LGBTIQ+ individuals, as well as ensure gender-affirming healthcare services.

Lesbian, bisexual women and trans individuals experience distinct forms of violence referred to as “corrective” or “curative” sexual violence. These actions are often inflicted by family members, community members, or religious leaders who view LBTQ+ identities as deviant or sinful. Gender nonconforming individuals and trans persons also experience targeted fatal violence. The fear of criminalisation due to their sexual orientation or gender identity further deters LBQ+ and trans individuals from reporting incidents of violence.

We call on governments to repeal ALL discriminatory laws, including revising gender-based violence legislation to encompass LGBTIQ+ individuals, and to implement a non-gendered approach in domestic violence legislation to ensure that no one is excluded or inadequately protected.

Thank you.