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2013 Thailand study on homophobic bullying

- First study of its kind
- Supported by UNESCO and Plan International Thailand, undertaken by Mahidol University
- TAG with civil society and LGBT youth
- 2,070 students (grades 7-12, aged 13-20) completed a computerized, self-administered survey
- Qualitative data were collected from >450 people (students, teachers and school administrators)

Study findings

- Nearly 6 in 10 LGBT youth had been bullied in past month because of SOGI

- More than 1 in 4 non-LGBT youth were bullied because they were <u>PERCEIVED</u> to be LGBT

- Range of behaviours: Verbal, physical and social abuse, sexual harassment

- Nearly 7 out of 10 bullied LGBT youth did not react. Nearly 1 in 4 that did nothing said this was because "nothing would happen even if someone were told"

- Of those who did something; 63% fought back, 51% spoke to a friend; < 10% approached a teacher, a disciplinarian, or a school director

- Compared to non-bullied peers, bullied LGBT youth were:
  - 2 times more likely to have missed school in the month
  - Nearly 4 times more likely to be depressed
  - 7 times more likely to have tried to commit suicide

In response…3-year programme of action

- Funded by SIDA, Dutch Ministry of Education Science and Culture through UNESCO and Plan International Thailand
- Implemented in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, whole school support to 10 schools, led by 2 civil society organizations
- Theory of change with four key strategies:
  - Change attitudes and behaviours of students and teachers towards SRGBV using gender transformative approaches
  - Create enabling environments to help sustain individual attitudinal and behaviour change
  - Establish response mechanism for reporting and responding to incidents
  - Advocate and support for policy and institutional change

Principles of the programme

- Promotes **whole school approaches** supporting primary prevention of violence and response mechanisms for those affected
- Affirms the **rights of all learners** to be safe, regardless of their SOGI or other characteristics
- Build **school leadership** in ensuring safe & positive learning environments and overall **Ministry of Education responsibility**
- Engage all **school members**, including **youth, teachers and counsellors**
- Establish **broader outreach to communities to address social norms and practices**

Watch this space for…

- Civil society engagement with governments for change
- Improved understanding of SOGI
- Safe spaces for LGBT students in schools
- Sexuality education programmes that recognize diversity
- Improved teacher attitudes and skills on SOGI issues
- Channels of assistance for those affected

LGBT-FRIENDLY THAILAND?