



ILGA Bulletin

CONFERENCE ISSUE

Issue 1 / 03

MANILA: MULTIPLE LAYERS OF ASIAN, ANIMIST AND LATIN CULTURES

We welcome you to Manila, city by the Bay from where some of the most fantastic sunsets on this planet are seen. A city vibrant for its clashing of political streams as for its multiple layers of cultural history. A city that, in the 1980s, wrought the world's first bloodless people's revolt against a modern dictatorship.

Manila is the capital of an archipelago made up of 7,100 islands bound by the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. Long before the age of exploration and enlightenment, Manila sat in the middle of Asia's great centers, wherein gold, pearls, hardwood, herbs and spices, ceramics, textiles, musical instruments, weapons and farm implements were exchanged by traders from Madagascar, India, Saudi Arabia, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia.

From the 16th to the end of the 19th century, hundreds of ships from the Pacific Islands, from Mexico and the

Americas, and from far away Spain, Portugal and Italy dared pirates, disease and typhoons to slow down the heavy traffic between East Asia and Europe. That route across the Pacific and Atlantic oceans brought forth Catholic missionaries, conquering soldiers and various rulers from Spain and Mexico; poetry and paintings, tangos, zarzuelas and operas from Italy, Cuba, Argentina and Chile, cheeses from the Netherlands and lace from Belgium. When the Suez Canal opened up in the 19th century, books, philosophies and ideas for political reform from France, Germany, and the rest of northern Europe swept the hearts of many young leaders and thinkers who eventually inspired the wars for independence, and mounted the First Philippine Republic in 1898.

Manila Bay became the scene of a mock battle between Spain and the United States of America at the close of the 19th century. Despite a decade-long war of resistance, America established a



Commonwealth government in the Philippines in the 1900s, gaining rich natural resources, capturing new markets and establishing its first military bases in Asia. The Americans introduced public education, organized a democratic political system, and set up the early broadcasting companies, thus introducing us to vaudeville, Hollywood, and pop culture.

Filipinos: Friendly and Festive

If one wonders why on the surface Filipinos appear to be more westernized than our Asian neighbors, it is probably because Filipinos lived for 400 years under the Church bell, and 100 hundred years under Hollywood. Our colonial and cultural history makes us Latin-Asians with a tinge of pop. Most Filipinos today can speak three languages: the local language (of which there are about 300), the national language (Filipino) and English. Apart from its muzzling during the martial law years, the Philippine press has had the reputation of being the "free-est" in Asia.



Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

<u>Editorial</u>	1
<u>Days of Couraga, Days of Pride</u>	2
<u>Manila: Multiple Layers</u>	3
<u>Sweden Supports the Conference</u>	4
<u>Conference Registration Form</u>	5-7
<u>Conference Scholarship Info</u>	8
<u>Conference Tracks & Timetable</u>	9
<u>ILGA and War</u>	10
<u>ILGA y la Guerra</u>	11
<u>ILGA-LAC Project News</u>	12-13
<u>HIV/AIDS</u>	14-15
<u>Meet the New Adm/Info Officer</u>	16
<u>Nepal</u>	17
<u>Cuba</u>	18
<u>Uganda</u>	19
<u>News</u>	20-21
<u>ILGA E-mail Directory</u>	22-23
<u>ILGA's 25th Anniversary</u>	24

DAYS OF COURAGE, DAYS OF PRIDE

THE NOVEMBER GATHERINGS ON GENDER, RIGHTS AND INTOLERANCE

11 and 12 November

“Crossing the Gender Divide: Emerging Identities in the 21st Century”
(ILGA 2003 Preconference) The Asia-Pacific Congress on Youth and Sexuality

12 and 13 November

“Moving Beyond Patriarchy: Assessing our Strategies”
(ILGA 2003 Preconference) International LBT Women’s Congress

14 to 18 November

“Surviving Discrimination, Celebrating our Lives”

The 22nd World Conference of ILGA:

The 25th Anniversary Conference

ILGA’s first World Conference in the Asian Region is also the Asian Region’s first world conference of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex people. Its very presence in this region will be both a challenge and a reason to celebrate.

8 to 18 November

“Rainbow Days: A Culture and Arts Festival”

A ten-day fiesta of theatre, visual arts, literature, dance and music, crafts and various forms of entertainment, all promoting the awareness and celebration of gender, rights and achievement. Manila’s Malate District, known also as the “gay district”, will fete the public and the delegates with street parties and other celebrations. The 2nd International Pink Film Festival will run on three weekends in cinemas across Metro Manila between November 7 to 23.

ILGA BULLETIN

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MANILA: MULTIPLE LAYERS

Continued from page 1

The well-known friendliness, graciousness and hospitality of Filipinos may have beckoned both traders and invaders alike, through the centuries. One tagline says that Filipinos like to celebrate for any reason in every season. During the numerous fiestas in each town, families by tradition fed friends and strangers who happened to drift into the open doors of their homes. (Of course, nowadays, people are much more careful!)

We are of the Malay-Indonesian race, but we also have a more ancient Pacific-Polynesian and animist heritage that respected matriarch-leaders, women healers and transgendered priests. In the seeming contradiction lies the challenge: Filipinos have chosen two female presidents, but have not yet acknowledged women's equal status with men.

Philippine society has openly accepted the roles of effeminate men and boyish women in daily life, but will not recognize the basic needs and human rights of the gay community. That is the reason why the most vocal sectors of civil society today are those fighting gender-based discrimination, intolerance and violence. Over the past decade in the Philippines, hundreds of women's groups, human rights groups and LGBT groups have joined forces to advocate for reproductive and sexual rights and freedoms.

Days of Courage, Days of Pride

We seek to push the agenda of social, cultural and political reform so that others like us, specially lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered and intersex persons in the Asia and Pacific regions, will be able to declare that they are proud to be different and they will fight discrimination. The presence of the world's main federation of LGBTI organizations in Manila at an international conference discussing gender issues, human rights and intolerance will underscore the importance of this cause.

