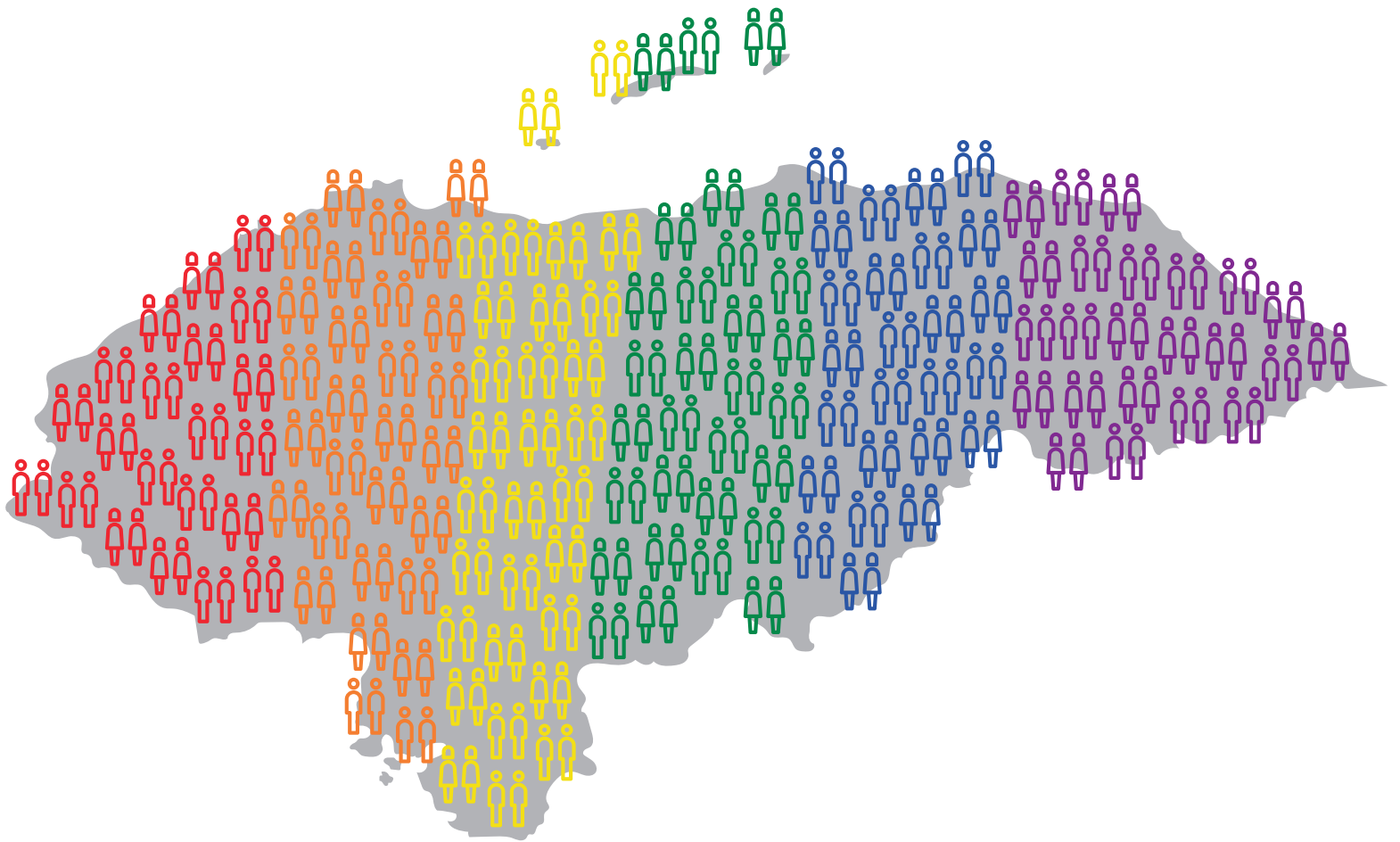


Reflections on the political participation of **LGBTI** people in Honduras



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Presentation

Political participation is one of the most significant challenges currently facing the movement of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people in Honduras, and in Latin America in general. Political participation as a democratic exercise has allowed social groups in recent years to not only demand that the State fully guarantee their rights, but to be able to participate directly in every citizens' space, thus contributing to the construction of real equality, a prerequisite for the optimal functioning of democracy.

In Honduras, the leadership of the LGBTI movement in recent years has been significant for both social mobilization actions and for collective actions and advocacy. It has succeeded in moving from anonymity and denial of LGBTI rights and a State that considered diverse sexual orientations and gender identities as a non-relevant issue, to be regarded as true citizens. In recent years, the constitution, the law and other political spaces in the country have seen the important role of LGBTI leaders who, in the political, social, cultural and academic sectors, have contributed to the social transformation of the country and the establishment of a genuine democratic process.

Rene Martinez, the founding leader of the Sampedrana Gay Community, who was murdered on June 3, 2016, was the driving force of this process. His research and, above all, his role motivating others, inspired many Honduran LGBTI leaders to embark on the utopian task of influencing, participating and contributing to the processes of citizen participation, only after years of fighting the State to have their organizations registered. The purpose was to provide citizens with support and a voice in the political processes, and to allow democracy to be considered as the flagship for the collective's welfare to protect and guarantee minority rights.

Rene clearly understood his role as a social leader in San Pedro Sula and assumed the commitment of transforming society in two ways. First, he actively and passionately participated in local and community spaces, alongside trade unionists, women, young leaders and environmentalists, to lay the pillars of a city respectful of human rights. Secondly, he utilized his position as a recognized community leader to give way to actions that promoted respect and recognition of LGBTI rights in his city.

As President of the Sampedrana Gay Community, and as an active member of the National Party, Rene led three social projects that remain the guiding threads of this research:

1. Promote concrete and real actions from the State and political parties so that they begin to open spaces for LGBTI leaders, thus reinforcing the work of the party base as well.

2. Encourage LGBTI people to commit to their cities through active participation in the political and civil processes.
3. Recognize that participation is synonymous with equality and that we will only experience living as equals when society and the State give provide us with real participation spaces. When we combine our voices and efforts with the voices and with efforts of women, farmers, youth, trade unionists, indigenous people, and afrodescendants, we become the sum of a new inclusive country where everyone can be themselves.

At the time his life was taken, Rene was preparing to run for Congress. He understood that his goal was accompanied by a political project built with the community. Despite his death, this dream has not faded, as his dream multiplies and he lives on with LGBTI leaders who today are a part of the country's political parties and social processes. They have assumed the commitment to be protagonists in the construction of a country of peace, social justice and respect for diversity. The absence of Rene is the silence that accompanies us when reading this investigation, but it is also the hope that invites us to find freedom and to say to Honduras in his honor: We are your LGBTI citizens contributing to make you a better country.

Wilson Castañeda
Director of Caribe Afirmativo

Introduction

The political participation of LGBTI people in Honduras has been an evolutionary process since the beginning of this movement and its visibility in the mid-80's to today. The different historical moments that the country has experienced (including the political crisis in 2009 that ended in a coup) have contributed to the politicization of the movement, seeking not only to make known, but also to transform the social, cultural and political reality of LGBTI people.

The report “LGBTI Movement in Honduras,” states that “the LGBTI movement in Honduras has been developed and organized as a new social movement with goals, which is gradually becoming a new actor seeking social change, through collective action to transform daily life, through the expansion, legitimation, consolidation and transformation of their struggles” (2012, p.154).

Although this agenda was initially focused on HIV / AIDS prevention in gay men, transgender people and MSM (men who have sex with men), thanks to political changes which have occurred since 2009, it became possible that lesbian, bisexual and trans men could play a more relevant role in the country's sociopolitical landscape.

This report seeks to analyze the reality of the political participation of LGBTI people in Honduras, considered by various studies (such as those carried out by the Citizens' Council for Public Security and Criminal Justice, the organization 'Security, Justice and Peace', and others), as one of the most violent countries in the world. This approach will have the objective of reporting on the political situation of Honduras from the perspective of the LGBTI leaders, the political parties and the current context of this Central American country; This text specifically seeks:

- I. To understand the political reality of LGBTI people in Honduras.
- II. Present the central agendas of the government and political parties on LGBTI issues in Honduras.
- III. Explain the challenges of LGBTI leaders who are interested in participating in Honduran politics.
- IV. Reflect on the differences and similarities in the processes of political inclusion of LGBTI people in the region.
- V. Provide recommendations.

To accomplish this, we carried out analysis of scientific literature on the subject, constitutional revisions, interviews directed at political parties and LGBTI leaders, discussion groups with political parties, political party statute anal-

yses, press reviews, interviews with LGBTI people from all over the country, and dialogue with key actors of the Honduran LGBTI movement.

The importance of conducting this type of research is because, on the one hand, incentives are generated for more openly LGBTI people to participate actively in the political and electoral spaces of Honduras, and on the other, reflections can be made within the political parties to include LGBTI people in their ranks, and promote actions to ensure their well-being.

It is necessary that in Honduras, LGBTI people take ownership of the decision-making spaces that guarantee their rights. Furthermore, it is extremely essential that lesbian, bisexual and transgender women take the same approach and position their issues in those agendas (as gay men and trans women have done). Participation and mobilization must be key factors to fight against a culture where patriarchy and heteronormativity have permeated the political institutions for centuries.

The former High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, Navanethem Pillay, stated, in relation to the inclusion practices that must be guaranteed by State institutions: the application of the same rights to LGBTI people as those enjoyed by others is not a radical change or complicated (United Nations, 2009).

In that sense, it is a commitment that integrates not only the political entities but also the various actors of civil society. For that reason, the LGBTI movement in Honduras, led by the organization Somos CDC, and with the technical assistance of the in-country office of the National Democratic Institute, Corporación Caribe Afirmativo from Colombia, and the Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute of the United States, is inviting Honduran political parties to reflect on institutional challenges they face in relation to plurality and inclusion, and their responsibility to reinforce the participation of historically discriminated and excluded groups, such as gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex people, hereinafter identified as LGBTI. Through collective actions and social demonstrations, groups are gaining spaces of participation and citizen reclamation in the national reality. Their agendas must be considered, politicized and guaranteed by the State institutions that guarantee the right to full citizenship and equal rights. \

In the same way, these groups, which today demand differentiated and legal attention by the State, must recognize the importance of political parties as natural spaces in democracy to turn interests, needs and aspirations for society into realities.

According to the field study in Latin America, there are two moments that form the foundation of current politics: first, the empowerment of civil society, which grows daily in its strategies for political advocacy, and second, the reformulation and reorientation that political parties and movements are making to modernize and live up to their campaigners and attract new members. Both realities are presented as opportunities to strengthen democracy and ensure the full observance of human rights.

LGBTI persons are part of the underrepresented groups whose agendas require priority attention from the State to correct the deficit of their rights. This exercise that political parties are undergoing will allow these institutions, which are committed to building more democratic relations, to provide results and guarantee a better quality of life for all.

By activating these agendas, political parties have the possibility of guaranteeing spaces of participation and equal opportunities for all, of adding their sectorial interests to the country agendas, of improving their advocacy capacity, and of being connected to the reality of their communities. In addition, this will allow them to strengthen territorial structures, promote an inclusive and non-discriminatory language, and apply affirmative¹ action to correct prejudices.

This report seeks to promote a reflection on human rights, with the premise that the State is the guarantor, by action or by omission, of human rights. Likewise, this report is based on the premise that rights must be understood from a perspective of comprehensiveness (they are related to each other), universality (they belong to all human beings regardless of personal or social characteristics), and complementarity (they complement each other).² In this regard, in the context of rights, we call attention to the right to citizen participation as a constitutive matter of the human being and necessary in the attainment of full citizenship. Participation is defined in this report as the possibility that everyone in the social state has a right to be part of decision-making spaces, actively participate with opinions and objections, present proposals, lead processes of change, choose elected officials and to be elected themselves.

In democracies, states and their different systems are created to serve as representative and participatory spaces of the different populations that make up a society. However, despite advances to consolidate democracy, many population groups are still claiming access to those participation spaces today. It could be argued that this is because the growth of political systems has not been consistent with participation. Today LGBTI people are in the category of 'underrepresented', not only because they do not enjoy the same rights and

1 It will be understood as affirmative actions, those actions of the State that seek to reduce the inequality of vulnerable groups.

2 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN, 1948)

access to citizen participation processes, but also because, their agendas are often not collected or valued in the construction of legislative bodies and government decisions that build the country's social fabric. Even many political actions based on their demands, yet taken in their absence, have resulted in decisions framed in social and sexual prejudices which put their personal and social integrity at risk. A particular case in this respect are the LGBTI people of the country, who due to the few structures of political opportunity, have had a limited presence in the mechanisms of participation. This has added to the invisibility of their agendas in important decision-making spaces of the country and brought them further from their aspirations of dignified life and full citizenship.

According to the interviews conducted with LGBTI leaders, in recent years, the Honduran State has boosted citizen participation, strengthened the different constitutional spaces for participation and urged political parties to diversify. They have done this by deepening and renewing their social bases and their mechanisms of internal participation, through the reform of parties and the electoral system. The purpose of these reforms is to strengthen the political parties - the core of democracy to access democratic institutions of the country with the guarantee of results built upon plural bases, broad participation, and representation of all social groups and that represent the reality of the country.

The present research starts from the need to recognize that LGBTI people have not played an active role in decision-making spaces in Honduras, because political structures have not allowed it. It should also be noted that violence against LGBTI people in the country has had a negative impact on the situation of people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, which in turn has limited their interest in participating and taking advantage of citizen spaces.

After the most recent renovation process of democracy in Honduras in recent years after the political crisis that led to the coup, the Electoral and Political Organizations Law (2004), which seeks to ensure greater political guarantees, was approved.

With these new structures, LGBTI organizations from the country and national and foreign allied institutions proposed spaces for rapprochement and articulation between the State, political parties and LGBTI leaders. These approaches were taken to investigate the reality of the participation of LGBTI people and the implementation of actions that guarantee the full enjoyment of the political rights of people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in the decision-making stages and structures of the parties.

Methodological process for the preparation of this report

Between the years 2015 and 2016, different Honduran LGBTI organizations, with the support of the National Democratic Institute, the Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute of the US and the Corporación Caribe Afirmativo of Colombia, were given the task of proposing a more inclusive democracy and to plant this issue into the discussion on participation and political influence. To do this, they held a series of meetings and discussion groups with State authorities, political party boards and members of political party bases to know their position on the inclusion of LGBTI agendas within these institutions. These meetings served to get an overview of participation spaces that the country's legal system allows, to compare it with the real participation that the LGBTI groups have had, and understand these institutions' perceptions of the issues.

Likewise, desk research was conducted in which official records of political parties were accessed and a constitutional analysis was carried out to determine the ways in which the State structure affects the political participation of LGBTI people and intensifies violence against them.

In addition to desk research, the press review was key to understand the social and political conjuncture of the country. Such triangulation (real spaces of participation, effective participation of LGBTI people, and favorable or unfavorable context) was key to contextualize the real possibility of political participation of LGBTI people in Honduras.

By combining these sources of information, we sought to situate the reader in a scenario closer to the reality of the political participation of LGBTI people in Honduras. The study allowed us to find tools that generate transformations and at the same time strengthen participation as a citizen right; where plurality, respect for diversity and non-discrimination are basic conditions for the functioning of both the State apparatus and the structures of political parties. These are understood as the ideal circumstances for the people of this population group, with all their potential for social mobilization as key players in the transformation of the country, to be able to influence these spaces.

The information gathered for the present research carried out through the following strategies and techniques:

- Desk research:
 - Press review of the last 4 years (prior to the last 2013 National Congress elections).
 - Reading and analysis of statutes and official documents of political parties.
 - Literature review on political participation in Honduras.
 - Document review on the human rights situation of LGBTI people in Honduras.
 - Constitutional and legal analysis.
- Field work:
 - Workshops (2) with LGBTI leaders from Tegucigalpa (5) and San Pedro Sula (8).
 - Political leadership courses (3) with LGBTI activists from Honduras and Central America.
 - Interviews with openly LGBTI pre-candidates.
 - In-depth interviews with 7 political parties in Tegucigalpa: National Party (PN), Liberal Party (PL), Anti-Corruption Party (PAC), Innovation and Democratic Social Unity Party (PINU-SD), Democratic Unification Party (UD), Honduran Christian Democrat Party (PDCH) and Honduran Patriotic Alliance Party (La Alianza)³; and in San Pedro Sula: National Party (PN) and Anti-Corruption Party (PAC).
 - Group discussion with political parties, which included the following parties: National Party (PN), Libertad y Refundación Party (LIBRE), Liberal Party (PL), Anti-Corruption Party (PAC), Innovation Party and Social Democratic Unit PINU-SD), Democratic Unification Party (UD), Democratic Party of Honduras (PDCH), and Honduran Patriotic Alliance Party (La Alianza)
 - Survey of 748 LGBTI and heterosexual people close to the agendas of sexual diversity and gender identity through digital and physical surveys. The people surveyed come from the following cities:

³ The invitation was extended to the Frente Amplio Político Electoral en Resistencia (FAPER), although it was not possible to agree on the meetings.

Department	Number of replies
Atlántida	41
Choluteca	6
Colón	10
Comayagua	21
Copán	12
Cortés	213
El Paraíso	3
Francisco Morazán	387
Gracias a Dios	1
Intibucá	3
Islas de la Bahía	6
La Paz	0
Lempira	1
Ocotepeque	0
Olancho	12
Santa Bárbara	5
Valle	7
Yoro	20



Source: Research team Corporación Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

The purpose of this information is to generate reflection on the invisibility and exclusion of the LGBTI people in the country in terms of political participation processes. Similarly, the study aims for political parties to recognize the growth of the LGBTI movement as a niche that needs to be politicized and incorporated into other processes of social base construction, while raising ideological principles that allow for other possibilities to those currently in power in the country. The study encourages LGBTI leaders, organizations and individuals to join parties and their internal reform processes and to channel their leadership, needs and agendas into politics to achieve real transformations.

From these possibilities, we propose: first, a group of recommendations built in both spaces so that it is possible to activate mechanisms of good practices for LGBTI people; and second, to identify lessons learned that help ensure equity, non-discrimination and affirmative action as necessary conditions in the country's future political participation processes. All this will deepen democracy in Honduras and guarantee the integrality of the rights of all, including LGBTI citizens.

Key concepts

- **LGBTI⁴**

LGBTI people are citizens who are recognized as having non-heterosexual sexual orientations (erotic-affective) and/or with a gender identity different from the socially established ones. Due to multiple factors of exclusion and discrimination, they often suffer denial of their rights due to their decision, free, autonomous and people; the State is obliged to guarantee them full access to the enjoyment of their rights and to protect them from all forms of discrimination.

Lesbian: A woman who recognizes herself as such and feels sexual and/or emotional attraction towards other women.

Gay: A man who recognizes himself as such and feels sexual and/or emotional attraction towards other men.

Bisexual: A person who feels sexual and/or emotional attraction towards women and men, not necessarily in the same moment.

Trans: People whose gender identity does not correspond with their sex assigned at birth.

Intersex: People who biologically present genetic and phenotypic characteristics (physical) that do not fit the typical definitions for male or female bodies.

Currently, scientific production in English has sought to evolve to the acronym SOGI - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity - a broader concept that avoids labels.

