

Surveying the knowledge and use of the YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES in Brazil

February 2 – March 5, 2009

SPW has created web survey to explore the knowledge and use of the YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES in Brazil. The tool was available during February 2009 and information about it was disseminated in listservers of the LGBT community and also in feminist, sexual diversity, gender diversity, sexual and reproductive rights websites.¹

Forty five percent of all respondents declared to be involved in activism: on LGBT rights (61 or 45 percent), women's rights (17 percent), sexual and reproductive rights (13 percent) and HIV/AIDS (12 percent). Of the 176 visitors to the blog that informed their age 38 percent are between 20-30 years old and 25 percent are between 30 and 40.

But from a total of 654 people who visited the survey blog just 247 people answered question number 1: "Do you know the Yogyakarta Principles?" . Of them only 24 percent did know about the document and another 13 percent declared to have heard about it. The large majority (63 percent) did not know anything about the Principles. Those who know and have heard about the Yogyakarta Principles sum up a total of 92 people, and 55 of the 60 people that declared to know the Principles have read the document.

Despite the efforts made to disseminate the Principles in Brazil the number of respondents who know or have heard about them represents less than one percent of the total number of printed copies in country (10 thousand booklets). Even when roughly 2.000 of these copies have been included in the folder of participants of the National Conference on Public Policies for the LGBT population (June 2008) only 18 respondents declared to have had access to the text in that occasion. In contrast, 86 people (62 percent) have got the document in the Internet. Other 34 people (25 percent) received the booklet through other means (friends, activism colleagues, e-mail, e-jovem [youth LGBT e-group], ABGLT among others) or in other events (Fortalecendo, SerTão, V ENUDS, the launching events of the YPs in Brazil etc.).

Fifty nine people reported to have used the Principles either in their work (33) or in their personal life (26). Few people made suggestions on how to translate and use the Principles more creatively, such as:

- Production of videos about the YP and their application;
- Invest in strategically focused dissemination to specific activist audiences; LGBTI, women, sex workers, HIV/Aids, gender diversity, queer, sexual and reproductive rights, feminists etc.
- Promotion of debates, seminars and other events about the YP, and include the the discussion about them in other related events, in order to spread the knowledge about the document.

¹ The questions were dissociated from each other as to allow for people to move forward in case they responded no to one specific section. This explains why some discrepancies exist when we compare the total numbers of responses..

Seventy two respondents said they consider the document to be useful against 46 that do not see any use for them. By and large this later group explain this position by saying that the document is not useful because it is not know by the society at large and LBGT people in particular.

While the survey was open, 166 visitors checked the link “Know more about the YP”. It is also interesting to note that 134 visitors got to the survey through the portal MixBrasil, which is the main GLS site in the country. Fifteen checked the survey because of note published on CLAM's website and 3 came through the Catholics for the Right to Decide site.

RESULTS

1. Do you know the Yogyakarta Principles?

Yes, I do 24%	60
No, I don't 63%	155
I have heard about it 13%	32
Total	247

2. Have you read the Yogyakarta Principles?

Yes 24%	55
No 76%	173
Total	228

3. How did you get to know the Yogyakarta Principles?

I got one booklet at the National LGBT Conference LGBT 13%	18
I found it on Internet 62%	86
Other: 25%	34
Total	138

4. Do you use or have already used the Yogyakarta Principles at word or in your personal life?

Yes 24%	49
No 76%	152
Total	201

5. If you answered YES, in which circumstances did it happen? Please tell us a bit about your experience.

Work 40%	33
Personal life 32%	26
Other: 28%	23
Total	82

6. Do you think the Yogyakarta Principles are useful?

Yes 40%	72
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No 1%	2
I don't know 59%	106
Total	180

7. If you think they are useful, why? (Múltipla escolha)

They promote rights 20%	57
They help diminishing discrimination 18%	51
They allow us to demand the State 14%	40
They help on advocacy actions 14%	42
They transform the homophobic culture 12%	35
They help on policy elaboration 18%	53
Other: 4%	13
Total	291

8. If you think they are not useful, why?

It is not an official document 9%	5
People don't know it exists 73%	41
Other: 18%	10
Total	56

ABOUT YOU

Are you an activist in any segment? Which one?	
I'm not an activist 38%	82
LGBTI 28%	61
Women 10%	22
HIV/Aids 7%	16
Sex workers 3%	7
Sexual and reproductive rights 8%	17
Other: 5%	10
Total:	215

How long have you been an activist?

Up to 5 years 48%	46
5-10 years 26%	25
10-15 years 12%	11
More than 10 years 14%	13
Total	95

What is your age group?

Until 20 years old 8%	14
20-30 years old 38%	67
30-40 years old 25%	44
40-50 years old 22%	38
50-60 years old 6%	11
More than 60 years old 1%	2
Other: 0%	
Total	176

People clicked these links on the survey's webpage

Saiba mais sobre os Princípios de Yogyakarta	Read more about the Yogyakarta Principles	166
Os Princípios de Yogyakarta (survey)	The Yogyakarta Principles (survey page)	60
Sobre o Observatório de Sexualidade e P	About the Sexuality Policy Watch	14

People clicked links in these websites to access the survey page:

http://mixbrasil.uol.com.br/mp/upload/noticia/4_59_71090.shtml	134
http://clam.org.br/	19
http://catolicasonline.org.br/ExibicaoNoticia.aspx?cod=354	3

Keywords used in search engines through internet that resulted in accessing the survey (not relevant)

universidade gadjah mada yogyakarta, ind	2
direitos humanos entre principios e norm	1
princípios de yogyakarta	1