In a time of war and turmoil, disease and death, some of us may not want to leave what we perceive is the security of our home. But it is when we need strength

most that we most come together. If we must move forward as a human family, we will have to reach out and talk with each other.

We - lesbians, gays, transgenders, activists, feminists and artists of the Philippines - invite you, to come to Manila: to reflect on the terrible struggles we have fought, and to celebrate even the small victories we have all won for ourselves, and for each other. Let us honor the 25 years of ILGA's life as an applause for ourselves, for all the years of our courage. Let us use this 25th year as a benchmark for all those who have yet to rise and come out. Let us use this as the beginning of the Age of Pride.

The Manila Secretariat

In order to facilitate publicity and participation of the local community, we have organized a network called Pinoy Pride, which will also assist the lesbian organization Can't Live in the Closet (CLIC), the local host organization of the Conference. Pinoy Pride is a network of individuals and representatives of private companies, non-government organizations and participating government agencies, including the Department of Tourism.

Part of Pinoy Pride is the non-government organization Women's Media Circle Foundation, Inc. (Womedia), which has taken on the responsibility of Secretariat work. The Secretariat will be working with the professional conference organizer Philippine Congress Organizing Center (PCOC). Womedia and PCOC will be in charge of administrative and logistical requirements for the World Conference, while media and community relations, as well as cultural events will be handled by volunteers from Pinoy Pride.

*Anna Leah Sarabia
Co-Secretary General*

ILGA's Pink Film Festival in Manila

The organizers of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) World Conference in Manila are hosting the Manila Pink Film Festival to be held on 11-18 November this year.

Respected filmmaker and writer Nick Deocampo, director of the Mowelfund Film Institute is teaming up with the organizers of ILGA's 22nd World Conference, the first lesbian, transgender, bisexual and gay conference in Asia, to assemble a diverse international collection of queer movies, short films and videos to liven up the parallel cultural festivals alongside the main conference.

The Pink Film Festival was the first significant public exhibition of lesbian and gay-themed movies in the Philippines in 1998.

To participate in the festival and for other inquiries, please contact the following:

Mr. Nick Deocampo, Director and Paolo Villaluna, Festival Director
Mowelfund Film Institute
email: nad@pacific.net.ph
tel. (632) 7211915 or 7211961
Snail mail:
66 Rosario Drive, Cubao,
Quezon City, Philippines

Ms. Anna Leah Sarabia
Co-Secretary General ILGA
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ProGay Philippines
email: progay@edsamail.com.ph
website:
www.geocities.com/progayphilippines

SWEDEN SUPPORTS MANILA CONFERENCE



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ju2003/2211/IM

3 March 2003

Ministry of Justice
Sweden

Mona Sahlin, Minister

Mr Kursad Kaharamanoglu, Secretary
General - ILGA
ILGA Administrative Office,
81 Kolenmarkt
B 1000, Brussels, Belgium

Dear Mr Kahramanoglu,

I appreciated meeting you during your visit in Stockholm. You and your organisation's dedicated work to achieve equal rights for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people is of great importance.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights states that all human beings are born equal in dignity and rights. The United Nations 1966 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. For the Swedish Government, it is self-evident that all human beings must be treated equally, irrespective of their sexual orientation.

Unfortunately, no country in the world is free from intolerance against lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people. Governments have the primary responsibility for fighting these scourges. But the shared responsibility of the international community must also be emphasised. Unless we are able to create a world in which everyone is respected and treated equally, we will endanger the whole principle of human rights.

My experience as minister with responsibility for democracy and human rights is that the international efforts to promote respect for every human being irrespective of sexual orientation must be strengthened at every level. Therefore I welcome the ILGA's next world conference that will take place in Manila, the Philippines on 6-13 November 2003. I wish your conference every success and I am convinced that it will inspire people all over the world to make greater efforts to achieve fairer societies.

Yours faithfully,

Mona Sahlin

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Telex
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REGISTRATION FORM - SOLICITUD DE REGISTRO

Sentimos que la versión española de la solicitud no ha podido ser concluida para su publicación en el Boletín. Es por esta razón que les referimos a la página web www.ilga-asia.org/ilga-asia/ en donde podrán encontrar la versión traducida al español.

International Lesbian and Gay Association
22nd WORLD CONFERENCE – 22 CONFERENCIA MUNDIAL
"Surviving Discrimination, Celebrating Ourselves"
"Sobreviviendo la Discriminación, Celebrándonos a nosotros"
 11-18 November 2003 - Manila, Philippines

DELEGATE DETAILS – DATOS DE LOS DELEGADOS

(Please type or print in block letters and / tick for your preference / *Escriba en letras mayúsculas y seleccione donde proceda*)

Type of Registration: _____ Representative of a full member organization / *Representante de organización.*
 Modalidad de Registro _____ Representative of an associate member organization / *Representante Asociado.*
 _____ Individual Membership / *Socio Individual*
 _____ Observer / Media – *Observador / Medio s de comunicación*
 _____ Other / *Otro*

Title (Mr/Ms), (Sr/Sra) _____
 (Last Name) (Apellidos) (First Name) (Nombre) (Middle Initial)

Organization & Position / *Nombre de la Organización y Puesto del Representante* _____

Address for Organization (pls. include City & State) / *Dirección (Ciudad y País)* _____

Is the organization a member of ILGA? / *Es Miembro de ILGA?* _____ Yes (date of membership) *Si (Fecha)*
 _____ No. Your own Address (pls. include City & State) *Su dirección particular (Ciudad y País)*

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail Address / *Dirección:* _____

Accompanying Person / Acompañante

Title (Mr/Ms) (Sr/Sra) _____
 (Last Name) (Apellidos) (First Name) (Nombre) (Middle Initial)

- This is my first ILGA Conference / *Esta es su primera Conferencia de ILGA* _____ Yes / *Si* _____ No
- I prefer / *Prefiero* _____ English / *Inglés* _____ Spanish / *Español*
- I require sign language assistance / *Necesito asistencia con lenguaje de signos* _____ Yes / *Si* _____ No
- I would like the following special diet catered / *Desea la siguiente variedad de comida*
 _____ Vegetarian food / *Vegetariana* _____ Muslim / *Mahometana* _____ Others / *Otra (pls. specify*
 _____)
- Do you have special needs? / *Requiere usted alguna asistencia especial?*
 _____ Sight / *Visión* _____ Hearing / *Oído* _____ Wheelchair / *Minusvalía física* _____ Others / *Otros*
 (pls. specify/ *cuál?* _____)

Please note that all ILGA Conferences and meetings are Non-smoking.
En las Conferencias y Sesiones de ILGA está prohibido fumar.