- **Human Rights**

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the fulfillment and protection of human rights are the ultimate goals of the State, the *raison d'être* of institutions, systems and regimes. For many years, the progressive exercise of human rights was making modern States aware that the only measure of success of their sovereignty was the full and effective guarantee of human rights. Today, human rights are not determined by generations; they are complementary and validity and enjoyment of them depends on the State's effective advancement of them.

Some countries in Latin America (such as Argentina, Uruguay and Chile) have overcome two difficulties. The first is the dichotomy in which fundamental rights are guaranteed first, and then others, even making them dependent on monetary capacities. The second difficulty was the deficit of rights when citizens are classified into several categories, granting the integrality of rights not to everyone, but rather to a small segment of the population, using exclusionary, prejudiced and discriminatory arguments.

This situation has left out groups of highly representative populations such as women, indigenous people, Afro-descendant people and, of course, LGBTI people. For this reason, the State is obliged to apply affirmative actions, not only to correct social inequality, but to grant rights to populations that have historically been denied these rights.

- **Political participation**

In a broad sense, political participation can be understood as the sum of all voluntary activities through which members of a society intervene in the selection of political officials and, directly or indirectly, in the formation or construction of Government policies. (Bank of the Republic, 2015)

For Norberto Bobbio, political participation takes various forms (electoral participation, party registration, frequency in meetings and various party activities, etc.) and is of different intensity according to parties and according to

political systems, as well as is expressed in different ways in different historical moments. The functioning of the parties will also be subject to a great variability. (Bobbio, 1983)

Participation has been one of the rights that has been outside the scope of fundamental rights, because it has not been considered vital and has even been believed to belong only to a small sector of society. However, participation is not only fundamental because it allows human beings to develop their social sense of construction with others, but it is the right that allows them to feel an active part of society.

Hence, the fundamental task of governments and parties that have become aware of this is to streamline, pluralize and guarantee citizen participation for all people in all conditions.

- **Political parties**

Studying the political participation of LGBTI people in Honduras through the political parties is of great relevance since, in modern democracies, the struggle for political power, among other powers, is carried out through the ballot box, a space where political parties seek to achieve or remain in power. For Giovanni Sartori (1980) a political party is “any political group that presents itself to elections and that can place its candidates in public office through elections” (p.92).

Although political parties are key factors in elections, a space where political power is competed for, democracy cannot be seen by political parties as an external concept. It becomes necessary to appropriate democracy into the interior of these organizations, as explained by Flavia Freindenberg in the chapter on democratization of political parties in a book by Thompson and Sánchez (2006):

While most parties maximized their efforts to compete in the electoral arena; they did not make significant attempts to improve the transparency of their internal procedures, to institutionalize their rules of the game, to be more competitive internally or to ensure the participation of their members in decision-making. (P.4)

- **Internal democracy**

Observing a great weakness in the internal processes of democratization within the parties, where the procedures carried out within parties are not clear and there is little active participation of various sectors such as the LGB-

TI population, reflections should be generated for strengthening internal democracy. The studies of Freindenberg (2006) affirm that to be able to speak of internal democracy of a political party, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

Guarantees of equality between members and protection of fundamental rights in the exercise of their freedom of opinion; mechanisms for selecting candidates for competitive representation positions (internal or external); participation of members in governing bodies, without discrimination in the representation of the various groups that make up the organization; active influence of the various groups in the discussion and formation of programmatic positions and the elaboration of party proposals and the common decisions made; respect for the principle of majority, to ensure that decisions are made on the basis of a majority aggregation of individual wills and guarantees for minorities; and effective control from leadership, through processes that punish or reward those who make the decisions. (P.4)

This text is made up of the following sections: firstly, the recent history of the political participation of LGBTI people in Honduras, followed by a list of the main difficulties the State, political parties, and the LGBTI movement itself presents for LGBTI persons when participating in politics. Then, the historical good practices that have been carried out by the Honduran political parties to promote political participation and recognition of the rights of LGBTI people are presented. An analysis of the current situation of Honduran LGBTI political participation is then presented. We then compare the political parties in the region (Central America) and observe similarities and differences in the inclusion of LGBTI people, and conclude by presenting the recommendations that have resulted from this research.



1. Recent stories of the political participation of LGBTI people in Honduras

The constitutional reform of 1982 in the Republic of Honduras paved the way to strengthen citizen participation and strengthen democracy within institutions. However, as far as the visibility of LGBTI agendas is concerned, there was no real expression of systematizing participation, either socially or politically, before 2004, much less organizational strengthening.

However, since the 1990s, the emergence of HIV / AIDS, which affected a large part of the LGBTI population, and the lack of State action to prevent and address this pandemic, allowed the first organizations to appear in the country such as the Violet Collective in Tegucigalpa and the Gay Community Sampedrana in the city of San Pedro Sula. Despite having LGBTI agendas, it was made clear that their priority was specifically HIV prevention and care in all its expressions, strengthening only their impact on the health scene.

In 2002, the first openly LGBTI organizations appeared in the country asking for legal recognition of the State in its task of promoting and defending lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

In 2004, at the request of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and pressure from international organizations, the Honduran State recognized the legal status of LGBTI organizations in the country and ratified the organizations that had been dedicated to the HIV / AIDS agenda, whose strength was working with LGBTI people.

One of the impediments alleged by the State at the time, from outside influences, was that approving legal entities to LGBTI persons would be a way of opening the door to debates such as marriage equality and adoption by same-sex couples. To avoid this and to shield the State's interests, in that same act of recognition of legal personifications, the State reformed article 112 of the Constitution and 116 indicating that, in the country, marriage will always be between a man and a woman and that the application for adoption meets the same requirement.

“ARTICLE 112. *It recognizes the right of men and women, who have the natural quality of such, to marry one another, as well as the legal equality of the spouses. Only civil marriage held before a competent official, and with the conditions required by the Law, is valid. A civil union is recognized among per-*

sons equally capable of marriage. The law will specify the conditions for the effects of marriage. Marriage and civil unions between persons of the same sex is prohibited. Marriages or civil unions between persons of the same sex celebrated or recognized under the laws of other countries shall not be valid in Honduras. “

“**ARTICLE 116.**- The right of adoption is recognized to persons united by marriage or civil union. Adoption of boys or girls is forbidden for marriages or unions made up of persons of the same sex. The law shall regulate this institution. “

From that date, until the political crisis of 2009, where the then President Manuel Zelaya was ousted, LGBTI organizations dedicated their agendas particularly to the exercise of health and were not affected by decision-makers. In 2008 alone, there was a first-hand approach to local governments, particularly in the department of Cortes, where violence against LGBTI people was addressed by pressures such as the Human Rights Watch (2009) reports, which reflected on violence, presumably motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity, against persons who did not enter formal complaints into system.

But it was in 2009, after the political crisis, that the LGBTI agendas of the country took a qualitative leap and began to be protagonists in the social mobilization of the country along with women, young people and farmers to ask for a social reform that guaranteed the welfare of the population. Actions supported by the presence of international pressure in the country, such as the mission of the Organization of American States (OAS), which, under the search for reconciliation, helped to generate points of meeting and interaction between the State and civil society.

At that time, the situation of LGBTI people was minimized under the argument that the problems that crossed the country did not affect them, because between 1984 and 2004, official records had only 20 murders in the formal system included their annual reports. However, within the framework of the political crisis, local and international human rights organizations counted more than 28 murders based on sexual orientation or gender identity in six months, which caught the attention of both the international community and the State to pay attention to LGBTI persons' protection and dignified life.

As an institutional response, the government created the Secretariat for Justice and Human Rights in 2013, a space that managed to establish all the key players in national life, including LGBTI people (convened by the government for the first time) to converse and give origin to the National Policy on Human Rights. This was in response to the UN Universal Periodic Report of 2012,

which seeks to guarantee inclusion practices and dignified life to the population groups of all departments of the State. Despite this, this secretariat met a setback after the coup, since the government of President Porfirio Lobo (2009-2012) had to create a Ministry of Human Rights, due to international pressure. With the president Juan Orlando Hernández (2014 - 2018), the ministry dropped in category and became Secretary of State.

In relation to the political parties, after the political crisis, both the State and civil society created a truth commission to clarify the facts. It also covered the recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Report, which invited parties to guarantee democracy with higher levels of participation based on the principles of plurality.

While this occurred and within the framework of the same political crisis, the country saw the resurgence of collective actions, especially in its more populated cities. These processes of social mobilization made it possible to promote new forms of political participation, not registered initially with a political party, but with the idea of change and renewal. LGBTI leaders, who were leading social and political processes, participated and were visible in a scenario that the country was not accustomed to: decision-making, focusing on the conjuncture of violence, as the motivating axis to overthrow indifference and raise the cause of respect for the integrality and life of people who have a non-heterosexual orientation or non-hegemonic gender identity.

As a process of social development, OAS, accompanied by the State and civil society, played a key role in citizen reconciliation, generating collective interests to rebuild and educate society to lead the path for the passive expectation of citizen participation.

This reflection permeated the political parties that, thanks to these processes and support of the international community in 2012, began to give recognition to LGBTI citizens in their basic, statutory and programmatic processes.

In the same year, they began to present the first openly LGBTI candidates for the internal elections of the parties. These candidacies had much media force because of the phenomenon of “curiosity” they generated in the country. However, their exposure made them victims of attacks and discrimination in a systematic way. Those who ran for office were exposed to an increased risk of attacks and violation of their rights.

The first public experience was that of the openly gay human rights defender, Walter Tróchez, who in 2009, in the context of the political crisis, assumed an advocacy role and denounced arbitrary voting centers. On December 2,

he was kidnapped; days later escaped and reported that his abduction was motivated by his denunciations. However, on December 13 he was again abducted, later tortured, and then killed. His death dwarfed the expectations of LGBTI people in the country and caused fear and mistrust of exercising citizens' rights.

In 2012, gay journalist Erick Alexander Martínez Ávila was the congressional pre-candidate, for the department Francisco Morazán, in the internal elections of the Party Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE), by the current Popular Revolutionary Force (FRP). He made his candidacy public on May 1, 2012 at a public demonstration on Labor Day, but days later, he was tortured and murdered. Again, the death of an LGBTI leader caused anxiety for LGBTI people.

In June 2012, Erick Martínez Vidal of the same party, who was the substitute of Erick Martinez Avila and an openly gay man, decided to participate in the electoral processes of 2012. He had the trans leader, Arely Victoria Gómez, as the substitute candidate. A similar demonstration was held in San Pedro Sula, with Claudia Spellman, a trans leader and Jose Hernandez, a gay leader, as her alternate candidate. Victoria and Claudia had to register with their birth names, not with the names with which they identify, a situation that complicated their electoral processes and made them victims of allegations from the media, who ignored their campaign proposals.

Conservative movements wanted to make the electorate believe that their interests were only to promote marriage equality; when both campaigns were characterized by discourses aligned with the postulates of the party and not particular to the LGBTI agendas.

None of these two candidates won the LIBRE party's primary elections, but they positioned themselves and asserted the right to citizen participation, not because they were LGBTI people, but because they were citizens who managed to elevate a right that they were denied by social and cultural prejudices.

Between the two campaigns, they got 25,472 votes which, in the case of Francisco Morazán, represented 50% of what is required to pass through elections, and in the case of Cortes 60% to acquire a seat.

This situation allowed their party, LIBRE, to recognize the great contribution that they, as candidates, made to its structure. For this reason, they decided to create statutory representation spaces and permanent participation for LGBTI people, who brought reform to their statutes.

Unfortunately, in 2014 Claudia Spellman had to flee the country, after receiving death threats and filing a complaint with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), due to pressure from conservative sectors regarding her political participation as a trans woman. Subsequently, in 2016, Arely Victoria also had to seek political asylum for the constant threats to her life.

On the other hand, after the elections of 2013, gay leader from San Pedro Sula, René Martínez, began to gain high levels of visibility within the National Party. He, in a novel way, initiated a process where he lived of bringing the demands of LGBTI citizens to local party agendas, making local politicians assume a commitment to the life guarantees of this population group. In 2014, René Martínez achieved a reconciliation between the LGBTI sectors and the Mayor of San Pedro Sula, allowing the Mayor's party (National Party) to assume a commitment at the local level. In June 2016, which is recognized as the month of sexual and gender diversity, the LGBTI movement and human rights defenders mourned again, after Rene was killed.

In order to discuss and reflect on the human rights situation in Honduras of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, the LGBTI Meeting of Political Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean in Tegucigalpa was held in 2015, which consisted of multiple local, partisan and sectorial meetings that reflected on the challenges people who want to participate in politics in Honduras face. As a result of this meeting, there were:

- Political parties committed and interested in advancing at this level.
- Leaders who already participate within political parties increased their commitment and have been positioning the agenda in the parties' interiors.
- LGBTI people with great potential to influence politics find opportunities and ideological overlaps in the country's political parties to materialize their political interests.

In relation to political parties, the political crisis not only made the political landscape more plural and dynamic with the appearance of new parties, but these parties also began to measure themselves with the electorate, finding greater sympathy and support. The proposals of social renewal, the generational leap in its internal structures, the recognition and participation within the partisan life of multiple social sectors, and their re-founding based on deepening their democratic principles, have made it possible to find shared values such as: working for social equality, promoting respect for minorities and diversifying their spaces of participation.

The reinvention and strengthening that political parties and movements seek to accomplish, to guarantee that their power remain valid and to count on the support of the citizens in electoral processes in social transformation exercises and in spreading a political ideology, will only be possible if they understand that plural and differentiated participation is the source of their success in the exercise of their political vocation and the arrival point of their postulates' and country proposals' reception.



2. Difficulties in the political participation of LGBTI people

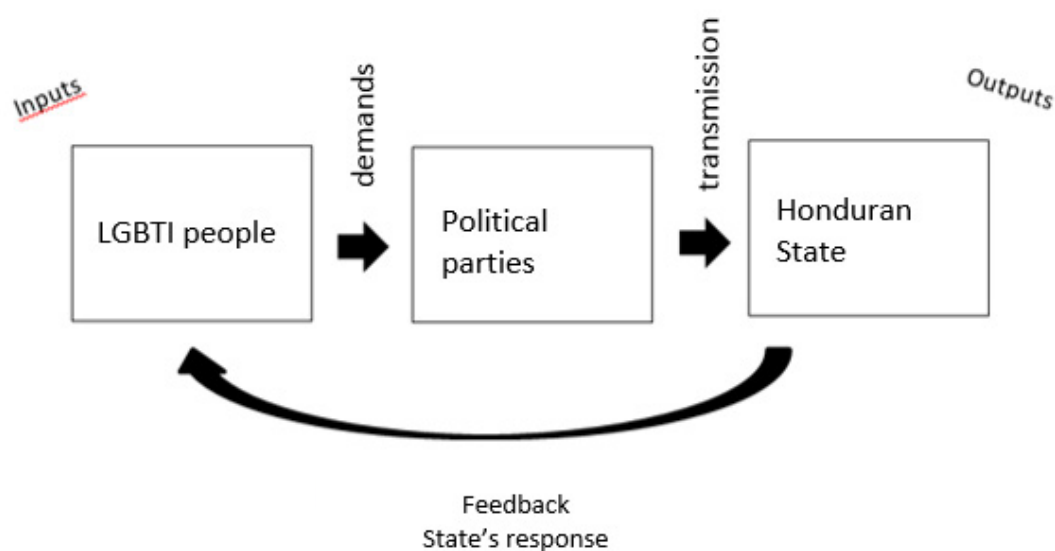
Over the years, LGBTI Hondurans have encountered a number of difficulties and impediments to the full enjoyment of their political rights: murder of leaders, threats, legal difficulties in the right to association, religious fundamentalism and lack of political guarantees. These have also been some of the reasons for the low visibility of the LGBTI movement.

Despite the difficulties encountered, which will be explained in this chapter, a series of actions have been carried out to recognize the right of persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities by the State and political parties, thanks to the advocacy efforts of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex movement in Honduras.

This section will focus on 3 key areas of political endeavors using the systemic theory of David Easton (1917-2014), which defines the political system as “those interactions through which values are authoritatively assigned in a society; This is what distinguishes it from other systems in its environment” (1992: 224) and states, as a general conclusion of his study, that this system “is the convenience of interpreting political life as a complex series of processes by which certain types of inputs become the type of outputs we can call authoritarian policies, decisions and executive actions” (p.221).

Understanding that within the political system there are different forces that create tensions to produce results that transform a situation, it is necessary to analyze the political participation of LGBTI people from 3 key sectors within this system: LGBTI civil society, political parties and the State. This can be diagrammed as follows:

Graph 1. Honduran Political System



Source: Investigation team Corporación Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

As can be seen in the graph, the political system in Honduras continues to respond to a linear dynamic, where the parties are intermediaries and gear between the demands made visible by the LGBTI sectors and the transmission of those demands to the State.

Throughout the dictatorships that were imposed in the country since the thirties of the 20th century, which lasted for fifty years, and despite the creation of the Constitution of 1980, the violation of the rights of the LGBTI people was systematic, seeking to make this population invisible.

It is pertinent to point out that police and civil violence towards LGBTI people has intensified with the increased visibility of these people because of their diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, reaffirming the precept that, with greater visibility comes greater risk. The “homosocialization” sites (places frequented by openly LGBTI people) were attacked and evicted, leaving these people adrift, exposing especially trans women and gay men, this, with the complicity of the State and the governments in power (Committee of the Sexual Diversity, 2012 page 53).

The following are some of the difficulties, found in our investigation, that LGBTI people have faced in Honduras for the full recognition of their political and electoral rights.

In order to have systematic and reliable data on the political participation of LGBTI people in Honduras, a field team had a series of meetings with significant and representative LGBTI leaders of the country (Thirteen in total: seven in San Pedro Sula and six in Tegucigalpa). In addition, 748 surveys were distributed to LGBTI persons in all departments of the country, eight discussion groups were formed with political parties, and seven in-depth interviews were conducted with representatives of the Political Parties Management Boards.

2.1 A look at LGBTI leaders in Honduras

In Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, the cities with the largest number of LGBTI organizations and processes, the research team invited representatives of these LGBTI organizations to hold discussion groups and to offer in-depth interviews to their leaders, who gave the following reflections:

They argue that the Honduran State has not yet created structures of political opportunity for the participation and solid defense of the rights of LGBTI people. On the contrary, the State has introduced some constitutional amendments, as the prerequisites to allow LGBTI people to exercise their right to association.

Despite this situation, motivated by their interest in political participation, LGBTI leaders from Honduras have come to know, influence and make use of the few spaces of political participation offered by the State. Eighty percent of respondents said they knew and had an interest in influencing participation mechanisms, and only 20% of those interviewed in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula stated that they were not aware of those mechanisms. This shows the great interest and motivation to know and make use of these participation spaces.

Likewise, the LGBTI people interviewed consider it important that the Honduran State guarantees greater dissemination of the mechanisms of political participation and that it would be key to know them and use them as social leaders. This, takes into account that knowledge of the legal mechanisms of political participation is a basic facet in demanding political and social rights, participating actively in electoral processes, and having representatives safeguard over their agendas.

