



**Submission to  
CSO 2021 Consultation  
3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017**

BeLong To is Ireland's national organisation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Non-Binary (LGBTI+) young people. BeLong To's youth services in Dublin and around Ireland provide vital supports to LGBTI+ young people. BeLong To also works with government and other partners so that Ireland will be safe, equal and welcoming for LGBTI+ young people. BeLong To is pleased to make a submission to the CSO on the 2021 consultation.

BeLong To proposed that the CSO examine the possibility of gathering information on the LGBTI+ population in Ireland in the next census to assist with

- Research and data collection
- Policy development in relation to the lives and families of LGBTI+ people
- Service delivery and planning particular to LGBTI+ people and their families

We propose that the next census ask the following questions:

**On gender:**

1. What is your gender identity? Male, Female, Non-binary
2. Are you transgender? Y or N options
3. Are you intersex? Y or N options

## **On sexual orientation:**

Q= What is your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual / Straight
- Gay / Homosexual
- Lesbian
- Bisexual / Bi
- Queer
- Other (*please specify*)

We understand that there are inherent challenges with asking questions like these in the census (e.g. under-reporting) and would propose that international experience be drawn on to examine how some of these challenges have been addresses in other jurisdictions.

This information would be enormously beneficial for future research, so we would have a national figure for sample sizes. It would also assist policy makers and service providers plan targeted services for distinct groups within the LGBTI+ population e.g. older LGBTI+ people. It would for example help our health service to know how many older transgender people will be living in Ireland in the future. Moreover, now that Ireland has embraced marriage equality and gender recognition we should be in a position to measure the numbers of same-sex couples and families in Ireland and the number of transgender, non-binary and intersex people who live here, so we can ensure visibility of LGBTI+ people within national policy and service planning.

BeLonG To would very much welcome an opportunity to provide an in-person briefing to the CSO on the importance of including questions on being LGBTI+ in the next census. We can engage young people for their views and recommendations to assist with this process and can offer examples from other countries where the need has been addressed.

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