Pre-conferences (youth, women, bisexual, transgender, HIV-Aids, religion, others) : 11-14 November 2003. 22nd World Conference : 14 – 18 November 2003.

Pre-conferencias (la juventud, la mujer, la bisexualidad, la transexualidad, el VIH/Sida, la religión, Otros); 11-14 Noviembre 2003. 22 Conferencia Mundial; 14-18 Noviembre 2003

REGISTRATION FEE / PRECIO DEL REGISTRO

	On/Before Jun.15, 2003 <i>Antes de 15 Junio 2003</i>	On/Before Aug.15, 2003 <i>Antes de 15 Agosto 2003</i>	On/Before Oct.15, 2003 <i>Antes de 15 Octubre 2003</i>	After Oct.15 <i>+ 15 Oct</i>
Pre -& World Conference <i>Pre + Conferencia Mund.</i>	-	US \$420	US \$540	US \$660
World Conference Only <i>Solo Conferencia Mund.</i>	US \$300	US \$350	US \$400	US \$450
Pre-Conference Only <i>Solo Preconferencia</i>	-	US \$140	US \$190	US \$240
Pre-Conference per day <i>Pre-Conferencia diario.</i>	-	US \$40	US \$ 55	US \$75

REGISTRATION FORM - SOLICITUD DE REGISTRO

Accompanying Person to Confer. / Acompañante	US \$180	US \$210	US \$240	US \$280
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REFUND POLICY * Before 30 Sept. 2003: 70% of the Registration Fee * After 30 Sept. 2003: NO REFUND
POLITICA DE DEVOLUCIÓN * Antes del 30 de Septiembre 2003: 70% del Precio del Registro *
Después del 30 de Septiembre 2003: No DEVOLUCIÓN

APPROPRIATIONS FORM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

HOTEL (pls. tick your choice) (Marque su elección)

	Charges per night <i>Precio por noche</i>	How many nights <i>Número de noches</i>
WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA (Deluxe/5star) (Lujo/ 5 Estrellas)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Deluxe Room Single/Double <i>Habitación Lujo Indiv/Doble</i>	US \$125.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Room Single/Double <i>Habitación Superior Indiv/Doble</i>	US \$105.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Superior Room Double Sharing/person <i>*Habitación Superior Doble/Compartiendo</i>	US \$ 57.50	
CENTURY PARK SHERATON (Superior/5star) (Superior/ 5 Estrellas)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Room Single/Double <i>Habitación Superior Indiv/Doble</i>	US \$100.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Superior Room Double Sharing/person <i>*Habitación Superior Doble/Compartiendo</i>	US \$ 52.00	
TRADERS SHANGRI-LA (Bay Area/First Class) (Area Marítima/ 1 Clase)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Suite <i>Suit Ejecutiva</i>	US \$120.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Room Single/Double <i>Habitación Superior Indiv/Doble</i>	US \$ 90.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Superior Room Double Sharing/person <i>*Habitación Superior Doble/Compartiendo</i>	US \$ 50.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Superior Room Triple Sharing/person <i>*Habitación Superior Triple/Compartiendo</i>	US \$ 42.00	
ORCHID GARDEN (Bay Area/Standard) (Area Marítima/Estándar)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Room Single/Double <i>Habitación Estándar Indiv/Doble</i>	US \$ 65.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Standard Room Double Sharing/person <i>*Habitación Estándar Doble / Compartiendo</i>	US \$ 35.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Standard Room Triple Sharing/person <i>*Habitación Estándar Triple / Compartiendo</i>	US \$ 28.00	

Non-smoking Room/ *Habitación no Fumador*
 Smoking Room / *Habitación Fumador*

Sharing a Room with (Name) *: / Compartiendo la Habitación con (Nombre) _____

NOTE: * If you would like to share the cost of a double or triple room with other registered participants, but not have made previous arrangements, the Secretariat will make the appropriate room assignments for you. / Si desea compartir los gastos de una habitación doble o triple con algún otro participante registrado pero no ha hecho acuerdos previos, el Secretariado procederá con la asignación de compañeros de habitación.

- Hotel rates are inclusive of service charge, government tax and buffet breakfast. / Precios incluyen impuestos y media pensión.
- A one-night deposit is required for your hotel reservation. We cannot guarantee your booking without the deposit. / Una noche de depósito es necesaria para su reserva de hotel. NO podemos garantizar su reserva sin el depósito.
- Reservations will be made on FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS ONLY. / Las reservas se harán en orden de petición.