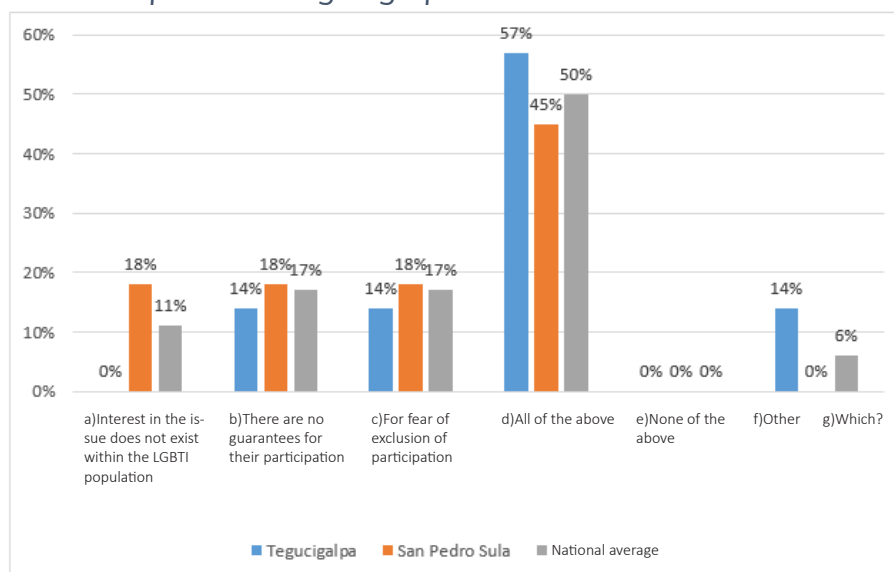
It should be noted that these results come from LGBTI people with a recognized leadership at the national and international level, where 59% of the respondents have a university degree, 35% have a technical career and only 6% are high school graduates.

Although the majority had knowledge of the existing spaces of participation in the country for LGBTI people, when it came to their knowledge of how these spaces should be used to influence and follow up on the actions and programs undertaken by the governments, so that the agendas are collected, ample lack of awareness was found. In this sense, there are two possibilities: The State has not taken concrete actions for the protection and guarantee of the rights of LGBTI people, which is the reason for the lack of knowledge, or, the LGBTI population has not identified such actions, if they exist.

Communication is a fundamental aspect of governing, which is why the Honduran political leaders have to build and advertise a communicative strategy so that the actions they take in favor of the LGBTI population are better known. These actions must include a territorial, thematic and demographic approach. In the same way, LGBTI leaders must take advantage of the participation scenarios to influence and propose their agendas for the full guarantee of rights, accompanied by citizen oversight, monitoring and evaluation.

This exercise between a guarantor State and an active citizenry is consistently evaluating and interacting with public agendas, so that they are guarantors of citizen rights, which must be empowered by the spaces of participation. Regarding this issue, the answers vary slightly between Tegucigalpa (TGU) and San Pedro Sula (SPS), when we question the lack of visibility of LGBTI people in Honduran political spaces.

Graph 2. Perceptions about the low visibility of LGBTI people in political spaces of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.



Source: Investigation team Corporación Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

Although in both cases the “all of the above” option was the most chosen, in Tegucigalpa the option of lack of interest by LGBTI people was not chosen, while in San Pedro Sula it was 18%.

From both results, two issues of great importance can be inferred: on the one hand, the lack of guarantees for the political participation of LGBTI people has generated a great fear of exclusion or discrimination, which has made people lose interest in participating actively in politics, even though they could become a highly relevant electoral force; and, on the other hand, in Tegucigalpa, LGBTI people have a greater interest in political participation than in San Pedro Sula.

One of the activists participating in the discussion groups stated that it is necessary for the State to carry out a greater number of activities that promote awareness of these issues, not only for citizens, but also for State officials themselves. He said:

“In Honduras, the issue of double standards is latent. Political regulation is necessary to achieve active political participation on the part of LGBTI people. We need to raise awareness with existing politicians.”

Honduran gay activist (2016)

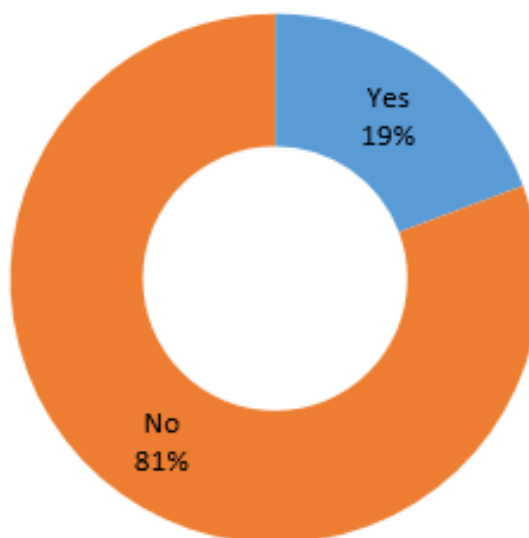
2.2 Perceptions of LGBTI people in Honduras

In cohesion with the findings above, for three months Caribe Afirmativo’s field team, AJEM and NDI applied, as already mentioned in the methodological process, a total of 748 surveys to LGBTI people, in 16 of the country’s 18 provinces, both rural and urban, in person or through virtual contacts, to answer questions that allowed us to gain an understanding of the perceptions of LGBTI citizens regarding political participation.

In the results analysis, it is possible to identify that a key aspect that has generated difficulties in the political participation of LGBTI people by the State is the lack of State laws, public policies or affirmative actions. In other words, the absence of political will has translated into few opportunities for the enjoyment of full citizenship.

When questioning LGBTI people from different regions in the country on if their needs are included in the country’s public agendas, the answers were as follows:

Graph 3. Inclusion of the needs of LGBTI people in public policies, legislations and State programs.



Source: Investigation team Corporación Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

In the graph above it is important to note that 81% of the people interviewed throughout the country have the perception that the Honduran public agendas do not respond to the problems and needs of LGBTI people in the country.

2.3 Reflections from political parties

Discussion groups were held with the Honduran political parties on the challenges of including LGBTI persons in their structures and mechanisms. In addition, their representatives were interviewed in depth to identify the major advances and opportunities that each party offers to LGBTI citizens.

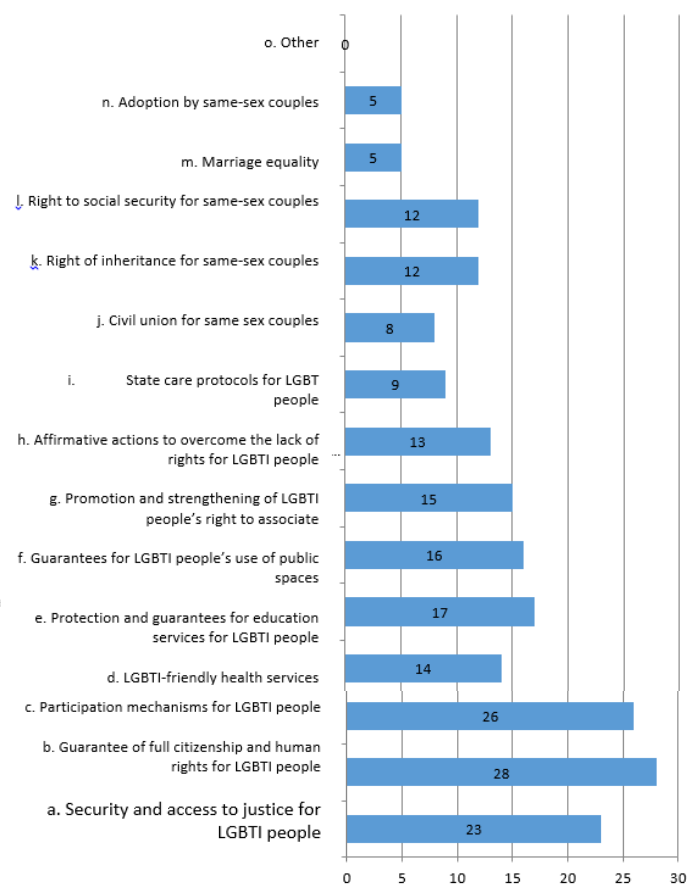
To know the needs and problems of LGBTI people, and to know firsthand how to focus their work as public servants, it is necessary for the parties to approach this population with a dialogue.

In the interviews conducted with political parties in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, they were asked about what topics they consider should be dealt with within their parties; to do this, they were offered a questionnaire with a series of options and the possibility of choosing multiple answers.

The results showed that the Honduran parties consider that the actions they should work on from within their internal structures should focus on ensuring

the full citizenship and human rights of LGBTI persons, the mechanisms for LGBTI people to participate actively, and the security and access to justice for LGBTI persons.

Graph 4. Issues that political parties consider important to work on



Source: Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

2.4 A look at political participation from LGBTI leaders and members of political parties.

When speaking with LGBTI leaders about the agendas that the government should work on, the following preferences were established after tabulating the individual results. A score of “5” represents the most important agenda and “1” represents agendas of minor importance. The results from Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula were as follows:

Graph 5. Level of importance in the agendas that the government should work on (Interviews)

Necessity	Tegucigalpa	San Pedro Sula	Media
Recognition and protection of human rights	5	4	4.5
Citizen security and access to justice	4,8	4.5	4.6
Access to a comprehensive health system	4,4	3,5	3.9
Access to education without discrimination	4,4	3,7	4
Comprehensive antidiscrimination law	4,4	3.7	4
Gender identity law	4,4	3,7	4
Political participation of LGBTI people	4	4	4
Access to decent employment without discrimination	3,8	3,3	3.5
Fight against corruption	3,6	3	3.3
Access to the economy (loans, entrepreneurship)	3,4	3	3.2
Marriage equality	2,8	1,8	2.3
Adoptions for same sex couples	2,4	1,7	2

Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo Corporation (2016)

Graph 6. Weighting of the agendas that the government should work on (National Survey)

Necessity	Importance Level
Citizen security and access to justice	4.19
Recognition and protection of human rights	4.37
Political participation of LGBTI people	4.07
Access to education without discrimination	4.37
Comprehensive anti-discrimination law	4.27
Gender identity law	4.02
Access to a comprehensive health system	4.32
Access to decent employment without discrimination	4.37
Fight against corruption	3.86
Access to the economy (loans, entrepreneurship)	3.81
Marriage equality	3.27
Adoptions for same sex couples	3.00

Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo Corporation (2016)

It should be noted that in the in-depth interviews conducted with leaders of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, the two most highly ranked agendas, 'citizen security and access to justice' and 'recognition and protection of human rights', are the same (although in opposite order). In this way, it is observed that for those with visible leadership, their demands are focused on the fact that the State truly guarantees the protection of LGBTI people in Honduras.

In the national survey, the trend is slightly different, as the 748 people interviewed prioritized: recognition and protection of human rights, access to education without discrimination, access to decent employment without discrimination (these issues had an average score of 4.37) and access to a comprehensive health system (with an importance level of 4.32 out of 5).

The above points out that, for openly LGBTI people who are not part of political processes or social leadership, their priorities lie in the demand for fundamental rights such as education, health and employment, which in many cases may be denied because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This reminds us of the key principle that refers to the fact that political rights can only be obtained fully when community members have ESC rights (Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

Likewise, it should be noted that the three scenarios investigated involving local and national issues such as marriage equality and adoption by same-sex couples, they are considered of less importance compared to the other agendas. This indicates that basic issues such as access to education, the health system, employment, the anti-corruption struggle and political participation should be addressed first. Thus, one could propose the hypothesis that having access to fundamental rights makes it easier to demand legal equality in matters of marriage equality and adoption.

It is also observed that in San Pedro Sula the issue of political participation of LGBTI people is the third-most important agenda, with a ranking of "4", while in Tegucigalpa it is the seventh-most important agenda, also with a ranking of "4". In the national survey, it ranks fifth, with an average ranking of 4.2. This makes it possible to interpret that, although there are problems that seem to be of higher priority or urgency, the guarantee of participation in politics is an agenda that must be reviewed and enhanced by the State since it is possible position the demands of LGBTI groups within the, as was shown previously in the graph of the political system in Honduras (Graph 1).

When political party representatives were asked about agendas during in-depth interviews, the results vary widely between San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, as shown in the following tables:

Graph 7. Weighting of the agendas that the government should work on (Political Parties in Tegucigalpa)

Need	Importance Level							Average
	Alianza	PAC	PDCH	PINU	PL	PN	UD	
Citizen security and access to justice	5	5	4,5	5	4,75	5	4,33	4.7
Fight against corruption	5	5	5	5	5	4,75	4	4.8
Recognition and protection of human rights	5	4,6	5	5	4,25	5	4,66	4.7
Access to decent employment without discrimination	4,66	4,6	5	4,25	4,75	4,5	4,33	4.5
Access to a comprehensive health system	5	4,6	5	4,25	4,75	5	4,33	4.7
Access to the economy (loans, entrepreneurship)	4,66	4,3	5	4,5	4,75	4,75	4	4.5
Access to education without discrimination	5	4	5	4,75	4,5	5	4,66	4.7
Comprehensive anti-discrimination Law	5	4	4,5	4,75	4,75	4,75	3,66	4.4
Gender identity law	4,66	3,33	3	4,75	2,75	4,5	3,66	3.8
Marriage equality	3	1,66	3	2,5	2,25	1,5	3,33	2.4

Source: Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

Graph 8. Weighting of the agendas that the government should work on (Political Parties in SPS)

Need	Importance Level		
	PAC	PN	Average
Citizen security and access to justice	5	5	5
Fight against corruption	5	4,16	4.6
Recognition and protection of human rights	5	4,83	4.9
Access to decent employment without discrimination	5	4,83	4.9
Access to a comprehensive health system	5	4,5	4.7
Access to the economy (loans, entrepreneurship)	4,33	4,16	4.1
Access to education without discrimination	4,66	4,33	4.5
Comprehensive anti-discrimination law	4,66	4,33	4.5
Gender identity law	4,66	3,16	4
Marriage equality	0,33	1,16	0.7

Source: Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

It could be said that the main similarity between the information found among LGBTI leaders in San Pedro Sula and Honduras, and LGBTI people from all over the country and political parties in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, is that marriage equality and adoption by same-sex couples are considered subjects of little relevance within the current political situation, since it is first necessary (as has been repeatedly stated throughout the report) to guarantee fundamental rights and the enjoyment of a decent life before advancing to these agendas.

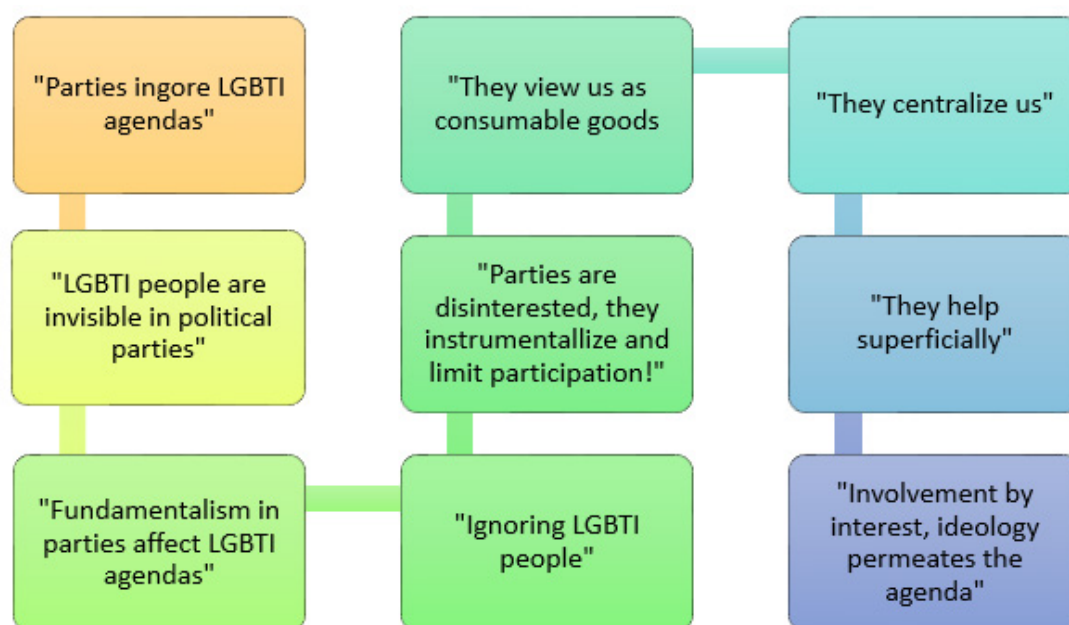
Finally, the Electoral and Political Organizations Act (2013) does not create incentives for the political participation of LGBTI people in political processes, or for political organizations to include them within their structures. Therefore, political parties, as promoters of democracy, must ensure the inclusion of historically underrepresented groups such as LGBTI persons, to ensure true equality and the effective enjoyment of rights.

2.5 Difficulties for Political Parties

The State's structural difficulties in creating opportunity and inclusion of LGBTI persons, coupled with a patriarchal and heteronormative culture, have affected, in one way or another, the Honduran political parties. Despite that in recent years these parties have started a process to be more inclusive of LGBTI people, there continue to be some difficulties for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people to fully enjoy their political rights and participation in party organizations.

In dialogue with LGBTI leaders about what they consider to be the main difficulties that arise in their relationship with political parties, it was found that, even though the parties recognize them as key actors, situations included in the next chart still occur:

Graph 9. Difficulties presented by political parties according to LGTBI leaders in Honduras



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo, based on field study (2016).

The compilation of these stories, which correspond to the perception of LGBTI leaders, allows us to find some recurrent themes, such as the prevalence of fundamentalism in the agendas, the use of LGBTI people only to win votes in every electoral moment, and ignoring of people with diverse sexual orientations or gender identities.

Additionally, it is worth noting the lack of communication between parties and the LGBTI population, as it is possible that the political parties are currently dealing with these issues but fail to advertise how they are carried out. When asking the leaders if they know which political parties work these agendas, 73% said they know, but when asked about the specific aspects of the proposals, the lack of knowledge was very widespread.

So, although more than 70% of respondents say they know which political parties support LGBTI agendas, on average, in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, only 27% know the concrete proposals that are being worked on.

The fact that 70% of the activists interviewed can name the parties that are supporting the LGBTI agendas is a breakthrough of great importance. The parties must continue to communicate their actions so that more and more people can become aware of the positive actions they are taking to impact society, since, in politics, communication about progress is vital.

Similarly, the LGBTI movement in Honduras must create strategies to follow up on party actions. Social leaders should inform the general population, so that they are aware of the work of each party in relation to the LGBTI agenda and, in this way, motivate them to vote and/or participate actively within a party.

In these situations, participants in the discussion groups stated that:

“Although political parties have an interest in including LGBTI agendas, they are not fully prepared at the moment for LGTBI movements. It is necessary to make changes in their interiors to be able to generate the change outwards (towards the Honduran society) “.

Honduran gay activist (2016)

“It is necessary that in the moment of gaining rapprochement with the political parties, we can achieve concrete agreements.”

Honduran lesbian activist (2016)

“The votes are the central theme for political parties; what is needed is not to generate political guarantees, because they already exist, but to find parties that commit to follow up on these guarantees created through politics.”

Honduran gay activist (2016)

“LGBT people are not being killed in this country, but they are being marginalized, sidelined. That is why it is important to participate in different decision-making spaces.”

Honduran gay activist (2016)

The limited proximity of Honduran LGBTI movements to political parties is one of the many causes for which, for a long time, there was little normative production in favor of people with different sexual orientations and/or gender identities. Nowadays times have changed, and talking about these issues within political parties is not taboo, as demonstrated in the meetings held to collect information for this report. One hopes that over time the National Congress will legislate to guarantee the full equality of rights of all.

