

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

OEA/Ser.G  
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APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PRESENTED PURSUANT TO ITEM 6 OF THE  
GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS  
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

*[United and Strong Inc]*

## ANALYSIS OF THE REQUEST BY UNITED AND STRONG INC TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

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) *United and Strong Inc. (U&S)*

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 *United and Strong Inc.* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

### **1. Background**

*United and Strong Inc.* is a non-profit organization established in 2001 and registered in November of 2005 in collaboration with Caribbean AIDS Alliance and AIDS Action Foundation, in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in St. Lucia. United and Strong Inc. is the first and only LGBTTTTI organization in the country.

*U&S's* main goal is to advocate for the human rights of all persons, to encourage respect and acceptance for diversity; and to eliminate stigma and discrimination while creating a society where everyone is equal, not just in words but in actions. Originally United and Strong's aim was to reach male same-sex partners; however, *U&S* has also actively works with female same-sex partners.

*U&S's* mission is to provide an enabling environment for advancing Human Rights for the LGBTTTTI community in Saint Lucia. *U&S* objectives are pursued through community/public education and advocacy initiatives aimed at increasing the recognition and understanding of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Transvestite and Intersexual (LGBTTTTI) population in the region. *U&S* also participates in networking and training sessions with other organizations in areas such as health promotion, human rights, governance, and economic development.

*U&S* has organized many campaigns to raise public awareness and to promote human rights. One of these campaigns is the annual celebration of the International Day against Homophobia (IDAHO).

The income and property of *U&S* is applied solely toward the promotion of the objectives of *U&S* as set forth in their Constitution. From April 2013 to March 2014, *U&S* were able to transform some volunteers into paid staff.

*U&S* has financed its projects through contributions from the British High Commission for the OECS, the Caribbean Treatment Action Group (C-TAG), the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR), the Astraea Lesbian Foundation, the Open Society Foundation (OSF), Arcus, IGLHRC, the Council for Global Equality, AIDS Free World, Envisioning and through fundraising activities.

*U&S* applied for registration with the OAS on March 31, 2014.

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

Name of the Organization: United and Strong Inc.  
Address: Massi Street, Massade, Gros Islet  
P.O Box 772  
St. Lucia, West Indies  
Telephone: (758) 450-0976  
Fax: (758) 284-5899  
E-mail address: [unitedandstrongslu@yahoo.com](mailto:unitedandstrongslu@yahoo.com)  
Executive Director: Kenita Placide  
Date of constitution: November 2, 2009

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

*United and Strong Inc.* works on providing an enabling environment for the advancement of Human Rights for the LGBTTTI community in Saint Lucia. The primary areas of activity and contributions of the organization that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Advocacy for human rights of all persons by submitting recommendations and statements to a number of international forums discussing human rights issues;
- Raising awareness and promoting the rights of people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity; and training workshops focused on Human Rights, HIV/AIDS. Religion, and LGBTTTI specific issues;
- Strengthening citizen participation of persons with different sexual orientation and gender identity and promoting their social inclusion through the implementation of education, job training, recreation, and health programs; and
- Inducing the formulation of public polices that promote the exercise and full recognition of the human rights and eradication of all forms of discrimination and intolerance based on gender identity and sexual orientation through education programs, roundtables, cultural activated and information campaigns designed to raise awareness about sexual and gender expression;

**4. Identification of OAS work areas**

*United and Strong Inc.* offers to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Promoting the principles in the Inter-American Democratic Charter in the area of human rights;
- Providing information to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) and the Permanent Council, on the situation in the region of human rights in the area of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender identity resolution “Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity”.
- Providing OAS member states with civil society recommendations regarding the Organization's activities, such as the General Assembly, Permanent Council meetings and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights periods of sessions.
- Working with the IACHR Rapporteurship on the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTTTI) to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression in the region;

**5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS**

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General
- Articles of Incorporation
- Statutes
- Mission Statement
- Annual Report 2013
- Financial Statements for 2012 and 2013