REGISTRATION FORM - SOLICITUD DE REGISTRO

**REFUND POLICY: On/Before 15 October 2003: 50% REFUND, after the date, NO REFUND
DEVOLUCIÓN: Antes del 15 Octubre 2003: 50% TOTAL, Después, NO DEVOLUCIÓN**

Check-in Date - *Fecha de llegada:* _____
Carrier & Flight No; - *Vuelo N°:* _____

Check-out Date - *Fecha de Retorno:* _____
Carrier & Flight No. - *Vuelo N°:* _____

AIRPORT TRANSFERS - TRANSPORTE DESDE EL AEROPUERTO

Roundtrip Transfers - *Ida y vuelta* US \$ 24.00 | One Way Transfer - *Ida o vuelta* US \$ 12.00
* Minimum of 2 persons in a car - *Mínimo de dos personas en el coche.*

PAYMENT DECLARATION - DECLARACIÓN DE PAGO

Registration - <i>Registro</i>	US \$
Hotel Deposit - <i>Depósito del Hotel</i>	US \$
Airport Transfers - <i>Transporte desde el aeropuerto</i>	US \$
Subtotal of Payments - Subtotal de pagos	US \$
6% Surcharge for Credit Card Transactions - Pago con Tarjeta de Crédito	US \$
GRAND TOTAL / TOTAL	US \$

NOTE: All bank charges shall be borne by the participant to ensure credit in full. / Todo gasto bancario deberá ser asumido por el participante para asegurar crédito completo.

I enclose herewith a Bank Draft US\$
Adjunto un giro bancario en EEUU \$ _____ payable to / pagable a:

Women's Media Circle-ILGA Conference

BANK TRANSFER* / TRANSFERENCIA BANCARIA* *(Please send photocopy, envíe fotocopia)*

I (We) have remitted US \$ / *He (Hemos) remitido US\$ _____ on (date) / en fecha _____*
via telegraphic transfer through / *via transferencia _____*
(name of bank) to your account, the details for which are as follows / *(nombre del banco) a su*
cuenta, siendo los detalles de la correspondiente como siguen:

Account Name / *Nombre de la Cuenta:* **Women's Media Circle-ILGA Conference**
Dollar Account No. / *N° de la Cuenta de Dólares:* **0061-021829-002**
Name of Bank / *Nombre del Banco:* **Security Bank (Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines)**
Address: **Security Bank Centre, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226, Philippines**

CREDIT CARD Please charge US \$ / *Por favor cobren US \$ _____ to my / a mi*

VISA **MASTERCARD** **DINERS**

Card No.: . .

Expiry Date / *Caduca:* _____ Bank Name / *Nombre de Banco:* _____

Billing Address / *Dirección:* _____

Passport No. / *Pasaporte:* _____ Expiry Date / *Caduca:* _____

Signature / *Firma:* _____

Date / *Fecha:* _____

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM, WITH YOUR PAYMENT IN US DOLLARS TO:

CONGRESS SECRETARIAT ILGA2003 World Conference

Rm. 1203, 12/F, Security Bank Centre, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226, Philippines

Tel. No.: (632) 813-43-24 • Telefax (632) 891-12-53 • E-mail Address: secretariat_ilga2003@yahoo.com

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The ILGA Secretariat has requested Heinrich Böll Foundation to support scholarship applications to the World Conference in Manila. If you are in any of the countries listed below, please contact the representatives of the Böll Foundation and inquire how they can help in providing assistance for your participation in the World Conference. The ILGA Secretariat cannot apply directly in your behalf, so please take the time to contact Böll in your own country or the country nearest to the local office.

South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Brazil, Ecuador, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Russia, Bosnia, Czech, Georgia, China

El Secretariado de ILGA ha pedido a la Fundación Heinrich Böll su apoyo para la solicitud de becas para la Conferencia Mundial en Manila. Si usted está en alguno de los países citados a continuación, contacte con la representación de la Fundación Böll y pregunte como le pueden ayudar aportándole asistencia para su participación en la Conferencia Mundial. El Secretariado de ILGA no puede realizar solicitudes en nombre de los miembros, por lo tanto contacte la fundación Böll en su propio país o en el país más próximo a su oficina local.

Sudáfrica, Namibia, Zimbabue, Etiopía, Brasil, Ecuador, Paquistán, India, Israel, Tailandia, Palestina, Turquía, Rusia, Bosnia, Rep. Checa, Georgia, China.

Visit the website www.boell.de or email <info@boell.de>

If you are not yet an ILGA member, please communicate with the ILGA Secretariat for membership information: at: ilga@ilga.org, www.ilga.org or call direct:
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Thank you. See you in Manila!

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Email boell@palnet.com

CONFERENCE TRACKS AND TIMETABLE

Track 1: Culture, Religion and Family *Possible Workshop Topics*

The Gay and Lesbian Catholic, Marriage Laws: An Update, Sodomy Laws: An Update,
The Media: Friend or Foe to LGBTI Persons?, Religious Oppression on Sexuality and Gender, Families for a world without Homophobia

Track 2: Law, Politics & Human Rights

Possible Workshop Topics

LGBTI Migration: The Asian Diaspora, Asylum Laws and LGBTI, ILGA, Amnesty I, IGLHRC: Our Common Future, The Gay Candidate: Running for

Office, Domestic Violence among Lesbians, LGBTI Visibility and its impact on Discrimination

Track 3: Labor, Economy and Poverty *Possible Workshop Topics*

Discrimination and Job Security, The Pink Economy: Is it for Real?, Funding for LGBTI Organizing: An Update, Sex and Vulnerability: Transgenders at Work

Track 4: Health, Gender Violence & AIDS

Possible Workshop Topics

Homosexuality and Psychology: An Update, Health issues of Transgender

Persons, Women's Health in Patriarchal Cultures, Menopause and Cancer as Issues of Senior Lesbians, The Impact on Women of Male Attitudes towards Sex, The Impact of Discrimination on the Health of LGBTI Persons

Track 5: Survival and Regeneration *Possible Workshop Topics*

IGLTA: Spreading the Word through Travel, Pride Events as Advocacy, How do we Come Out?
ILGA in the next 25 years, LGBTI Movements in the Pacific Region.

Conference Timetable - Calendario para la Conferencia

19 September - Deadline for submitting motions and recommendations to the agenda.
19 Septiembre - Fin del plazo de entrega de mociones y recomendaciones a la agenda.

13 October - Deadline for the board members for their input of the annual regional executive report
13 Octubre - Fin del plazo de entrega del informe ejecutivo regional anual del los miembros del Consejo.