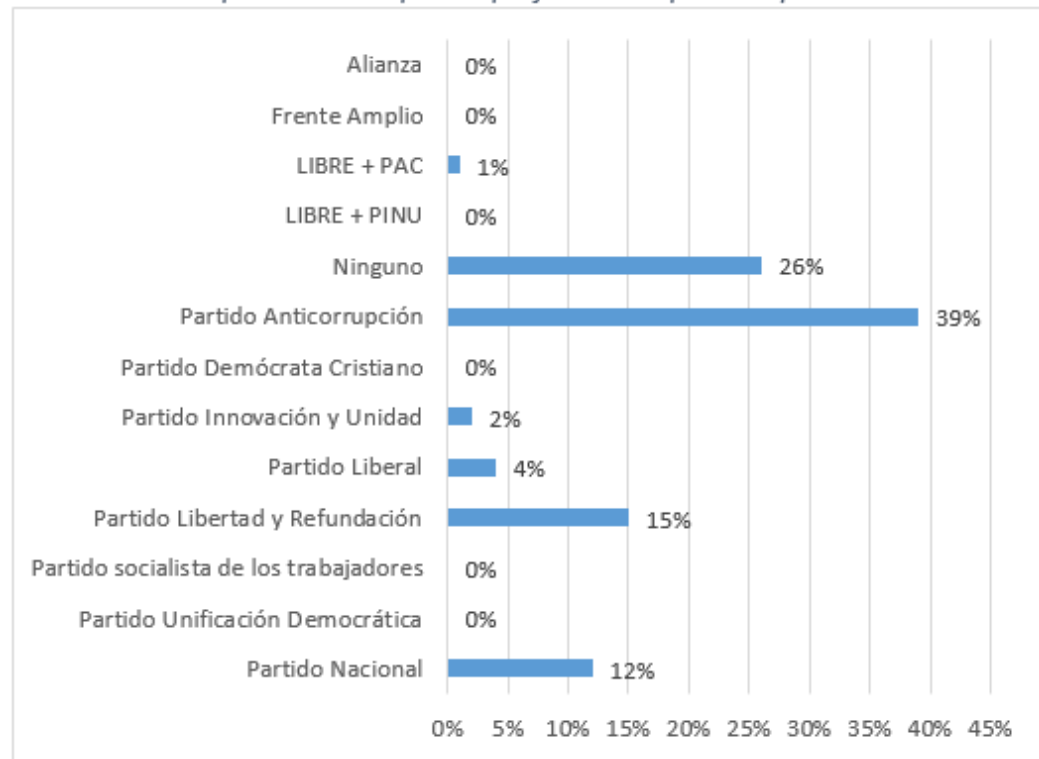
When we asked 748 LGBTI and heterosexual people from different cities in the country about whether they think political parties respond to their agendas, only 19% considered that they do, while 81% said otherwise. The almost 20% that consider the parties responsive to the needs of the LGBTI population can be interpreted as the response to the parties' inclusion process, something that probably 10 years ago would have been impossible to imagine. Every day, the parties recognize the value of LGBTI people, but it is necessary for the parties to continue their process of including people with diverse sexual orientations and diverse gender identities in decision-making spaces.

It should be noted that there is a trend between parties' responses to LGBTI agendas and the interest of LGBTI people in participating in political parties. 43% of respondents said they had no interest in joining a party, while 57% of respondents claimed to be interested in joining a political party eventually.

According to the surveys, when asked if they are interested in participating in a political party ("yes" or "no" answer, without specifying a party), almost 60% of LGBTI respondents felt interested in participating in a party, not necessarily as candidates, but as citizens committed to building a better country. The fact that more than half of the people surveyed are interested in participating in politics means that political opportunity structures are opening up new spaces for LGBTI people to demand their rights, with political parties being one of them.

Based on previous responses, respondents were asked about which political party they would like to participate in. PAC, followed by LIBRE, received the greatest number of responses, as shown below:

Graph 10. Participation preference in political parties⁵



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

It should be noted that the option “none” includes responses such as: another, an inclusive party, a party that supports LGBTI people, a corruption-free party, a new political movement, among others. This demonstrates the lack of confidence that political parties have generated among the LGBTI population, who, despite wanting to participate actively, have not yet found the space to do so.

It should also be mentioned that this response is due to the fact that LGBTI people feel more interested in participating in the parties that most communicate what actions they carry out for the effective guarantee of rights. one would hope that, to the extent that more parties include LGBTI agendas, this population will feel more motivated to **participate in party life and join them in electoral moments.**

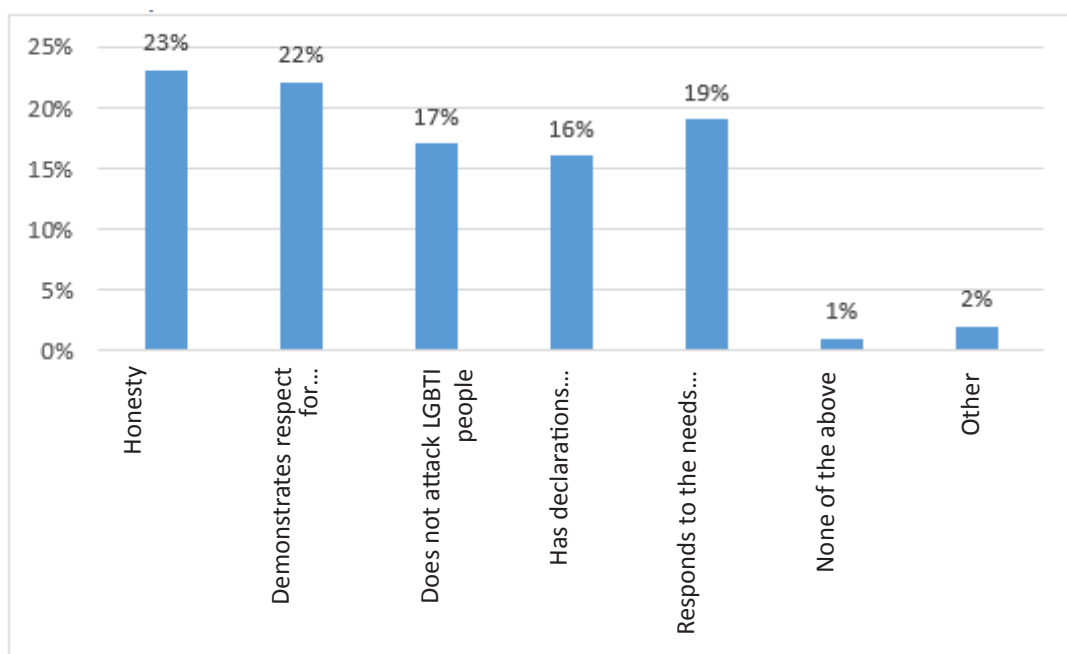
In turn, there are many LGBTI people who are undecided on political issues, who are interested in being part of a partisan organization, but do not know what is offered. Therefore, communication is required, so that the population knows what is being done in defense of equality, and by which parties

As for the characteristics that a candidate must have for LGBTI people to

⁵ The Workers Socialist Party does not exist in Honduras, but one of the people interviewed was interested in being part of a party with such ideology

vote for them, respondents highlight respect for human rights, honesty and responsiveness to the needs of the LGBTI population, as shown in Graph 11.

Graph 11. Characteristics that a candidate must have to win votes



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

According to the answers gathered, respect and honesty are the fundamental pillars that LGBTI people demand from a candidate. It could be said that LGBTI people are willing to support non-LGBTI candidates as long as they guarantee respect for the human rights of all Hondurans.

These recommendations are very important to follow if the political parties wish to have the LGBTI vote. The new leaders, regardless of whether or not they are LGBTI, must propose an honest and transparent policy, and fight for the defense and guarantee of human rights.

In turn, in order for political parties to successfully mobilize LGBTI people who support them, it is necessary for parties to understand what their real problems are, what they need, and in what way.

In order to know what actions should be taken by political parties, the LGBTI activists with whom the discussion group was held presented the actions they consider important, urgent and complementary, as shown in Graph 12.

Graph 12. Important, Urgent and Complementary Actions that LGBTI leaders believe political parties should carry out

ACTIVIST	IMPORTANT	URGENT	COMPLEMENTARY
1	Gender identity law Change internal party policies Lists of three (a way to include diversity within every three positions)	Hate crimes	Anti-discrimination law.
2	Gender identity law	Support the LGBTI agenda within the human rights framework.	Ensure of the participation of LGBTI people. Demilitarization of society.
3	Political party affirmative actions	Strengthening political leadership to make LGTBI people visible within their parties	Internal strengthening within the party's LGBTI secretary structure.
4	Signing commitments. Raising awareness with political parties	Provide assistance for returned migrants.	Change in perception norms of LGBTI people running campaigns.
5	Eradicate violence against LGBT people	Public accompaniment to the LGBTI movement.	

Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

The same question was asked to members of political parties through a series of focus groups and interviews. Responses varied, as can be seen in Graph 13:

Graph 13. Important, Urgent and Complementary Actions that Political Parties believe should be carried out.

Party	Important	Urgent	Complementary
PAC	Support legislation in the implementation of mechanisms to strengthen the approach to LGBTI people and establish responsibility for non-discrimination. Emphasize non-discrimination and human dignity. Open the discussion internally about the importance of this topic; at the same time create opportunities to strengthen LGBTI voices.	Increase penalties and sanctions for acts of violence and discrimination. (Law against hate crimes). Protection of their lives, since in the last years many deaths have occurred due to hate crimes. Sensitize the different groups or sectors of the party on LGBTI issues.	Approach LGBTI organizations and identify the party to with define next actions.
PDCH		Meet with different LGBTI groups to see if they are interested in participating in the party. Create spaces for engagement with the LGBTI population within the party, to learn of their aspirations.	
PINU-SD	Engage with the the LGBTI movement.	Learn more about the LGBTI movement. Recruit members of the LGBTI movement. Achieve 100% equal gender participation. Engage with LGBTI organizations, publish messages from May 17 - May 28 (Commemorative week against homophobia). Buy the gay flag. Trainings for LGBTI members.	Trainings, leadership trainings, rights and workshops. Days dedicated to recruitment. Affirmative action e.g. celebrate diversity.
PL	Recognition of laws and legislation for minority groups in the country, especially in the area of security.	Promote a culture of peace over violence. Know the needs of LGBTI people within the party.	Educate the party and raise awareness on LGBTI issues.
PN	Ensure youth and LGBTI participation. Establish a permanent communication mechanism. Recognition of the LGBTI community with an office or secretary. Learn how the Honduran LGBTI population perceives the party.	Incorporation of LGBTI people into decision-making positions. Identify, at the national level, the LGBTI that will run in the next elections. Incorporation of the LGBTI community's demand for possible policy implementations. Create a strategy as a party.	Creation of spaces that generate positive visibility and LGBTI participation. Protection in response to claims from LGBTI people. Incorporate them into the party authorities. Dissemination of information and data on the LGBTI community.
UD	We want to get closer to the groups because the organizations have misconceptions about the parties. Let LGBTI people know that there is a party that is open. Advertise how to participate, what duties and rights they have (LGBTI people). Train for the party bases and give the necessary support on behalf of UD.	Be aware of LGBTI inclusion and see that there are educational opportunities for people, educate from the grassroots, create transformation within the party.	

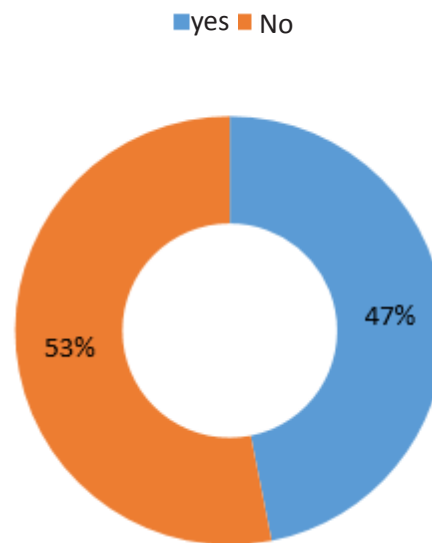
Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

As can be seen in Tables 12 and 13, The LGBTI movement seeks concrete actions of policy advocacy and normative production for the protection of their rights. Political parties, however, believe that first, awareness must be raised within the party, problems for LGBTI people must be identified, and the LGBTI political leaders in their ranks should be identified.

As mentioned above, the Honduran political system, and especially the political parties, are immersed in a process where the first step is to know and identify how these agendas can be appropriated. This represents the strengthening of the internal democracy of political parties who will then be able to carry out greatly impactful advocacy actions.

On the other hand, when asking representatives of different parties about whether their party supports the internal participation of LGBTI people, 16% said no, as shown in Graph 14.

Graph 14. The party supports the internal participation of LGBTI people.



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

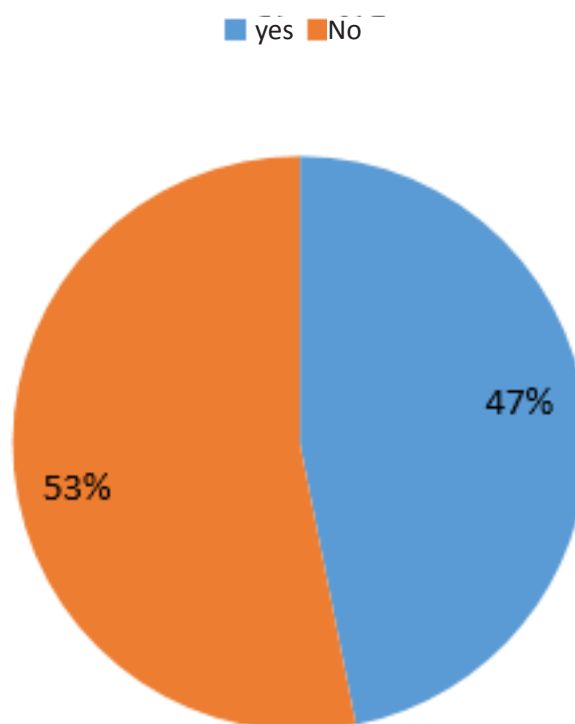
Recognizing that there are still parties that do not support LGBTI agendas is the first step in identifying what barriers exist and what measures can be implemented to overcome them. LGBTI people, because they are part of a historically violated and politically neglected population group, require effective actions that guarantee their full equality. Before this, the parties must gather feedback. In other words, self-evaluate what things have been done, which practices should not be repeated and what new actions can be implemented, to know what aspects should be improved and in what way.

Political parties wishing to effectively include these issues must reflect from within. The how and when of this will depend on the particularities of each

party, but should focus on a self-evaluation exercise where the ideological basis of the party and the vision for the next 5 or 10 years is assessed. With this, they can create an action plan for the inclusion of LGBTI agendas within the party, with clear and concrete goals. The recommendations section will delve deeper into this topic.

To foster inclusion of these issues, political will is necessary within the parties. According to the information collected, 47% of the Honduran political party representatives affirm that there is no interest to address this issue within their party.

Graph 15: Parties' interest in LGBTI issues



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

When interviewing political parties, the fact that 70% said they are interested in supporting these agendas is a breakthrough. The remaining 30% could mean impediments to LGBTI person's enjoyment of political rights: if a person, whether LGBTI or not, perceives that a political party does not respond to their needs, they will distance themselves and probably lose interest in politics.

That is why parties must implement measures to encourage the participation of openly LGBTI people, as they are citizens who represent an important electoral capital and who have shown interest in actively participating in political processes.

Finally, there is great misinformation among the political parties interviewed as to whether their party includes LGBTI persons in their statutes. Of all the answers collected, almost half do not respond correctly, believing to be more interest within the political parties in these issues than actually exists.

Throughout this section, it has been observed that, first and foremost, it is necessary within political parties to reflect on what the real needs of LGBTI people are and what difficulties they face (machismo, lack of access to rights such as health, education, employment, discrimination, tabloid press, etc.), so that they are more inclusive, recognize the importance of diversity and that LGBTI leadership can contribute to the construction of the country.

2.6 Difficulties in the LGBTI Movement

The Honduran LGBTI movement, despite the threats, violence and structural discrimination it has suffered over the years, has found ways to position its agendas through national and international advocacy. Despite this, there are many challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, and their jobs have just begun. At the moment, the lack of a political advocacy strategy has been the Achilles' heel of the movement, as Honduran activists affirmed:

“To be successful in politics, it is always necessary to be trained in this issue since we will be social actors who will be judged and often victimized in order to generate more votes.”

Honduran Trans Activist (2016)

“It is necessary for the LGTBI community to be politicized.”

Honduran gay activist (2016)

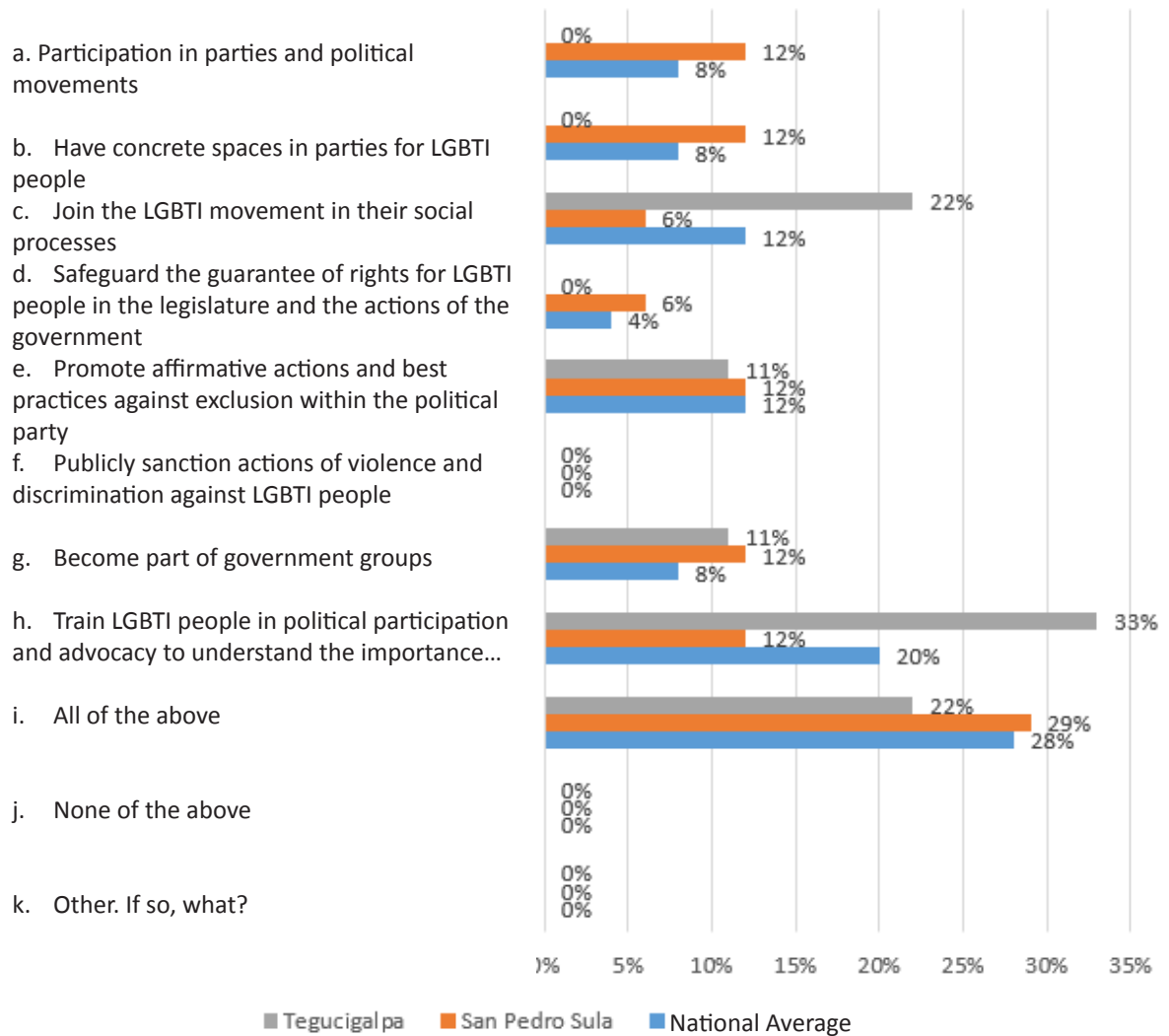
“There is only one point and a single strategy, as of this historical moment, partly due to the political crisis that ended in coup d’état, that as of this to this moment LGTBI people make reference to in the political environment. A difference must be made between partisan and proselytizing politics to generate more effective politics, the LGTBI movement does not have the experience as political party activists.”

