

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE GUIDELINES FOR
PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Society against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD)]

ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION BY SOCIETY AGAINST SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGISTRATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs / Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization (CSO) *Society against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD)*.

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99) “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.” This document includes a summary and list of documentation presented by *Society against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD)* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. **Background**

Society against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD) is a non-profit organization established on October 9, 2006 in Georgetown, Guyana with the mission to advocate for the human rights of all persons, encourage respect and tolerance for diversity and eradicate discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

SASOD’s objectives are accomplished through public education and advocacy initiatives aimed at increasing the recognition of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Transvestite and Intersexual (LGBTTTI) population in the region, as well as participation in networking and training sessions with other organizations in areas such as health promotion, human rights, governance and economic development.

In 2008, *SASOD* launched Spectrum Health Net with the support of the Government/World Bank Guyana AIDS Prevention and Control Project (GAPCP), administered by the Health Sector Development Unit of the Ministry of Health. This project provides holistic information, education and communication health promotion materials primarily through web-based formats which include special pages for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. In 2009 and 2010, *SASOD* conducted a campaign to promote the rights of transvestites via media appearances, press releases and statements. The organization has also participated in various trainings and workshops focused on Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and discussion of LGBTTTI issues. *SASOD* has organized different campaigns to raise public awareness and promote the rights of people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, among these is the annual celebration of International Day against Homophobia (IDAHO) and the film festival, Painting the Spectrum.

SASOD participated in the OAS General Assembly meetings from 2008 to 2011, Civil Society Hemispheric Forums from 2008 to 2010, and civil society events in preparation for the Fifth Summit of the Americas in 2008, in addition to thematic hearings before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH) in 2010.

SASOD has financed its projects through contributions from the Ministry of Health of the Government of Guyana, Health Services Delivery Unit (HSDU), Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Caribbean

Treatment Action Group (C-TAG), American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR), Open Society Institute (OSI), and other fundraising activities.

SASOD submitted its application for registration with the OAS December 20, 2010.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment of the CSO

Name: Society against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD)

Address: CIDA Programme Support Unit Building
56 Main and New Market Streets
North Cummingsburg, Georgetown
Guyana

Telephone: (592) 226-5155 / (592) 623-5155

E-mail address: sasod_guyana@yahoo.com

Website: www.sasod.org.gy

Chairpersons: Joel Simpson
Namela Baynes-Henry

Date of foundation: October 9, 2006

3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

SASOD works to advocate for the promotion of human rights and eradication of discrimination and intolerance against people due to their sexual orientation and gender identity. The primary areas of activity and contributions of the organization that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Influencing the formulation of public policies that promote the exercise and full recognition of the human rights and the eradication of all forms of discrimination and intolerance based on gender identity and sexual orientation through educational programs, roundtables, cultural activities and information campaigns designed to raise awareness about sexual diversity and gender expression; and
- Strengthening partnerships and networks of civil society organizations that work in the defense of the rights of persons of different sexual orientation or gender identity through programs and meetings aimed at facilitating the exchange of experiences at the national and regional levels.

4. Identification of OAS work areas

SASOD proposes to support the OAS in the following areas:

- Promote the principles in the Inter-American Democratic Charter in the area of human rights;
- Provide information to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and to the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), on the situation in the region of human rights in the area of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender identity in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2653 (XL-0/11), “Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity”; and
- Present recommendations to the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General dated December 20, 2010
- Trust Deed
- Amendment to Trust Deed (April 2, 2009)
- Statutes
- Annual Reports 2007-2010
- Financial Statements 2006-2010 (audited by Bisheswar, Seebarran & Co.)