20 October - Deadline for presenting Amendments.
20 Octubre - Fin del plaze de presentación de enmiendas.

Nominations for the post of Secretary General and Women's Secretary can be presented until 6pm of the second day of the conference, 16 November 2003.
Las nominaciones a los puestos de Secretarios Generales y Secretariado de la Mujer pueden ser presentadas hasta las 18:00h. del segundo día de la conferencia, 16 de Noviembre 2003.

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ILGA AND WAR

Editor's note: While the fighting in Irak is - mainly - over, the opinions expressed in this article remain applicable to the present political situation.

The Iraqi situation is a family tragedy, first created by Husseins then by Bushs. I recognise the USA as the only super power around the world. The Roman Empire of our times you may say. I regret however that this great nation which set many fine examples of freedom and civilization, led by an unelected born again Christian, chose to resolve a problem of this world, exactly as the past world empires have done. By brute force, illegally and immorally! Like millions of people around the world I am not convinced on balance that the world will be a better place after all the destruction and ill will this illegal invasion of Iraq will create even if they manage to get rid of the Iraqi dictator. What hope is there for any one of us who is fighting for human rights and equality, when brute force, death and destruction can be presented as the vehicles to achieve liberty and freedom! In its zealouslyness to stamp our times the Super Power of our times missed a colossal opportunity on behalf of human race. It could have bucked the trend and let enlightenment to be its legacy rather than going down in history like any other imperial power.

I believe at the root of the Middle East Problem lies the Arab Israeli conflict. Without settling this problem there cannot be lasting peace in this part of the world. Like many I see the recent attempt by the American and British Governments in the shape and name of "Road Map" as a cynical attempt to win the propaganda war in the Moslem World and for the hearts and minds of some of the members of the "coalition of the willing", like Spain. Even if my feeling on this matter is not correct, for many this is too little too late.

One of the issues, which preoccupy my thinking, is: What kind of a world awaits us after the dust has settled in this ill-conceived historical mistake? Is it actually a true league of nations? The USA and its junior partner Britain on top of the league, and then non-fighting members of the "coalition of the willing", like Spain, and Portugal, and then the ones whose arms were twisted in spite of their publics' over-

whelming opposition, i.e. the "coalition of not so willing" like Turkey, Australia, Jordan and Canada, then the opposition "Old Europe" like France and Germany, then the rest which never really mattered anyhow? How is this league going to be run? The top of the league will send a circular e-mail to tell who is right and who is wrong and who wins and who loses, and if the e-mail was not adhered to it will turn up with its junior bully partner and clobber the ones who do not obey? As a European and British citizen I am of course most concerned about the untold damage caused to British relations with its partners in the EU and the rest of the world. Frustrated by lack of support from its own public, senior British politicians played the old Xenophobic Card against France, accusing her being the problem. The Prime minister of UK must have felt that he was between a rock and a hard place. He could not say no to the Americans, nor could he deliver a UN resolution as he promised to his people. So having a go at the French will do. This, by the way, is the same Prime Minister who came to power with a promise, amongst others, to put Britain at the heart of Europe.

Collective memory is different from individual memory. Individual memories are prone to forget relatively quickly, especially the bad things. However collective memories like those of nations remember things for much longer. For example Germany still suffers from its aggressive and negative image created as a result of the Second World War even though it's been a peaceful and much more responsible country ever since. How will the nations of the world look upon the USA and Britain after such a brutal act of invasion in spite of the world opinion?

What kind of Pandora's Box has been opened by this act of war in the Middle East? How long can Arab and Other Moslem Nations' public opinion withstand the constant humiliation and victimization of fellow Arab/Moslem people? The USA and Britain armed 90,000 Kurdish Civilians in Northern Iraq. After the dust has settled wouldn't they demand an Independent Kurdistan? How will Syria, Iran and Turkey react to that? Does this mean that Iraq will be an occupied country for the foreseeable future to prevent

greater regional war? What about the other extremely oppressive regimes in the region and in the world? If the war does not end in four weeks as has been budgeted for by the USA President, what will happen then?

It feels as if there is real anger behind the uneasy calm and quiet in the UK. It is of course difficult for us to be very critical of the current operations going on in Iraq at the moment because we have many human links with the British Soldiers ordered to fight there. For example I work for a public services trade union. We probably have many members acting in the medical corps there, and we certainly have members who have loved ones in Iraq. However it is my considered opinion that at the first opportunity the British People will show their disapproval of this government's actions vis-à-vis the War. We know and remember well what happened in the polls to Winston Churchill after he was one of the victors of the Second World War, even though he enjoyed by and large the support of the majority of the British People during the war. This as a trade unionist concerns me, because my union is a great organisation, which works very hard for equality. And the present Labour Government with which we work well has done much for lgbt rights in the UK, and they were a breath of fresh air after 18 years of Conservative rule in the UK. However, they now have the approval for war from Parliament with the support of Conservative votes, and I fear the third term of the Labour Government is in jeopardy.

Even within my wise union, like the rest of UK, there are still people who genuinely feel that a quick and surgical operation to get rid of Saddam is possible and this will fill the streets of Iraqi Cities with celebrating citizens. This of course will immediately vindicate Bush and Blair, and they will be hailed heroes and the spoils of the war will go to the victors! I disagreed with this, I still do. We should still try to end this war and go back to peaceful means to help the Iraqi people now. If the way to get rid of a bully is a greater bully, this means we are still living in a jungle. In

Continued on page 12

Nota del Editor: A pesar de que la lucha en Irak haya en un principio terminado, las opiniones expresadas en este artículo siguen siendo aplicables a la presente situación política.