Honduran lesbian activist (2016)

Thus, it is understood that the lack of politicization of the LGBTI movement has negatively influenced the normative production and public policies by the State. Although different advocacy work has been done, it is necessary to seek rapprochement with political parties and governmental entities.

When interviewing LGBTI leaders about what actions should be taken to guarantee LGBTI people their political participation, the answers were as follows:

Graph 16: Actions that must be carried out by the LGBTI movement to guarantee their rights



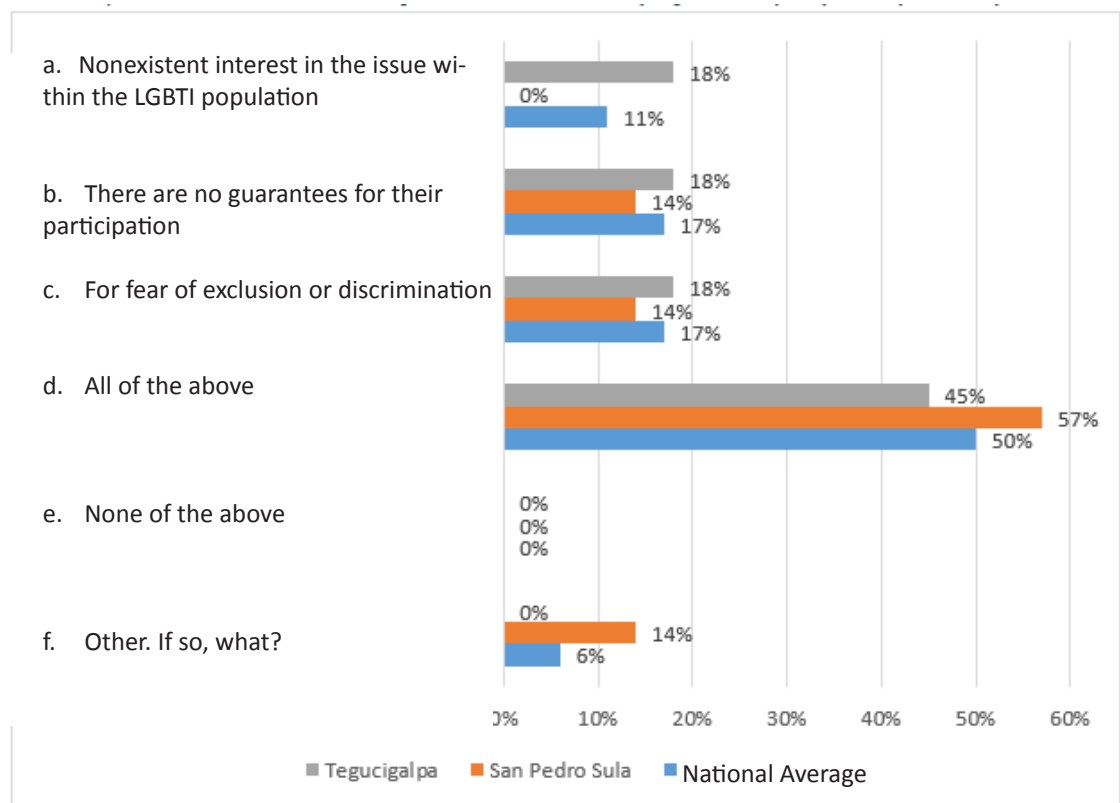
Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

Both in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, it was found that training LGBTI people in these issues is fundamental to guaranteeing the political rights of LGBTI people, and that all proposed actions are necessary.

It should be noted that in Tegucigalpa, one of the actions considered to be of great importance is to support the processes of the LGBTI movement; while in San Pedro Sula, they believe that being part of government groups would have a greater impact. It could be understood that, in the capital, activists prefer to opt for social mobilization, while in San Pedro Sula, there is thought to be more influence from within the government.

On the other hand, when investigating why there is little visibility of LGBTI people in political spaces, the answers found were:

Graph 17: Possible reasons for the low visibility of LGBTI people in public spaces



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

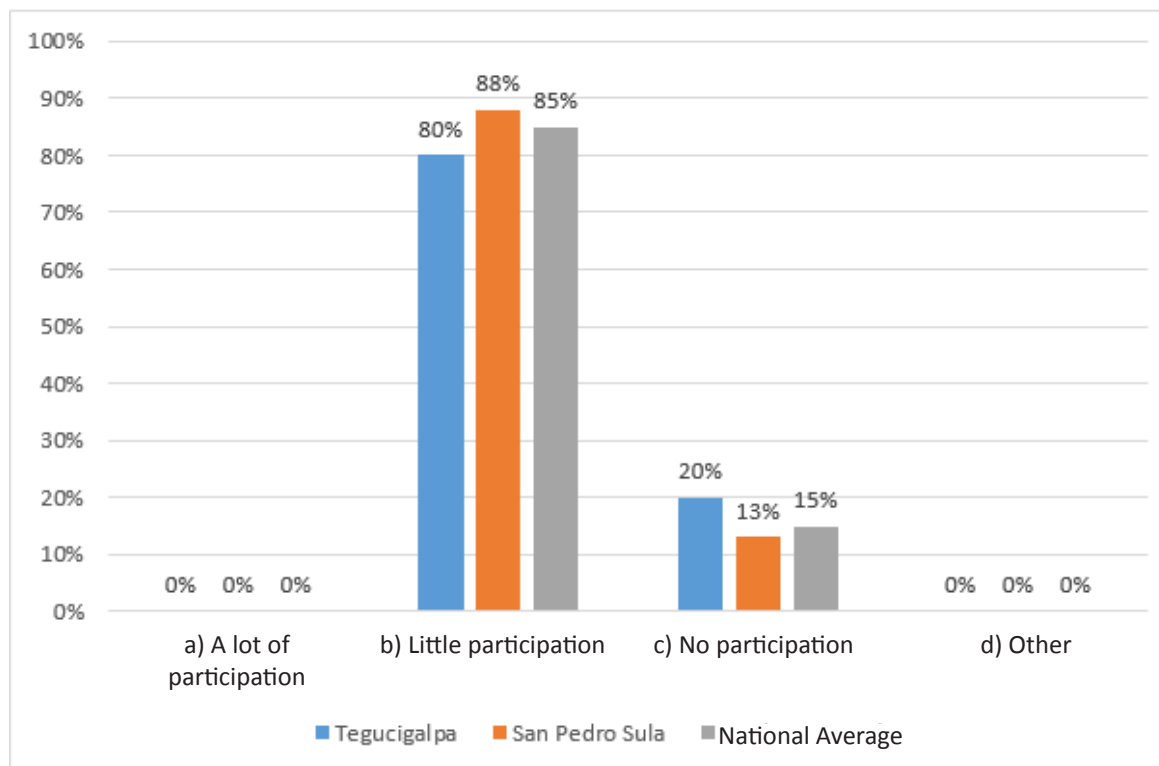
In both cities, the option with the highest response “All of the above”. Thus,

one can infer that LGBTI people have either chosen not to participate or to have a low profile in political spaces, due to the few existing guarantees and fear of being excluded and discriminated against, which results in a loss of interest in participating in these spaces.

The Honduran LGBTI movement has been fantastic in demanding rights from civil society, but for different structural reasons, this has not translated to influence on the State. As a result, they have opted for social mobilization to influence politics. Today, with the demonstrated opening of the political parites, it is possible to initiate a process of advocacy through the parties, without neglecting social mobilization, which is a pillar for the LGBTI movement at the national and international level.

The right to suffrage is fundamental for LGBTI people to count on political leaders aligned with their agendas. When asked about what they think of the participation of LGBTI people in the 2013 elections (participation, in this case, meaning voting rights), on average 85% of the people surveyed thought that participation was low.

Graph 18: Assessment of the participation of LGBTI people in the general elections of 2013 in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

Although the people interviewed in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula considered the electoral participation (related to the political electoral processes: general elections of 2013) of LGBTI people in the last elections for the Honduran National Congress to have been very low, they think that it is possible to improve.

If LGBTI people do not mobilize to vote for candidates more aligned with the equality agenda, there will be few changes made during the term in favor of this population.

It is essential that the Honduran LGBTI movement continues to make a social impact, but also to look for structures of political opportunity that will have a direct impact on the State. Such opportunities include the identification of allies (whether congresspersons, political parties, opinion leaders, etc.), and the strategy-creation for action in the short- and medium-term.

According to the information collected, it can be stated that the main difficulties that the LGBTI movement has, in terms of effective political participation, are the lack of ability to politicize issues affecting LGBTI Hondurans and the lack of active participation in electoral processes.



3. Analysis political parties' actions regarding the LGBTI population

Despite many structural and cultural difficulties, some political parties have begun a process to overcome social stigmas aimed at guaranteeing the fundamental rights of Honduran citizens by recognizing LGBTI people as citizens with full rights.

The defense of human rights must be a pillar of political parties, as encouraging the political participation of historically violated groups generates positive impacts for society as a whole. These actions promote democracy, the right to ideological diversity and result in more people being interested in public and electoral matters.

Political parties must make a social and political commitment to non-discrimination. For this reason, they have established historic best practices that have become milestones in the political life of the country and have served as examples both nationally and internationally.

It is because of the above that the best practices deserve to be recognized, strengthened and improved in such a way that they can generate a positive impact in all of Honduran society. When parties recognize the human rights of the LGBTI people, progress is made.

In order to measure good practices, the following categories were taken into account, which will be explained according to how they are (or are expected to be) carried out in political parties:

- Statutes: In their statutes, Honduran political parties present themselves as inclusive and recognize diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (textually and explicitly) as key aspects to overcome inequality and conflicts in the country. Failing that, they mention the issue of equality or respect for diversity.

- LGBTI structures within political parties: Political parties establish organizations or committees related to issues of sexual diversity as a strategy to guarantee the rights of LGBTI people and to strengthen their internal democracy.

- Congresspersons aligned with LGBTI agendas: Using their position in the National Congress of Honduras, they have promoted and defended the rights

of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, fighting for the construction of a more inclusive country that respects diversity.

- Openly LGBTI candidacies: Political parties have promoted the political participation of LGBTI people in decision-making spaces, giving support to openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, coming from processes of social advocacy and awareness of the problems that LGBTI people face. Their work agendas have not only focused on the issue of sexual diversity, but also on other issues to improve in the country.

- Possible LGBTI candidates in the elections to the National Congress 2017: Although, it has not yet been officially defined who the candidates will be that ran to be part of the National Congress, they have already profiled those who will possibly hold a seat in this governmental body.

- Affirmative actions carried out by the political party: Affirmative actions refer to those immediate actions that, in this case, are carried out by political parties to ensure equality of LGBTI persons in comparison with other population groups. An example of this can be press releases denouncing violence or supporting the LGBTI population in commemorating important dates for the movement.

- Participation in the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean (held in Tegucigalpa): The Meeting of LGBTI Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in October 2015 in Tegucigalpa. This conference, which was attended by more than 300 LGBTI political leaders in the region, was the venue for a dialogue on the challenges and opportunities for political participation of LGBTI people.

- Attended the information gathering meetings for this report: As part of the information gathering strategy for this report, a series of meetings were held with political parties. The political party actively participated in this space, demonstrating its interest to deepen these issues.

From the categories of good practices listed above, you can see which were followed by each of the parties. The information presented in this section was based on the revision of the statutes of political parties, press reviews, dialogue with representatives of political parties and follow-up on the activities carried out by party organizations.

- Freedom and Refoundation Party (LIBRE)

Good Practices	Description
<p><u>Statutes:</u></p>	<p>Article 13. The duties of the members of Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop and promote public and private behavior based on respect, equality and equity of all people, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, age, religious beliefs, culture, political ideologies, social or economic status, <u>sexual orientation and gender identity</u> and all types of disability. <p>Article 79. Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE) is based on full respect for Human Rights, values and promotes the free participation of communities of sexual diversity in the leadership structures of the party and in society.</p> <p>Article 6. The Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE) membership is open to all citizens expressing their willingness to join this organization. Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE) includes citizens belonging to political and social organizations in the sectors of teachers, workers, farmers, indigenous and afro-descendant peoples, youth, artists, <u>sexual diversity populations</u>, women, entrepreneurs, professionals from different disciplines, the social sector of the economy, people with special abilities, adults and older adults, religious, human rights defenders and others organizations and their members to accept the Declaration of Principles , Political Action Plan and these Statutes.</p>

Good Practices	Description
<u>LGBTI Structures:</u>	<p>Article 31. The National Coordination is the executive management body of Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE) that directs and executes the resolutions of the National Assembly and is integrated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat of Sexual Diversity. <p>Article 101. Attributions of the Secretariat of Sexual Diversity: a) Elaborate and execute the strategy to defend the rights of sexual diversity.</p>
<u>Congresspersons aligned with LGBTI agendas:</u>	<p>Congresswoman Beatriz Valle. Advocate for the rights of LGBTI people and a champion for marriage equality. She has repeatedly denounced the acts of corruption that tarnish the opponents of this agenda.</p>
	<p>Erick Martínez Avila. He is considered the first openly LGBTI politician of Honduras. He was a candidate for Congressman in the primaries with the party LIBRE. Journalist and activist, his political career was truncated in the year 2014 with his assassination, leaving his story as inspiration for the new LGBTI political leaders of the country.</p> <p>Erick Vidal Martínez. Considered the second (in primaries) openly gay candidate of Honduras, he decided to run as a candidate after the murder of Erick Martínez Avila. He is an LGBTI activist and Project Coordinator of the Center for Research and Promotion of Human Rights (CIPRODEH).</p>
<u>Open LGBTI candidates:</u>	<p>Arely Victoria Gómez. Trans activist and human rights defender of the LGBTI Honduran population. She became the substitute for Erick Vidal in his candidacy to the National Congress. Victoria is part of the Association for a Better Life (APUVIMEH). She had to seek political asylum abroad after receiving many threats because of her gender identity.</p> <p>Claudia Spellman. Under the motto “Same Rights, Same Opportunities”, this trans woman ran for office during the primaries for the National Congress in the department of Cortes. She had to seek political asylum abroad after receiving many threats because of her gender identity.</p>
	<p>Josué Hernández. Substitute for Claudia Spellman, when she ran during the primaries for the National Congress.</p>

Good Practices	Description
<u>Participation in the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean</u>	The party was part of the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an active participation, reaffirming its commitment to the inclusion of LGBTI agendas and the promotion of norms and policies that guarantee the dignified life of LGBTI people in Honduras.
<u>Attended the information gathering meetings for the present report</u>	The party did attend meetings to gather information and promised to periodically sensitize the different groups or sectors of the party, and promote a strategy from the leadership of the party to approach the LGBTI organizations and leaders of the country.

- **Liberal Party of Honduras (PLH)**

Good Practices	Description
<p>artido Liberal</p> <p>las personas LGBTI en las pasadas elecciones al Congreso Nacional hondureño fue muy baja y que es posible de mejSSStatStat-utes:</p>	<p>Article 49. The Liberal Party of Honduras shall guarantee equal opportunities in the exercise of citizens' rights, for both men and women, without discrimination of any kind.</p>
<u>Participation in the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean</u>	The party was part of the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an active participation, reaffirming its commitment to the inclusion of LGBTI agendas and the promotion of norms and policies that guarantee the dignified life of LGBTI people in Honduras.
<u>Attended the information gathering meetings for the present report:</u>	The party did attend the meetings to gather information and committed to carry out awareness campaigns to the members of their party. In the same way, it will seek to identify the openly LGBTI people in their ranks.

- **Anti-Corruption Party of Honduras**

Good Practices	Description
<u>Statutes:</u>	Article 9. Equal Opportunities. The Anti-Corruption Party will be subject to regulations that guarantee participatory democracy, the exercise of civil rights for both men and women, and non-discrimination based on gender, creed, race, religion and any other form of discrimination that is prohibited in articles 103, 104 and 105 of the Electoral Law and Political Organizations.
<u>Attended the information gathering meetings for the present report:</u>	The party wants to take action to legislate in favor of LGBTI people and commit to non-discrimination. Strategies will also be sought to sensitize party members.
<u>Participation in the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean</u>	The party was part of the Meeting of LGBTI Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, had an active participation and reaffirmed its commitment to the inclusion of LGBTI agendas and the promotion of norms and policies that guarantee the dignified life of the LGBTI people in Honduras.

- **Christian Democrat Party of Honduras (PDCH)**

Good Practices	Description
<u>artido Liberal las personas LGBTI en las pasadas elecciones al Congreso Nacional hondureño fue muy baja y que es posible de mejStatuStatues:</u>	ARTICLE 6 The fundamental objective of the Christian Democratic Party is to seize power to build a just, participative, supportive, communitarian, personal, equitable and peaceful society, which is conceived as a necessary and perfectible superior form, in the formation of which it must prevail the highest level of ethical and humanistic content.
<u>Attended the information gathering meetings for the present report:</u>	It will initiate an approach with the LGBTI people so that they begin to know the party, and so the party can better understand the political aspirations of the LGBTI people who are already linked to the party.

