

**SOGIESC &
Disability in China:
*Convergence,
Intersectionality, and
Beyond***

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About **Common Language**

- Common Language is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in January 2005. Common Language focuses on **Chinese communities suffering from discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, sexual identity and expression (SOGIE)**, advocating for equal rights, public awareness, and combating violence and discrimination through community empowerment, direct aid services, public education, and policy advocacy.
- Common Language's core values: **Equality, Diversity, and Openness**

Identifying *Intersectionality*

- Chinese LGBTI movement is predominantly **able-bodied, educated, living in urban spaces**;
- Only in recent years a **gender/feminist perspective** have been applied to the movement (with questionable success);
- Intersectionality amongst different issues is difficult due to government crackdowns **hindering movement-building**;

Mapping *Realities*

- LGBTI persons living with disabilities are often invisible within the LGBTI community, the positive community-building effects of social media is limited;
- *Case study: domestic violence perpetrated by both biological family and "cooperative marriage" partner, challenges in service provision and effective intervention;*
- Multitude of exclusion, and inadequate institutional support

From *Grassroots* to *Global*

- Past engagement with UN human rights mechanisms have found difficulty in enabling grassroots communities to participate meaningfully;
- Past engagement efforts in other treaty bodies and special procedures have not addressed intersectionality of disability and SOGIESC
- Very few good practices (even globally) on engaging SOGIESC within CRPD

Challenges and *Reflections*

- The different political connotations of disability issues and SOGIESC issues – *vis a vis* the nuanced trajectory of the disability movement in China, and the hyper-politicization of SOGIESC issues in UN spaces;
- How to integrate disability issues and SOGIESC issues – not only in UN human rights mechanisms advocacy, but in regular programming;

Solidarity and *Movement-building*

- What our communities can collectively do to empower LGBTI persons with disabilities to assume active/leadership roles? How to seed activists from this community?

Equality | Diversity | Openness



平等 多元 开放