“La situación Iraquí es una tragedia familiar, primero creada por los Hussein y después por los Bush. Reconozco a los Estados Unidos como el único SuperPoder en el mundo. El Imperio Romano de nuestros tiempos, como podrían llamarlo. Sin embargo, lamento que esta gran nación, encabezada por un Cristiano fundamentalista, no electo, que ha establecido grandes ejemplos de libertad y civilización, haya decidido resolver un problema de nuestro mundo, de la misma manera que los viejos imperios lo hubieran hecho, usando la fuerza, ilegal e inhumana! Como millones de personas alrededor del mundo, no me siento totalmente convencido de que el mundo vaya a ser un lugar mejor tras la destrucción e insana voluntad que se llevará a cabo en la presente invasión de Irak aunque consigan desacerse del dictador iraquí. ¿Qué esperanza nos queda para aquellos de nosotros que luchamos por los derechos humanos y la igualdad, cuando la fuerza bruta, la muerte y la destrucción pueden presentarse como el vehículo a través del cual lograr la libertad? Ansioso por dejar huella en la historia, el Super Poder contemporáneo ha perdido una grandiosa oportunidad en nombre de la raza humana. Podría haber resistido el ritmo de los acontecimientos y dejar que la ilustración fuera su legado en vez de haber descendido en la historia como cualquier otro poder imperial”.

Considero que la raíz del problema de Oriente Próximo yace en el conflicto Arabe-Israelí. Sin una solución a este problema no puede existir una paz duradera en esta región del mundo. Como muchos otros, entiendo el reciente intento de los Gobiernos de los Estados Unidos y el Reino Unido por definir y nombrar el “Road Map” como un cínico intento por ganar la propaganda bélica en el mundo Islámico y en los corazones y conciencias de algunos de los miembros de la “coalición de la voluntad”, como España. Y aunque mi opinión sobre la situación pudiera ser incorrecta, para muchos todo esto es muy poco, y ya es demasiado tarde.

Uno de los asuntos que más me preocupan es saber ¿Qué tipo de mundo nos espera después de que el polvo se haya asentado en este insano error histórico? ¿Será realmente una verdadera liga de naciones? ¿Estarán los Estados Unidos y su joven aliado el Reino Unido a la cabeza de la liga, seguidos por los no contendientes miembros de la “coalición de la voluntad”, como España, y Portugal, estos a la vez seguidos por aquellos cuyos brazos están indecisos a pesar de la apabullante oposición de sus poblaciones (como por ejemplo la “coalición de los no tan voluntad” como Turquía, Australia, Jordania y Canadá), y finalmente la oposición “Vieja Europa” de Francia, y Alemania, y el resto de las naciones que nunca realmente se sintieron interesados de cualquier manera? ¿Cómo funcionará esta liga? ¿Será la cabeza de la liga la que enviará un e-mail circular comunicando quién lleva la razón y quién está equivocado, quién gana y quién pierde? Como ciudadano Europeo y Británico estoy por supuesto preocupado por el no comunicado perjuicio provocado a las relaciones británicas con sus colegas de la Unión Europea y del resto del mundo. Frustrado por la carencia de apoyo de su propio pueblo, los expertos políticos británicos jugaron la vieja carta Xenófoba contra Francia, acusándole de ser el problema. El Primer Ministro Británico debió haber sentido que se encontraba entre la espada y la pared. No pudo decir no a los Estados Unidos, no pudo librar una resolución de las naciones Unidas aún habiéndolo prometido a su gente. Pasándole el relevo a Francia serviría. Este, por cierto, es el mismo Primer Ministro que llegó al poder con una promesa, entre tantas, de poner al Reino Unido en el corazón de Europa.

La memoria colectiva es diferente a la memoria individual. Las memorias individuales son propensas a olvidar fácilmente, especialmente en lo que se refiere a aspectos negativos. Sin embargo, las memorias colectivas, como aquellas de las naciones, son recordadas durante mas tiempo. Por ejemplo Alemania todavía sufre la imagen de agresividad y negatividad creada como resultado de la segunda guerra mundial, a pesar de haber sido un país más pacífico y responsable desde aquel entonces. ¿Cómo mirarán las naciones del mundo a los Estados Unidos

y el Reino Unido tras el brutal acto de invasión de la opinión pública?

¿Qué tipo de caja de Pandora se ha abierto con este acto bélico en Oriente Próximo? ¿Por cuánto tiempo puede la opinión pública de las naciones Arabe e Islámicas resistir la continua humillación de sus compañeros árabes y musulmanes? Y, habiendo armado los Estados Unidos y el Reino Unido a 90 000 milicianos kurdos en el Norte de Irak, no demandarán estos un estado kurdo independiente una vez que el polvo se haya asentado? ¿Cuál sería la reacción de Siria, Irán y Turquía? ¿Supondría esto que Irak será un país ocupado para el previsible futuro para prevenir un mayor conflicto regional? ¿Qué sucede con el resto de los regímenes opresores de la región y del resto del mundo? ¿Y si la guerra no termina en cuatro semanas como ha sido presupuestada por el Presidente de los Estados Unidos, que sucederá entonces?

Parece como si la rabia se ocultara detrás de la difícil calma y tranquilidad del Reino Unido. Es por supuesto difícil para nosotros ser muy críticos sobre las actuales operaciones que se están desarrollando en Irak porque tenemos muchos lazos personales con los soldados británicos enviados a la guerra. Por ejemplo, yo trabajo para un sindicato de servicios públicos. Probablemente tenemos a muchos miembros actuado como médicos en Irak, y desde luego tenemos miembros que han querido a alguien allí. Sin embargo mi opinión considerada es que, a la primera oportunidad, la población británica mostrará su desaprobación a estas acciones del gobierno sobre la guerra. Sabemos y recordamos bien lo que le sucedió en las urnas a Winston Churchill después de haber sido uno de los victoriosos en la segunda guerra mundial, y aunque contara con el apoyo de una mayoría de los ciudadanos británicos durante la guerra. Estas cuestiones, como sindicalista me interesan, porque mi sindicato es una gran organización que trabaja muy duro por la igualdad. El presente gobierno laborista con el que trabajamos ha hecho mucho por los derechos de los gays, lesbianas, bisexuales y transexuales, representando un respiro de aire fresco tras 18

Continúa en la página 12

ILGA-LAC PROJECT NEWS

ILGA-LAC HUMAN RIGHTS HANDBOOK PRESENTED IN MONTERREY

CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NUEVO LEON MEET WITH LGBT ACTIVISTS
IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF OPEN DEBATE

Mexico, 24 January, 2003. Notiese/ Rocío Fernández (Notiese is the aids and sexuality news agency from Mexico.)