- Democratic Unification Party (UD)

Good Practices	Description
<p>artido Liberal las personas LGBTI en las pasadas elecciones al Congreso Nacional hondureño fue muy baja y que es posible de mejStStatues:</p>	<p>Article 7.- UD is a permanent political organization, constituted by citizens committed to the political practice of certain principles such as Equality of Rights and Opportunities, etc.</p>
<p><u>Attended the information gathering meetings for the present report:</u></p>	<p>The party committed to continue its struggle for non-discrimination and equality of men and women alike.</p>
<p><u>Participation in the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean</u></p>	<p>The party was part of the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an active participation, reaffirming its commitment to the inclusion of LGBTI agendas and the promotion of norms and policies that guarantee the dignified life of LGBTI people in Honduras.</p>

- National Party of Honduras (PNH)

Good Practices	Description
<u>Statutes:</u>	<p>Article 12.- In addition, the objectives of the National Party of Honduras are:</p> <p>- Maintain full and permanent democratization, with transparency and honesty in all internal Party elections, guaranteeing equality of opportunity, non-discrimination and equitable distribution in popular election positions.</p>
<u>Possible LGBTI candidates in the elections of 2017:</u>	<p>René Martínez. LGBTI Honduran political leader, defender of the rights of LGBTI people and president of the Gay Sampedrana Community. He was part of the political training process of SOMOS CDC, Caribe Afirmativo and Victory Institute, and was electoral observer in the Dominican Republic with the National Democratic Institute. This helped him prepare for his candidacy with the party, in which he was a recognized as a stable member and activist. (National Party). He was tortured and murdered in June 2016.</p> <p>Miguel Caballero Leiva. Entertainment journalist, presenter and TV producer. In May 2016, he made his interest public in being a candidate as Congressman for the National Party. His political objective is to defend the rights of the LGBTI population and of all and all Hondurans. Later Miguel terminated his participation in the elections.</p>
<u>Affirmative Actions:</u>	<p>After the assassination of the political activist René Martínez, the Secretary General of the party held a march, which was accompanied by several LGBTI organizations, and a vigil to demand the investigation of this crime.</p>
<u>Participation in the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean</u>	<p>The party was part of the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an active participation, reaffirming its commitment to the inclusion of LGBTI agendas and the promotion of norms and policies that guarantee the dignified life of LGBTI people in Honduras.</p>
<u>Attended the information gathering meetings for the present report:</u>	<p>The party emphasized the need to create spaces of visibility for LGBTI people, while seeking the creation of permanent communication mechanisms.</p>

- Innovation and Democrat Social Unity Party (PINSU-SD)

Good Practices	Description
<p><u>Statues:</u> <u>artido Liberal</u> <u>las personas LGBTI en las pasadas elecciones al Congreso Nacional hondureño fue muy baja y que es posible de mejSS</u></p>	<p>Article 7. The Innovation and Unity Party, strives for the common good of the Honduran family, making the national dialogue an instrument of harmonious coexistence with which it will be possible to strengthen institutionalism and achieve internal and world peace. The Party directs its effort towards the construction of a New Honduras where respect for human rights prevails; Freedom, Equality, Solidarity and Social Justice.</p>
<p><u>Deputies close to LGBTI agendas:</u></p>	<p>Deputy Doris Gutiérrez has been characterized not only as a defender of the rights of LGBTI people, but has also denounce the different myths that have been woven around these agendas.</p>
<p><u>Possible LGBTI candidates in the elections of 2017</u></p>	<p>Rihanna Ferrera. Activist, leader, promoter and defender of human rights, for equality and inclusion of all minorities in Honduras, is a possible candidate for the 2017 elections. She was one of the founders of the Cozumel Trans Association.</p>
<p><u>Affirmative Actions:</u></p>	<p>Purchases and raises the flag of sexual diversity and commemorates important dates for the LGBTI movement.</p>
<p><u>Participation in the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean:</u></p>	<p>The party was part of the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an active participation, reaffirming its commitment to the inclusion of LGBTI agendas and the promotion of norms and policies that guarantee the dignified life of LGBTI people in Honduras.</p>
<p><u>Attended the information gathering meetings for the present report:</u></p>	<p>The party is interested in learning the history of the LGBTI movement and actively participating in the commemoration of special dates, in order to celebrate diversity.</p>

- Honduran Patriotic Alliance (La Alianza)

Good Practices	Description
<u>Statutes:</u>	Declaration of principles: In Alianza, equality and gender equality prevails, recognizing individual and collective work, respecting the legal precepts that the State grants.
<u>Affirmative Actions:</u>	They have requested meetings with LGBTI activists to find out how this population should be included.

- Broad Political Electoral Front in Resistance (FAPER)

Good Practices	Description
<u>Statutes:</u>	Ideological principles: 11) Our style of political work is based on solid values such as: honesty, transparency, solidarity, commitment, participation, collectivism, teamwork, equality, justice, respect for the human person, human rights.

Through this analysis of good practices of inclusion of people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in Honduras, it is observed that some political parties have taken actions in favor of the LGBTI population in the country, and that they are committed to carry out these actions to guarantee their rights.

When comparing political parties and how much have they included the LGBTI agendas, it is observed that the party that takes advantage of these issues is LIBRE, a pioneer in the inclusion of sexual diversity agendas in Honduras and the only one to include LGBTI people in their statutes.

On the other hand, almost all parties, with the exception of La Alianza, FAPER and PDCH, attended the Meeting of Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, demonstrating their interest in deepening their understanding of these issues.

As for the parties with openly LGBTI candidates, LIBRE, PINU-SD and the National Party are the ones that have had LGBTI people present their candidacies in general elections.

It is necessary that the parties carry out actions that promote the political participation of LGBTI people and the actions that have been carried out, in such a way that the full enjoyment of the rights of LGBTI people is a reality in the country. This must be based on respect, knowledge and acceptance of differences.

Likewise, parties must continue to engage in dialogue with LGBTI activists to know how the actions that are planned for the medium and short term should be implemented. Only through dialogue and feedback will the expected impact be optimal.

This dialogue should involve real commitments (both by political parties and by the LGBTI movement) and should seek to generate strategies for greater political participation of this population.

4. Political reality for LGBTI persons in Honduras: General context

By 2016, the challenges of political participation of LGBTI people are many, but it is a fact that many advances have been made in this area. Possibly 10 years ago it was not possible to imagine that political parties were thinking about how best to encourage the participation of LGBTI people.

Reforms to the Electoral Law and Political Organizations (2012) bring the opportunity for LGBTI people to demand greater inclusion and respect from political parties; and thereby, from those who hold public office. Article 2 of this Law refers to the principles to be followed by the electoral system, of which the following can be highlighted: principle two (2) of Universality, six, (6) Equality and thirteen (13) Equity. These principles must be transversal and explicit throughout the entire Honduran electoral system, allowing LGBTI persons to have full rights to them.

In turn, article 72 of the Law refers to prohibitions that concern parties, internal movements and alliances. This section states the following:

(Political parties are prohibited):

4. *To resort to violence or any act that has the purpose of disrupting public order, disrupting the enjoyment of guarantees or impeding the regular functioning of public institutions.*

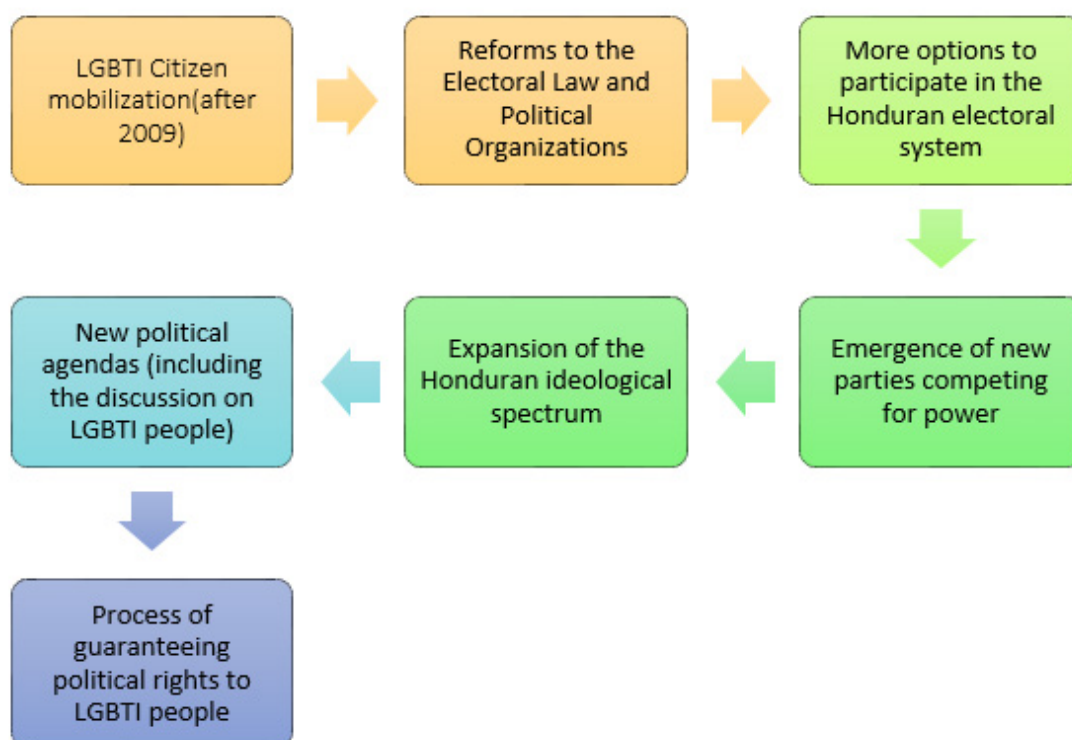
5. *Use any expression that denigrates citizens, public institutions or other political parties and their candidates.*

This can be used by LGBTI people to demand their political and social rights, denouncing any type of aggression by any political party or members of a party.

This law opened new political parties within the electoral system. These new options had a greater possibility to come to power thanks to the reforms carried out, which led to the expansion of the political and ideological spectrum. This led to some parties adopting more progressive positions than others, which influenced more parties to adapt to the current reality of the country. Appealing to the precepts of elasticity among parties, these parties began to consider new goals in the inclusion of LGBTI people (among other issues),

such as recognizing their leadership and capacity to obtain votes. For a simpler understanding of the above, this is diagrammed in the following graph.

Graph 19: Adaptation of Honduran political parties to new challenges.



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo, based on field study (2016)

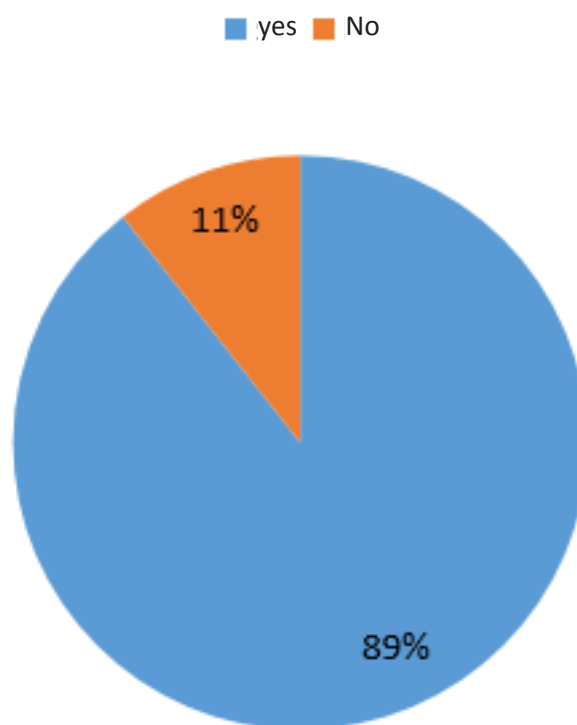
The inclusion of LGBTI agendas in the parties and the promotion of political participation of this population group is immersed in a process that, although it has advanced a lot in a short time, still does not reach an optimum level. There are many challenges, and a socio-cultural transformation requires time and will, both by political organizations and by the LGBTI population.

This Act opens a door that should be taken advantage of by people who want equality by promoting respect as a fundamental aspect in the life of political parties.

According to the survey conducted at the national level, LGBTI people are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of political participation and are empowering themselves to be able to influence and transform. When asked if they voted in the National Congress (2013) elections, 71% said they voted,

while 29% said they had not voted; when asked if they will vote in the 2017 elections, the figures change, as shown below.

Graph 20: LGBTI people's voting intentions for the 2017 elections.



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

This data shows that more and more LGBTI people are interested in participating in the elections. 18% of people who, in the previous elections, did not vote, are preparing to do so in 2017, which means we are expecting a 71% increase in LGBTI electoral participation (this figure being understood as the sum of the LGBTI people who voted in the previous elections and those who affirm that they voted).

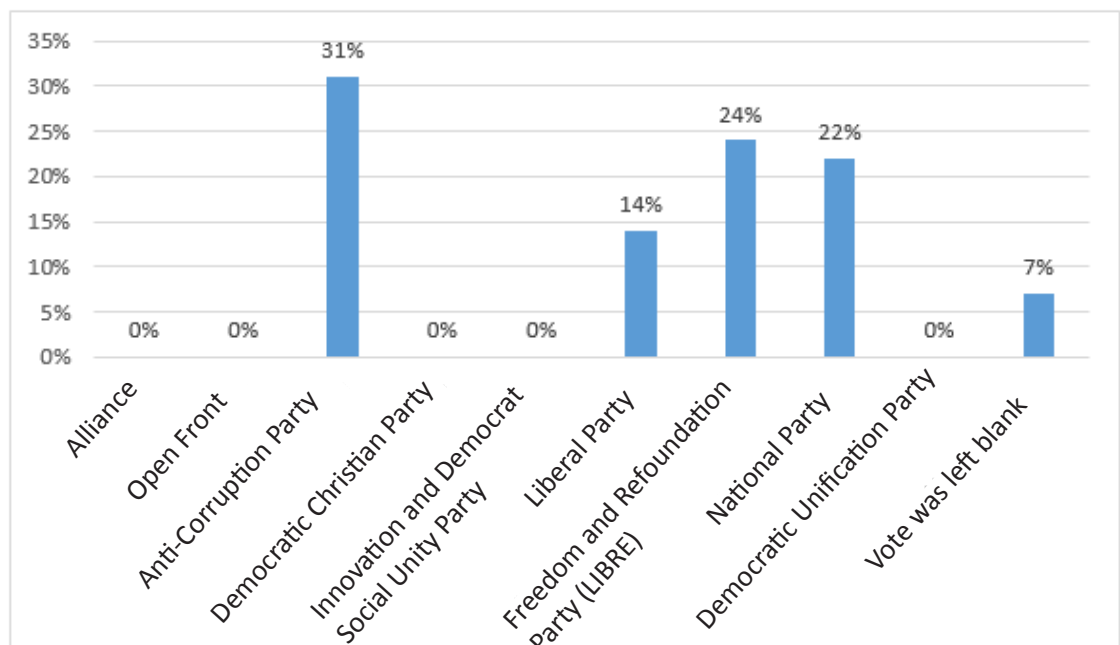
If this exercise was carried out for elections of previous years, it is possible that the number of LGBTI people who did not vote would be less and less. This would predict that there is (or could be) a tendency for the electoral participation of this population to increase exponentially as a result of the changes and transformations that the Honduran State has had.

“To generate change in politics we must be insistent, as we have been and not give up. I think this is reflected in the fact that more and more people are interested in politics.”

Honduran lesbian activist (2016)

When asking people about which party they voted for in the 2013 election, the results were:

Graph 21. Political party voted for in the 2013 general elections.



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016)

According to Graph 20, there is a possible preference of LGBTI citizens to support the Anti-Corruption Party (31%), the Freedom and Refoundation Party (LIBRE) (24%) and the National Party (22%),

These preferences on the part of the LGBTI population could be due to the fact that the Anti-Corruption Party and the LIBRE Party have been characterized as open to different sexual orientations, and have a discourse very aligned

with the youth. Likewise, the traditional parties (Liberal Party and National Party) have an important reception among LGBTI people due to their roots in Honduran society and the fact that they proclaim to defend human rights.

For the general elections of 2013, the parties with the most votes overall were the National Party with 36.8% of the votes, LIBRE with 28.7%, Liberal with 20.30% and PAC with 13.4%. (Electoral Observation Mission of the European Union, 2013).

Noting that the party most supported by the LGBTI population is the party with the third highest national vote (PAC), the second party with the highest LGBTI vote is the LIBRE, which is also the second most voted at the national level, and the most voted party in Honduras (National Party) in the 2013 elections is the third most voted by this population group.

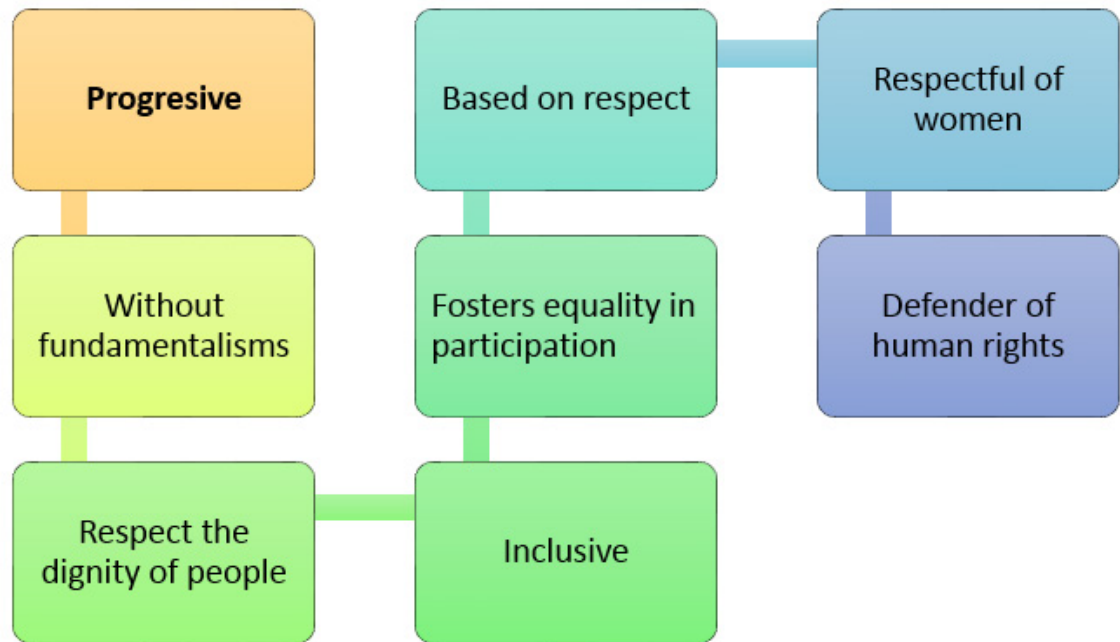
The inclusion and acceptance of political parties in society by specific population groups is a result of processes: parties showing their progress and commitments to inclusion leads to increasingly greater acceptance of political parties, which must adapt to changes and social demands to maintain effectiveness.

At the moment, Honduras is going through a time of great relevance in the matter of inclusion, since the partisan organizations are recognizing the importance of LGBTI leadership. In addition, LGBTI people now understand the importance of working hand in hand with the political parties to achieve an inclusive State and respect for diversity.

Many LGBTI people, including activist leaders, consider that there are few similarities between their personal ideals and the ideals of political parties. They also state that although they would like to be part of a political party, they do not identify with any, as seen in graphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

To expand on this, Honduran LGBTI leaders were asked which characteristics should an ideal political party have. The responses were:

Graph 22. Ideological ideals that political parties must have (according to LGBTI people)



Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo, based on field study (2016).

It can be seen that the demands of LGBTI people towards political parties are basically focused on the demand for Human Rights. They look for parties to continue strengthening themselves in matters of respect and inclusion.

Likewise, it is advisable to carry out short-term and medium-term planning on how to implement non-discrimination and human rights guarantee commitments to promote greater participation of LGBTI people in their ranks. This planning must be based on actions that can be carried out by the party and must go according to the ideological and programmatic precepts that it defends.

In addition, when inquiring about whether LGBTI people would vote for LGBTI candidates, more than 90% of respondents said they would support the candidacy of a lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex person. This suggests that political parties should take full advantage of the interest of LGBTI people in the participation in politics that has emerged thanks to the new political opportunities that have occurred in recent years.