Two candidates on the run-up for state elections in Nuevo Leon (Mexico) gathered last January with LGBT activists of their state. First it was Mauricio Fernández Garza's turn to meet with civil society organisations in Monterrey. One of the wealthiest men in the state, Fernández Garza attended the presentation of the ILGA-LAC Handbook of Human Rights as candidate for Governor of the Partido Accion Nacional (PAN).

Arturo Díaz Betancourt of the Comisión Ciudadana de Crímenes de Odio por Homofobia (CCCOH), who presented the handbook, also attended the event. Díaz Betancourt made an appeal to "put an end to stigma and discrimination, namely in language and expressions used to define members of the LGBT community". Candidate Fernandez Garza apologised to an audience of 100 people and admitted his being completely ignorant about the subject. A few days before he had used derogatory language when he stated that "the votes of homosexuals and priests would also be welcome".

Mariaurora Mota co-organizer of the event and member of the OASIS Center for Diversity reported that the candidate also expressed his good will and support to the demands of the LGBT community of Nuevo Leon, but he stated that he was not in a position to "make laws" and thus he could not guarantee anything. The candidate was questioned about the moral standards he would adopt in case of being elected Governor, and how this would not be affected by the stance of his party. Mr. Fernández replied that he would listen to the choice made by society. However, "it would be foolish to think" that he can solve the problems of people without taking into account LGBT community organisations and proposals.

In another event on January 16, ILGA and OASIS representa-

tives met with Senator Natividad González Parás, the candidate for State Governor of the PRI. Ms. González reminded her audience that she had taken part in the amendment of Article 1 of the Mexican Constitution, to which the paragraph that prohibits discrimination for preference was added. She remembered the opposition met in the commission to include the wording 'sexual preference' in the amended article.

The candidate for PRI disclosed her intention to appoint Congresswoman María Elena Chapa as co-ordinator of the Gender and Equality Commission in the federal congress. She invited civil organisations to work closely with the commission in establishing a political platform for the achievement of equality for women and vulnerable sectors of society.

Arturo Díaz and members of OASIS facilitated a workshop on human rights. They presented the complaint submitted to the State Commission of Human Rights for the arbitrary detentions of a transgender activist. A petition for a report on the events has also been addressed to the secretary of the Municipal Police of Monterrey. However, members of OASIS do not foresee an immediate response to this request, since some inquiries take as long as one year to be resolved.

This is precisely one of the aspects that was analysed in the presentation of the ILGA-LAC human rights handbook. The rights to health, free transit and freedom of speech of LGBTs are being continuously violated. Díaz Betancourt pointed at the discriminatory treatment of the State Commission of Human Rights for refusing to receive complaints involving violations to LGBT rights and for the fact that the commission had turned down the invitation to take part in the workshop. He announced that a report on this situation would be presented in the upcoming April session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

(Translated by: Enrique Góngora)

Continued from page 10

such a jungle the aim is unavoidably a rat race to be the biggest bully of them all or to be the best mate of the biggest bully. I want no part of such a jungle!

*Kursad Kahramanoglu
ILGA Co-Secretary General*

Continuación de la página 11

años de gobierno conservador en el Reino Unido. Sin embargo ahora tienen la aprobación para la guerra del parlamento con el apoyo de los votos conservadores, y me temo que el tercer término del gobierno laborista está en peligro.

Incluso dentro de mi sabio sindicato, como en el resto del Reino Unido, hay todavía gente que genuinamente considera que es posible una rápida intervención quirúrgica para desacerse de Sadam y que esto produciría que las calles iraquíes se llenaran de ciudadanos jubilados. Desde luego esto justificará inmediatamente a Bush y a Blair, quienes serán aclamados

héroes y el botín de la guerra irá para los vencedores!. Yo sin embargo no estaba de acuerdo, y lo sigo sin estar. Deberíamos todavía intentar terminar esta guerra y recuperar los métodos pacíficos para ayudar a la población iraquí. Si la manera de desacerse de un matón es con un matón mayor, esto significa que todavía estamos viviendo en la selva, en una selva en la que el objetivo es inevitable, una lucha continua por ser el mayor matón de todos o ser su mejor amigo. Yo no quiero participar en esa jungla!

*Kursad Kahramanoglu
Co-Secretario General de ILGA*

Human rights programme and regional preparations

by Enrique Góngora

The ILGA human rights programme, funded by the EuropeAid agency of the European Union and the Dutch institute HIVOS, was implemented from August 2000 to November 2002 by OASIS Guatemala in coordination with the ILGA-LAC secretariat. The main objective of the programme was to develop citizenship and networks among LGBTs in a region affected by racism, gender discrimination and AIDS/STDs. Its ultimate aim is to launch an LGBT task force to deal with anti-discrimination campaigns in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As the programme neared its closing, reports showed an increased insecurity in the region for the work done by human rights defenders. The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders, Hina Jilani, issued January 23 a report on her visit to Guatemala in May 2002. In her report to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Ms. Jilani expresses concern at the increase in cases of violations against human rights defenders in the past two years. Confirmed or alleged violations include killings, death threats, and acts of intimidation and harassment. These violations are rarely properly investigated, she writes. Ms. Jilani notes that the principal targets of violations are human rights defenders investigating past abuses and those striving for the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of indigenous peoples. Americas Watch had previously released similar reports in 2001, and also the Interamerican Human Rights Commission's unit for human rights defenders, on mission in Guatemala in July 2002.