As has been said repeatedly, LGBTI people are an electoral potential that parties should consider. Their new leadership attracts the attention of the population, but it is necessary that there are professional LGBTI people who wish to run for public office. In other words, this means that candidates must prepare academically for their political work.

The professionalization of politics must start from the parties, which should include workshops focused on different issues, including sexual diversity.

While equality for LGBTI people will possibly be one of the themes that these candidates include in their platforms, they should also be aware of other is-

sues such as the fight against corruption, the reduction of social violence, the environment, etc., to give answers to the entire population, both LGBTI and general, that they would be representing.

To get a closer look at the current perceptions that LGBTI people have of Honduran political parties, workshops were held with leaders of this population where the following results were found:

Graph 23. LGBTI people's perception of political parties

Political Party	LGBTI Perception of party members
La Alianza	Emerging party. They don't make their actions visible. It's a party with opportunity. It is possible to make alliances with LGBTI people.
FAPER	No comments were made about the party.
LIBRE	It has lost strength with the LGBTI topic. Little credibility with LGBTI people. It mentions LGBTI persons in its statutes.
PAC	Conservative leadership. It has been proposed to include an LGBTI secretariat in the next internal elections. There are LGBTI candidates at the departmental level.
PDCH	No comments were made about the party.
PINU- SD	There is no generational change. Political opportunities at all levels. Emergent. Seeks the participation of LGBTI people at the departmental level on ballots.
PL	LGBTI issues are not on their agenda. Opportunity in the municipality of Villanueva for LGBTI people, within their template. There is a willingness to include LGBTI persons on ballots.
PN	Conservative leadership. Opportunity for and inclusion of the LGBTI population. They were included in the ballots by the party council and the ground level.
UD	Conflict in the base of party on LGBTI issues. There is a history of inclusion of LGBTI people in candidacies.

Graph 22 affirms that although LGBTI people still consider that they have barriers when participating in political parties, they are amidst an opening process to guarantee the enjoyment of political rights for people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

In the last six years, there have been great strides on the subject of political participation for LGBTI people. This not only benefits political parties, but generates positive impacts in society. Many parties have transformed the prejudices they had against LGBTI people, demonstrating that they can be involved the construction of a better country, in the fight against corruption and overcoming violence.

5. Honduras and Central America: Current state of the political participation of LGBTI people

In order to get closer to understanding the truth about political participation of LGBTI people in relation to the advances, setbacks, challenges and opportunities that are taking place in the region, it is necessary to compare some key aspects of Honduras with four other Latin American countries.

Each of the countries studied in this section (El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras) have their own realities, but many of them share very similar social and political ones. An example of this is the perception of satisfaction in relation to the functionality of democracy:

Graph 24. Satisfaction with the functionality of democracy

	Country of study					
	Total	Costa Rica	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua
Very satisfied	12,5%	18,7%	6,4%	7,2%	13,8%	16,6%
Rather satisfied	24,3%	27,1%	22,5%	20,0%	20,0%	31,7%
Not very satisfied	34,4%	34,2%	38,1%	41,0%	27,4%	31,2%
Not at all satisfied	20,7%	17,3%	27,2%	20,1%	28,9%	10,2%
No response	0,7%	-	0,8%	0,7%	0,9%	1,2%
Do not know	7,4%	2,7%	4,9%	11,0%	9,0%	9,2%
(N)	(5.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)

Source: Latinobarometro (2015)

According to the information provided by the Latinobarometro (2015), when asking people from each country “would you say that you are very satisfied, rather satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the functionality of democracy in your country?” it was found that, on average, more than 50%

of the respondents from these countries said they were not very satisfied or not at all satisfied. This can also be understood as a lack of trust in the political system which triggers phenomena such as abstention and few measures of political control.

Following up, when asked about confidence in the political parties in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, there proves to be very little, as can be seen in Graph 25.

Graph 25. Confidence in political parties

	Total	Country of study				
		Costa Rica	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua
A lot	5,3%	2,9%	3,6%	6,0%	5,6%	8,6%
Some	12,4%	13,2%	9,8%	11,5%	12,5%	15,3%
Little	31,8%	29,7%	31,4%	35,0%	28,1%	35,0%
None	47,6%	52,7%	52,5%	44,0%	51,7%	37,2%
No response	0,4%	0,3%	0,6%	0,1%	0,6%	0,3%
Do not know	2,4%	1,2%	2,1%	3,5%	1,6%	3,6%
(N)	(5.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)	(1.000)

Source: Latinobarometro (2015)

According to this data, 79.4% of respondents have little or no confidence in political parties, while 12% say they have “some” confidence and 5% have “a lot” of confidence in them.

Satisfaction with democracy and trust in political parties must be understood as dependent variables that affect each other. Political parties develop the electoral sphere of politics, and if there is little trust in these organizations, there will be little confidence in governments (which are often comprised of people from political parties).

When assessing the work being done by political parties in these countries, the balances are not more encouraging according to the same survey. When asked “how do you evaluate the work being done by political parties?” the responses are shown in Graph 26.

Graph 26. Perception of work done by political parties

	Country of study					
	Total	Costa Rica	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua
Very good	3,20%	1,20%	3,20%	3,70%	3,60%	4,30%
Good	30,20%	23,30%	28,30%	29,00%	31,90%	38,40%
Bad	37,50%	44,70%	44,30%	32,40%	34,70%	31,30%
Very bad	15,90%	20,50%	15,40%	16,10%	17,40%	10,20%
No response	0,90%	0,50%	1,00%	0,70%	0,90%	1,60%
Do not know enough	12,30%	9,80%	7,80%	18,10%	11,50%	14,10%
(N)	-5.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000

Source: Latinobarometro (2015)

According to the chart above, on average, more than half of the citizens of these 5 countries consider the work done by political parties as bad and very bad, and more than 12% consider that they do not have sufficient information to answer this question. Only 33% have a very good or good perception of the work done by political parties.

The political parties of the Central American region should take this as a call to communicate their different activities more effectively to citizens and not forget their social commitment.

In addition, according to the Democracy Index of The Economist Intelligence Unit (2015), which is responsible for measuring levels of democracy worldwide according to variables such as electoral processes and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture and civil liberties, the Central American countries studied occupy the following positions:

Graph 27. Democracy Ranking Levels

Country	Position
Costa Rica	23
El Salvador	61
Guatemala	80
Honduras	84
Nicaragua	95

Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit. (2015)

Based on this information, it is observed that the levels of democracy in each country are very different. In the case of Costa Rica, it is the second most democratic country in Latin America (according to the study variables mentioned above), surpassed only by Uruguay.

This study categorizes democracies as full, incomplete (defective), authoritarian, or hybrid regimes. Of the Central American countries studied, Costa Rica and El Salvador are considered as incomplete democracies, while the other three countries (Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) are within the range of so-called authoritarian democracies.

This shows that efforts must continue to be made to strengthen Latin American democracies. The inclusion of LGBTI people in political (not just electoral) processes and the promotion of sexual diversity agendas can be an important step towards this.

Thanks to the LGBTI political leadership workshops held in 2016, this information was collected based on the testimonies of LGBTI leaders and political leaders from different Central American countries. They observed that, in the context of the Central American region, the question of participation of underrepresented groups, particularly of LGBTI people, has opened up a stage for reflection and transformation proposals for political parties. For example, Costa Rica, with an interparty agenda, was able to advance in State public policy for LGBTI people.

After decriminalizing sodomy in 2000, groups have been able to advance in significant organizational processes, such as those of the Sandinista Renovation Movement, which has an internal network of LGBTI leaders working within the party to respond to the lines of work with an LGBTI vision and contribute to political leaderships training.

In El Salvador, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), as a political party in power, has materialized a commitment that had already been assumed in its internal processes: to have spaces of protection and guarantees for the participation of LGBTI people in all social strata.

In Guatemala, the recent struggles against corruption in government, among other political movements, have been championed by prominent LGBTI leaders, who continue today to promote social pacts for transparency. In Panama, LGBTI leaders influence their political parties to assume statutory and programmatic commitments with their agendas.

For practical purposes, and for the similarity in social uses, political structures, history, and these countries' contributions to the debate on sexual and gender diversity, a comparative analysis was made with El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

The information presented is based on the perceptions of LGBTI leaders who aim to run for elected office in the short or medium term, and are preparing for the Central American political leadership trainings conducted by Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute, Caribe Afirmativo, SOMOS CDC and NDI.

Although these contributions do not encompass all political parties in the region and respond to the opinion of LGBTI people, these perceptions are the result of focus group discussions on the political reality of each country, which in this case is more relevant than to examining how things ought to be, since what is sought is to create reflections on the reality of each political context.

Graph 28. Inclusive Political Parties of Central America⁶

	El Salvador			Costa Rica		Honduras						Guatemala	Nicaragua		
	PCN	FMLN	GANA	Acción Ciudadana	Frente Amplio	LIBRE	National	Liberal	PINU	PAC	Alianza Patriótica	UD	Winaq	FSLN	MRS
Openly LGBTI candidacies (Have had or expect to have them)	X	X				X	X		X	X		X			
Inclusive Statutes		X			X	X									
Internal structures on sexual diversity		X	X				X			X				X	X
LGBTI Activism		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X	X
Meetings and networks that promote sexual diversity		X												X	X
Party Openness		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X

Source: Investigation team Caribe Afirmativo (2016).

This indicates that the situation in the region is very similar, since, in all cases studied, there are parties that explicitly support LGBTI people and agendas, and others who are initiating this process. When reading the cases presented, you can find similarities such as:

1. The opposition parties are usually the most open to the inclusion of LGBTI agendas, recognizing the electoral value of this population.
2. The parties that could make alliances are easily identifiable.
3. Left-wing and center-left parties are often the most open to inclusion of sexual diversity

⁶ Explanatory Table annexed.

issues but now is an opportune moment for right and center-right parties.

4. Political parties throughout the region have opted to initiate a process supporting openly LGBTI candidates.
5. The inclusion of new leadership is necessary for the openness of political parties to LGBTI issues.
6. Political parties in the region cannot be content with solely including issues of sexual diversity in their statutes; it is necessary to work towards the materialization of the real inclusion of all.
7. Political parties should strive to make more people aware of the actions taken to promote the human rights of historically vulnerable population groups such as LGBTI people.

The table above shows the similarities between the processes in the region and Honduras. Right now, Central America is in a moment of openness towards LGBTI agendas, where every day the parties show more and more interest in the inclusion of these agendas. We must continue to work for the real and effective inclusion of this population group.

The inclusion of LGBTI candidates, the creation of structures that promote discussions on sexual diversity within the party, and the recognition of LGBTI activists, participating and generating networks around these issues, and the fact that the parties are considered to be open to LGBTI concerns demonstrate that the region is moving towards inclusion.

However, it requires constant pedagogical work within the party and toward civil society, since the defense and protection of the everyone's rights must prevail above all. The parties, as a training space for future leaders of the country, should become a breeding ground for respect and foster the well-being of all inhabitants of the Honduran territory, guaranteeing their full citizenship no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity.



6. Recommendations

To conclude this report, the following are some recommendations to promote the political participation of LGBTI people. They are addressed to the Honduran State, political parties, the LGBTI movement and civil society.

Some of these recommendations have been carried out in other contexts and their implementation has resulted in the materialization of public policies and norms that guarantee the respect, well-being and participation of the LGBTI population.

These recommendations are based on the findings found throughout this report, and it is hoped that these will provide greater guarantees for the full exercise of LGBTI citizenship in Honduras, respect for differences and that lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people can be present in decision-making spaces both within political parties and the State.

6.1 Recommendations for the State

- 1.** Train public officials on issues of sexual diversity and gender identity. This means that the State must designate resources for its employees to gain thorough knowledge, by the hand of experts, about these issues (what LGBTI stands for, how transgender people should be referred to, the importance of this population in society). The objective of these trainings should be to overcome prejudice and to include LGBTI people in the state apparatus.
- 2.** Ensure protection and full enjoyment of political rights for LGBTI persons. They should be able to participate socially and politically without hiding their sexual orientation or gender identity, knowing that the State will prevent them from being victims of physical violence, verbal abuse, scorn, mockery or any kind of discrimination.
- 3.** Call attention to and socialize information about mechanisms of participation and their importance among LGBTI people. One of the findings of the field study was the lack of awareness among LGBTI people about the mechanisms of participation. Many of the people interviewed said they did not know about these mechanisms or their importance. If the Honduran state wishes to strengthen the political participation of groups that have been historically underrepresented, it has to inform people about how one can participate and what the real impact can be.

4. Publicize the actions being taken to guarantee the rights of LGBTI people through State channels, media, meetings with the LGBTI population, accountability, and public events.
5. Carry out public policies focused on the problems of the LGBTI population of Honduras. These public policies must be the exhaustive result of a process of problem identification, solution formulation, action implementation, policy implementation, and periodic evaluations.
6. Allocate public resources to citizen training and sensitization on sexual diversity and gender identity issues, campaigns against non-discrimination and respect for all. These trainings should be carried out by experts on these issues and engage LGBTI leadership to actively participate in training development.

6.2 Recommendations for political parties

1. Sensitize and carry out pedagogical sessions inside the political party on issues of sexual diversity and gender identity. Create workshops or training courses among party activists on these issues (incorporating the LGBTI theme within their leadership training courses). For this, it is necessary to allocate resources for the training for party activists and the public officials of the party.
2. Transform the language: political parties should leave aside discourses that encourage hatred or disrespect of different population groups such as LGBTI people. They must identify which words are discriminatory or disrespectful to eradicate them and promote the creation of a more inclusive language among its affiliates. Eradicating hate speech within the party can bring about a transformation in culture.
3. Start a direct dialogue with LGBTI activists in the party to know their needs and problems and jointly build actions to transform reality. For this the party does not only have to allocate resources; physical spaces and political will are also needed to carry out these dialogues.
4. Similarly, it is necessary to propose the creation of an action plan in the short and medium term where clear goals are defined (e.g. 20% LGBTI national candidates for the 2021 elections), concrete actions to materialize them (e.g. include LGBTI persons in the statutes, promote LGBTI agendas in decision-making spaces, create internal LGBTI structures).
5. Define responsible individuals and party structures that will be in charge of

the initiatives above (youth secretariat, human rights secretariat, etc.), define dates for evaluations of how the actions are progressing (e.g. every 6 months, every year) and, if necessary, make changes.

6. When the timeline for the Action Plan is concluded, an evaluation must be made to see if the established goals were accomplished and to define strategies to continue working towards full equality.

7. Create structures within the institutional organization flowchart that exclusively address issues related to the LGBTI population; the strengthening of internal democracy must be the pillar of all political parties. The creation of incentives for historically vulnerable and underrepresented population groups guarantees greater diversity in their ranks and, as a result, the party becomes more inclusive. These structures (whether secretariat, faction, etc.) can give visibility to LGBTI activists and the actions they perform, and will also encourage more people with diverse sexual orientations to be motivated to join the party by recognizing it as a guarantor of rights.

8. Promote and support the candidacies of openly LGBTI people. This promotion must transcend the delivery of the endorsement; the party must accompany the processes, denounce threats and discriminatory acts, train its LGBTI candidates, fund the campaign (according to what the law provides), guarantee publicity spaces and, most importantly, give equal treatment to all candidates regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

9. Promote legislation that responds to the needs of the LGBTI population.

6.3 Recommendations for the LGBTI movement

1. Professionalization of politics - in other words, academically prepare to work from and with the State. It is necessary to know about the position, its limitations and possibilities at the moment one aspires to run for office or obtain a position within the party. When candidates are experts on public issues, there will be greater contributions to political debates and the construction of a better society.
2. Have priorities when demanding rights, and if possible, have a basic common agenda of exigency to the State and political parties. This requires doing research and having dialogues with LGBTI activists from different regions of the country. When demanding rights, it is necessary to clearly recognize what the main needs are and their origins and possible solutions. In public policy, this is known as the formulation of the problem, which requires critically identifying a problem and beginning to pose solutions.

3. Show political parties the electoral potential that the LGBTI movement possesses. This is demonstrated at the polls and through social demonstrations. LGBTI people as unique leaders, characterized by their creativity when carrying out political campaigns with small budgets, have to prove that they can be electorally successful. Supporting candidacies and parties committed to their agendas (of sexual diversity and gender identity) is fundamental to begin changing Honduran political life. Likewise, it is advisable to do electoral mappings; that is, to know where there are political niches, how many votes are needed to position candidates, how many LGBTI people identify themselves as “undecided” when voting and what is required for them to actively participate, etc.
4. Conduct a mapping of allies in the National Congress and in the territories. This way, one can effectively position the LGBTI agenda. Mapping requires identifying key political actors with whom agendas are shared or with whom strategic alliances can be made. These priorities are classified by territorial level (national, local), type (if they are with opinion leaders, political leaders, social leaders, etc.) and what links them (human rights agenda, anti-corruption, nonviolence, etc.).
5. Visibility of the processes carried out by LGBTI organizations. Many times, the precarious communication channels between LGBTI organizations and the political parties or State agents create ignorance two-way lack of knowledge. LGBTI people are often unaware of the actions carried out by the State or political parties; likewise, State agencies are often unaware of the actions carried out by LGBTI organizations in the country. These leadership processes should be made visible. In addition, the way LGBTI people manage these processes serve as an example for the State, who should know the daily endeavors of the LGBTI people, their problems and the type of required support.
6. Carry out a media strategy in which media allies and potential media allies are identified, in order to achieve visibility for the processes carried out by the different LGBTI political and social leaders. The field study demonstrated that, in many cases, the media caricatures and mocks people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. In order to avoid these kinds of practices, the media should be presented with activities that reclaim the rights of the LGBTI population. It is also necessary to conduct workshops with the media on these issues (explain to them words to describe a trans woman should not be “transvestite” or “el trans” in masculine form, but rather “trans woman”, etc. This way,

we can initiate a change in the way society thinks of this population, and give greater visibility to the possible candidacies LGBTI persons.

7. Innovation and re-innovation. The demand for rights must be posed in different ways and from varying perspectives; creativity is fundamental in creating social impact. The different political leaders must seek new ways of attracting the attention of civil society and the media to advocate for and position their candidacies. Creating marches, brands, campaigns and other actions that attract attention is vital for political success.

6.4 Recommendations for civil society

1. Promotion of social agreements for the respect and recognition of LGBTI persons. The Honduran civil society must recognize LGBTI people as subjects of rights, that deserve the full and effective enjoyment of their rights. In addition, because they are human beings, they deserve respect and dignified, non-discriminatory treatment.
2. Promotion of discrimination-free spaces in different sectors of Honduran departments. The creation of these spaces will seek to ensure that LGBTI persons can freely express themselves in those areas without fear of discrimination or police abuse.
3. Training in issues of citizen culture, giving priority to issues related to respect for sexual diversity. Creating understanding beyond the visions of religious fundamentalism is necessary to overcome the prejudices that affect the free development of LGBTI people.
4. Support demonstrations in favor of the LGBTI population under the key principle “it is not necessary to be, to be able to defend”. All of Honduran society can and should support these demonstrations for the full rights of all inhabitants of the country, which will have a greater impact on decision-making spaces.
5. Transformation of language. Honduran civil society must be aware that there are words that can hurt feelings, and it is necessary to recognize which words those are and correct them. Language can have a very strong impact on cultural transformations, so it is essential to recognize what words are violent towards people with different sexual orientations and gender identities, and what terms should change.

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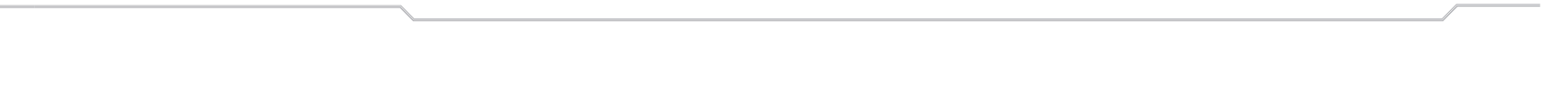
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	El Salvador			Costa Rica		Honduras	
	PCN	FMLN	GAN	Acción Ciudadana	Frente Amplio	Libre	Nacional
Candidaturas abiertamente LGBTI (Ha tenido o espera tenerlas)	En el 2015 un candidato a diputado buscó apoyo de las personas LGBTI y su suplente fue una mujer lesbiana.	Alcalde abiertamente LGBTI				Ha tenido candidaturas LGBTI	Se incluyeron en las papeletas por las bases y el consejo del partido
Estatutos Incluyentes		Incluyen a personas LGBTI en sus estatutos			Sus estatutos reconocen a las personas LGBTI	Menciona LGBTI en sus estatutos	
Estructuras sobre diversidad sexual en su interior		Reconocimiento a las personas LGBTI en su primer congreso	Tiene a 2 personas LGBTI en cargos internos				Se incluyeron a las personas LGBTI en las papeletas por las bases y el consejo del partido
Militancia LGBTI		Decálogo de principios #6 habla de trabajar por las minorías sin discriminación					
Encuentros y redes que promuevan la diversidad sexual		Tiene militancia LGBTI Foro Sao Paulo: conformación de una estructura interna LGBTI VIII Encuentro de juventudes de izquierda: trabajo con la comunidad joven LGBTI	Tiene militancia LGBTI	Tiene militancia LGBTI		Tiene militancia LGBTI	Tiene militancia LGBTI
Partido de apertura			Oportunidad de alianzas bi partidarias	Es progresista	Promueve el cambio cultural	Apertura e inclusión de población LGBTI	Apertura e inclusión de población LGBTI

Honduras					Guatemala	Nicaragua	
Liberal	PINU	PAC	Alianza Patriótica	UD	Winaq	FSLN	MRS
Está la disposición de incluir a personas LGBTI en las papeletas	Busca la participación de personas LGBTI a nivel departamental en las papeletas	Hay precandidatos LGBTI a nivel departamental		Hay antecedentes de inclusión de personas LGBTI en las candidaturas			
		Se tiene la propuesta de incluir en las próximas elecciones internas una secretaria LGBTI				Creación de la procuraduría especial de diversidad	Una persona LGBTI debe de hacer parte de cada una de las estructuras de la junta directiva (JDM, JDD; JDN)
						Sección diversidad (INJUDE)	Personas LGBTI deben de ser miembros del consejo nacional y hacer parte de las convenciones nacionales.
Tiene militancia LGBTI	Tiene militancia LGBTI	Tiene militancia LGBTI				Tiene militancia LGBTI	Tiene militancia LGBTI
	Apertura política en todos los niveles		Es un partido con apertura		Si se puede dar una apertura con este partido	Creación del área de atención a la población LGBTI en Caribe Norte	Creación de la red de la diversidad sexual

Data sheet applied to LGBTI population and to heterosexuals in Honduras

Were you born in Honduras?	
Yes	
No	
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	
Heterosexual	
Bisexual	
Gay	
Lesbian	
Transsexual Woman	
Transsexual Man	
Department	
Atlántida	
Choluteca	
Colón	
Comayagua	
Copán	
Cortés	
El Paraíso	
Francisco Morazán	
Gracias a Dios	
Intibucá	
Islas de la Bahía	
La Paz	
Lempira	
Ocotepeque	
Olancho	
Santa Bárbara	
Valle	
Yoro	
Age	
18 -30	
31 - 45	
46 -59	

Over 60 years old	
Do you consider that the needs of LGTBI people are included in public policies, legislation or country programs?	
Yes	
No	
Which of the following topics do you consider to be of greatest interest to LGBTI persons?	
Citizen Security and Access to Justice	
	0
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
Fight against corruption	
	0
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
Recognition and protection of human rights	
	0
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5

Access to decent work without discrimination	
	0
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
Access to the comprehensive health system	
	0
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
Access to the economy (loans, entrepreneurship)	
	0
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
Access to education without discrimination	
	0
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
Comprehensive anti-discrimination law	
	0
	1
	2

	3		No
	4	According to the answers in the previous question, do you consider that the political parties of Honduras respond to them?	What characteristics should a candidate have for you to vote for him / her?
	5		
Gender identity law			
	0		Honesty
	1		Showing respect for human rights
	2	Yes	Does not attack LGBTI people
	3	No	Have favorable pronouncements towards LGBTI people
	4		
	5	Did you vote in the elections to the National Congress of Honduras in 2013?	Responds to the needs of LGBTI people
Marriage Equality			
	0		None of the above
	1		Other
	2	Yes	Would you support an LGTBI candidate?
	3	No	Yes
	4		No
	5	If the previous answer was yes, by which party did you vote in the elections to the National Congress of Honduras in 2013?	Would you be interested in participating in a political party?
Adoption by same-sex couples			
	0		Yes
	1		No
	2		
	3	National Party	Yes
	4	Liberal Party	No
	5	Cristian Democrat Party	If your answer to the previous question was YES, which Political Party would you support?
Political participation of LGBTI people		Innovation and Unity Party	
	0	Democratic Unification Party	National Party
	1	Anti-Corruption Party	Liberal Party
	2	Libertad y Refundación Party	Cristian Democrat Party
	3		Innovation and Unity Party
	4	Frente Amplio	Democratic Unification Party
	5	Alianza	
		Blank Vote	
		Are you voting in the next elections of 2017?	
		Yes	

Anti-corruption Party
Libertad y Refundación Party
Frente Amplio
Alianza
None
LIBRE + PAC
LIBRE + PINU
Socialist workers' party
Education level:
Primary School
High School
University
Technical
Other
Currently working
Yes
No
Religion:
Catholic
Evangelical
None
Other
Who sent you the information from our survey?
Grindr
SOMOS CDC - AJEM
Someone shared it on Facebook
NDI
ONUSIDA
Other

Data Sheet- Interview directed to political parties

Question	Options
Political Party	PL PAC PN PINU-DC UD PDCH ALIANZA
Unity of the party	Programmatic Ideological Structural
Gender	Male Female
Age	18 to 30 31 to 45 46 to 59 Over 60
<i>Regarding Political Parties</i>	
1. Do you consider that it is necessary for political parties to act (in laws and in public policies) to guarantee the rights of the population?	a. Yes b. No

<p>2. What do you think would be important for the party to promote?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Security and access to justice for LGBTI persons b. Guarantee of full citizenship and Human Rights for LGBTI people c. Participation mechanisms for LGBTI people d. LGBTI friendly health services e. Protection and guarantee of school service for LGBTI persons f. Guarantees for the use of public space for LGBTI persons g. Promotion and strengthening of the association of LGBTI persons h. Implementation of affirmative actions to overcome the deficit of rights of LGBTI people. i. Protocols for the care of LGBTI persons in state institutions. j. Civil union of same sex couples. k. Right to inherit by same-sex couples. l. Right to social security for same-sex couples m. Marriage Equality n. Adoption by same-sex couples o. Other:
<p>3. Does your political party support / encourage the participation of LGTBI people within it?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes b. No
<p>Are there in your party openly LGBTI people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes b. No
<p>4. Is your political party interested in LGTBI agendas?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Yes, Why? b) No, Why?
<p>5. Does your party include LGBTI persons in its by-laws and / or proposals?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Yes, Why? b) No, Why?

Regarding Political Control

<p>6. How to ensure that LGBTI people have access to justice?</p>	<p>a) Establishing a specialized prosecutor's office for the LGBT population</p> <p>B) That an anti-discrimination law exists and applies for LGBT people</p> <p>C) Processes of training and awareness-raising to justice operators on the proper application of the law in cases corresponding to the LGTBI population</p> <p>d) All of the above</p> <p>e) None of the above</p> <p>f) Other What?</p>
<p>7. How to ensure that LGBT people have access to decent work?</p>	<p>A) That the State through policies of inclusion promotes employment for LGBT people</p> <p>B) That the labor code includes and applies non-discrimination towards LGBT persons</p> <p>C) To criminalize labor discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity</p> <p>d) All of the above</p> <p>e) None of the above</p> <p>f) Other What?</p>
<p>8. How to ensure that LGBT people have access to comprehensive health?</p>	<p>A) Creating comprehensive care protocols for the health of LGBT people</p> <p>B) Sensitizing and training health officials on respect and treatment without discrimination for LGBTI persons</p> <p>C) Reducing stigma and discrimination towards LGTBI people in health facilities through educational / informational campaigns.</p> <p>d) All of the above</p> <p>e) None of the above</p> <p>f) Other, What?</p>

<p>9. How to ensure that LGBT people have access to productive and income-generating activities?</p>	<p>A) Incorporating LGTBI people in the different government programs on labor insertion</p> <p>B) Offer and incorporate LGTBI people into government entrepreneurship programs</p> <p>C) Promote the opening of entrepreneurship loans for LGTBI people</p> <p>d) All of the above</p> <p>e) None of the above</p> <p>f) Other, What?</p>
<p>10. How to ensure that LGBT people have access to education?</p>	<p>A) Create a program that sensitizes teachers on respect for the sexual orientation and gender identity of LGTBI people</p> <p>B) Make sure that the fundamental law of education for non-discrimination towards LGBT people is applied</p> <p>C) Incorporate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity into the system of complaints and denunciations from the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>d) All of the above</p> <p>e) None of the above</p> <p>f) Other, What?</p>
<p><i>Regarding the Legislative Act</i></p>	
<p>11. Would you support the adoption of a Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Act that criminalizes, punishes and penalizes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity?</p>	<p>a) Yes, in what way?</p> <p>b) No Why?</p>

<p>C) Of the following actions, which do you think your party could prioritize in a legislative process in Congress</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Security and access to justice for LGBTI persons 2. Guarantee full citizenship and Human Rights for LGBTI people 3. Participation mechanisms for LGBTI people 4. LGBTI friendly health services 5. Protection and guarantee of school service for LGBTI persons. 6. Guarantees for the use of public space for LGBTI persons. 7. Promotion and strengthening of the association of LGBTI persons. 8. Applying affirmative action to overcome the rights deficit of LGBTI people. 9. Protocols for the care of LGBTI persons in state institutions. 10. Civil union of same-sex couples. 11. Right to inherit by same-sex couples. 12. Right to social security for same-sex couples 13. Marriage equality 14. Adoption by same-sex couples 15. Other:
<p>12. Would you support the passage of a Gender Identity Act?</p>	<p>A) Yes, in what way? B) No Why?</p>
<p>13. Would you support transsexuals to obtain a new identity document that respects their gender, image and name?</p>	<p>A) Yes, in what way? B) No Why?</p>
<p>14. Would you support the reform of the constitution so that equal marriage is allowed in the country?</p>	<p>A) Yes, in what way? B) No Why?</p>

15. Would you support the reform of the constitution so that people of the same sex could adopt children?	<p>A) Yes, in what way?</p> <p>B) No Why?</p>
16. What measures would you use to monitor and comply with the actions for LGBT people that should be implemented by local / departmental / national governments?	<p>A) Reviewing the plans, programs and projects which must account for these actions for the benefit of LGTBI people</p> <p>B) Sensitizing and training public officials on respect, equal rights and decent treatment of LGTBI persons</p> <p>C) Suggesting to local / departmental / national governments the implementation of processes for the benefit of LGTBI people.</p> <p>d) All of the above</p> <p>e) None of the above</p> <p>f) Other, What?</p>
17. Which of the following topics do you consider to be of greatest interest to the government agenda? Weighting of responses: Where five (5) is higher priority and zero (or) zero priority.	<p>Citizen Security and Access to Justice</p> <p>Fight against corruption</p> <p>Recognition and protection of human rights</p> <p>Access to decent work without discrimination</p> <p>Access to comprehensive health system</p> <p>Access to the economy (loans, entrepreneurship)</p> <p>Access to education without discrimination</p> <p>Comprehensive anti-discrimination law</p> <p>Gender Identity Act</p> <p>Equal Marriage</p>
Other Demographic Data:	
1. Educational level:	<p>Primary School</p> <p>High School</p> <p>University</p> <p>Technical</p>

2. Do you currently work?	a) Yes
	b) No
3. Religion	Catholic
	Evangelic
	Other, what?

In depth interviews to LGBTI leaders

Question	Options
Sexual Orientation or gender identity	Transsexual Woman Lesbian Transsexual Man Gay
Age	18-30 31-45 46-59 Over 60
<i>About spaces and mechanisms of citizen participation</i>	
1. Do you know the mechanisms and spaces of citizen participation that you can access to influence national public agendas?	a) Yes, Which so? B) No Why? A) There is no interest in the issue of the LGBTI population B) There are no guarantees for their participation
2. What do you think are the reasons why there is little visibility of LGBTI people in political spaces?	c) Fear of exclusion or discrimination d) All of the above e) None of the above f) Other, What?

3. How do you value the participation of LGBTI people in the general elections of 2013?

- A) A lot of participation.
- b) Little participation
- c) No participation.
- d) Other:

4. Why do you consider that the political participation of the LGBTI population in political spaces is important? Identify which of these options, according to you are the most remarkable to work.

- a) There would be more inclusion spaces
- b) Discrimination partially reduced
- C) They would gain recognition and political power in decision spaces
- D) It would be possible to promote bills that guarantee the rights of LGBTI people
- E) The social problems of LGBTI people would be more visible.
- f) All of the above
- g) None of the above
- h) Other, what?

5. What actions should be activated to guarantee LGBTI people their political participation?

- A) Participation in political parties and movements
- B) To have concrete spaces for the LGBTI people in the parties
- C) Accompany the LGBTI movement in its social processes
- D) Shield in the legislature and in the actions of government the guarantee to the rights of LGBTI people
- E) Promote affirmative action and good practices against exclusion within the political party
- F) Publicly sanction acts of violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons.
- G) Take part in government teams
- H) Train LGTBI people in participation and advocacy so that they know the importance of being part of these spaces.
- i) All of the above
- j) None of the above
- k) Other, What?

6. What personal and / or organizational activities do you have to influence the political processes?

- A) We join campaigns
- B) We do not join campaigns but we propose informed voting
- C) We are willing to support campaigns that are committed to the LGTBI agenda
- D) We already belong to a political party and vote for it.
- E) We promote blank voting
- F) We let each person make his decision
- G) We are not interested
- h) None of the above
- i) Other, What?

Regarding Political Parties

7. Do you belong to any political party?

- LIBRE
- PL
- PAC
- PN
- PINU-SD
- UD
- PDCH
- ALIANZA
- No Why?

8. How do you promote your participation within the political party to which you belong?

- A) Permanently, How?
- B) Only in electoral processes
- C) I have never promoted my participation in political parties

9. Do you know what political parties support the LGTBI agenda?

- a) Yes, Which so?
- b) No, Why?

10. Do you know the proposals of the parties and movements regarding the LGTBI population?

- a) Yes, which so?, How?
- B) No What is this ignorance due to?

11. Which political scenario do you find most favorable for influencing LGBTI agendas?
- a) Congress of the Republic
 - b) National Government
 - c) Departmental Government
 - d) Municipal Governments
 - e) Supreme Court of Justice
12. Do you know any / some projects that the State has carried out in favor of LGBTI people in Honduras?
- a) Yes, what?:
 - B) No Why?

About Electoral Processes

13. What is the motivation of your vote?
- A) Informed and free vote
 - B) Traditional voting
 - C) Abstain from voting
 - D) Never have voted
 - E) Other what?
14. When was the last time you exercised your right to vote?
- A) General elections 2013
 - B) Primary Elections 2012
 - c) All of the above
 - D) Other what?
- 15 Do you follow up on your vote and then the candidate (s) of your preference regarding the fulfillment of your proposals?
- a) Yes, how?
 - b) No, Why?

<p>16. Which of the following topics do you consider to be of most interest to the government agenda? Weighting of responses: Where five (5) is higher priority and zero (or) zero priority.</p> <p>17. Have you voted lately: Vote in the presidential elections B. Vote in the Party elections C. Vote in local and regional elections</p>	<p>Citizen Security and Access to Justice Fight against corruption Recognition and protection of human rights Access to decent work without discrimination Access to the comprehensive health system Access to the economy (loans, entrepreneurship) Access to education without discrimination Comprehensive anti-discrimination law Gender Identity Law Equal Marriage Adoptions for same-sex couples Political participation of LGTBI people</p> <p>Yes No Yes No Yes No</p> <p>d. Other, Which?</p>
<p>18. What aspects do you consider when casting your vote:</p>	<p>a The proposals of the candidate b. Candidate party c. Candidate's background D. The level of favoritism of the candidate e. Specific proposals that the candidate has about the LGBTI agenda f. Other, What?</p>
<p>Other Demographic Data:</p>	
<p>1. Educational level:</p>	<p>Primary School High School University Technical</p>

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 2. Belongs to an ethnic group | a) Yes
b) No |
| 3. Do you currently work? | a) Yes
b) No |
| 4. Religion | Catholic
Evangelical
Other, which? |

Pre - Post Test Data Sheet applied to Honduran political parties

Question	Options
1. Why should political parties work with population groups?	A. Because citizens are mostly part of these groups in which society is divided.
	B. It is a way of getting to know the citizen's reality, to improve the quality of life of the citizens.
	C. Because they are the most disadvantaged citizens because of their diversity and therefore the exercise of democracy must promote their full citizenship.
	D. Because in the party statutes it is established to work with population groups as the basis of our electorate.

<p>2. What happens when a party does not take into account sexual diversity?</p>	<p>A. It may be losing the opportunity to strengthen its foundations with new members and make its actions more responsive to the social reality expressed by these population groups.</p> <p>B. Citizenship can carry out social sanction and move away from the party.</p> <p>C. Not at all, since the party is independent and autonomous to decide what aspects to include in its plans and actions.</p> <p>D. It is a firm party, because it is not accommodating to the change of these times.</p>
<p>3. Why should the LGBTI population be included from a population perspective in the actions of political parties?</p>	<p>A. Because this population group is a small minority, they deserve special treatment for the management of their problems.</p> <p>B. Because being a historically discriminated and relegated population deserves attention of its problematic.</p> <p>C. LGBTIs do not need to be addressed from a population perspective.</p> <p>D. Because they are potential voters.</p>
<p>4. If the political party does not support LGBT people for reasons of not being contemplated in its beginnings or foundation, should it include them in its statutes and programmatic actions?</p>	<p>A. Yes, because at the moment of becoming parties of government must govern all the inhabitants of the territory without discrimination in race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, etc.</p> <p>B. No, because the main thing is the party profile.</p> <p>C. It should be kept in mind the position of the party in front of the issue.</p> <p>D. It must do so only if LGBT people have supported the party with votes.</p>