Despite the obstacles posed by poorly managed national governments and insufficient public policies, the Latin American region takes pride in its successful community responses, such as is demonstrated by the networking efforts and interven-

tions in human development vis-à-vis the AIDS epidemics, or the campaigns on sexual and reproductive rights conducted by the members of the Latin American Council for the Rights of Women (CLADEM), currently campaigning for an American convention on sexual and reproductive rights. Nonetheless, the backlash of neo-conservatism led by church institutions, such as Opus Dei and other pro-family organisations with strong ties with governing coalitions throughout the continent, has made it difficult to get recognition for their work and the implementation of much-needed policies to put all of the people on an equal footing.

Moving Forward

Great difficulties were posed from the outset for OASIS, as they dealt with a task involving a vast geographical area and different organisational cultures. At the same time, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) documented in 2001 several cases of threats to activists and the murder by gunshot of a transgender activist who was a founding member of the OASIS AIDS project Rodalinda. It must be mentioned that OASIS joined in 2001 the Alliance against Impunity for the crimes committed against the indigenous population by the military regime that conducted a national security war that ravaged the country in the 70's and 80's and left an estimated 200,000 dead (90% of these having been committed by military or paramilitary forces). According to the Hilani report, "Violations are committed notably by members of the police forces and by the military, which continues to perform tasks that go beyond those performed by that institution in a democratic society, as well as by clandestine groups linked to security forces."

The publication of the ILGA-LAC Bulletin, initially produced in Barcelona, Spain in 1997, was continued by OASIS as editorial co-ordinator and with the support of information lists administered by IGLHRC and Letra S in Mexico, as well as the Colombian Network of people living with AIDS. The ILGA Human Rights Report was posted in 2001, along with the Human Rights Handbook and Directory for LGBTs produced in Spanish and

Portuguese, which appeared in April 2002. The documents were also posted on the project's website project: http://www.geocities.com/ddhh_ilga_lac/.

A series of programmed seminars on human rights for LGBTs was given in ten cities in Latin America at the end of 2002. ILGA-LAC secretary Carlos Sanchez organised regional preparatory meetings with LGBT organisations from Ecuador and Chile attending the World Economic Forum that was held in Brazil in January this year. The seminars in Central America were organised by OASIS in Honduras and Guatemala. Similar events were organised by national LGBT organisations in Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Colombia.

LGBT organisations that hosted seminars

- OASIS - Guatemala
- Comunidad gay sampedrana - Honduras
- Movimiento unificado minorías sexuales (MUMS) - Chile
- Traves Chile - Chile
- Movimiento homosexual de Lima (MHOL) - Peru
- Dignidade - Brazil
- Fundación Equidad - Ecuador
- Letra S - Mexico
- Comisión ciudadana de crímenes por homofobia - Mexico
- El closet de sor Juana - Mexico
- Ciudadan@s construyendo dignidad - Colombia

Participation of LGBTs in the World Social Forum of Porto Alegre was procured by FEDAEPS - Ecuador and South-South Dialogue (with the continental initiative NO to FTAA) and the panel on LGBT Citizenship and social, economic and cultural rights organised by many ILGA-LAC regional members. A preparatory meeting was held afterwards to discuss arrangements for the ILGA-LAC regional conference in Ecuador in October. A working party to deal with the fundraising for this conference has been organised, and a commission will prepare evaluation documents for the ILGA-LAC Human Rights project. OASIS is currently preparing the audited financial and narrative report that is to be submitted to the EU in May.

HIV/AIDS

Frontlines and Fault lines **A report on the International** **Treatment Preparedness Summit,** **13 – 16 March 2003,** **Cape Town, South Africa**

Frontline: 1. A front or boundary, especially one between military, political, or ideological positions. 2. Of or relating to the most advanced or important position or activity in a field or undertaking

Fault line: 1. A fracture in the earth's crust with displacement of one side with respect to the other

*By Andy Quan, participant
Australian Federation of AIDS
Organisations (AFAO) and Asia-Pacific
Council of AIDS Service Organisations
(APCASO)*

Touching Down

Over a few days in early March, dozens of flights touched down in Cape Town, unloading AIDS activists from around the world. Nearly 125 participants from 67 countries came to attend the International Treatment Preparedness Summit, an event "organized by an ad-hoc coalition of treatment activists from around the globe" and sponsored by over a dozen donor organisations.

They were joined by representatives from these donor organisations, as well as by volunteers and local organisers, with the main aim of establishing organisations and movements for increasing treatment access where none exist, and strengthening those that already exist.

The key method for doing this was by addressing the issue of treatment education - how individuals and institutions can understand HIV and AIDS treatments better - which will then hopefully lead to treatment advocacy - how we can better fight for and obtain access to treatments for HIV and AIDS which include, in addition to antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), treatment and prophylaxis for opportunistic infections (OIs), substitution therapy for drug users, monitoring and diagnostic tools, and the basic health infrastructure to deliver them.

Why We Went

The reason has been well described in

recent years as the treatment access movement has grown in prominence and strength. But as this meeting took place in South Africa, it is appropriate to quote Justice Edwin Cameron who, in a landmark speech at the Durban World AIDS Conference said:

"Amidst the poverty of Africa, I stand before you because I am able to purchase health and vigour. I am here because I can pay for life itself. To me this seems a shocking and monstrous iniquity of very considerable proportions - that, simply because of relative affluence, I should be living when others have died; that I should remain fit and healthy when illness and death beset millions of others."

Since those words were spoken in 2000, there have been many positive developments in and opportunities for treatment access: the development of generic ARV drug manufacturing in countries such as India and Thailand, the Doha Declaration of 2001 affirming a nation's right to health over economic interests, the stirring example of Brazil's universal provision of treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). There has also been the start of many successful pilot projects around the world, which are bringing treatment to PLWHA and saving lives.

At the same time, the fault-line between rich and poor countries remains. AIDS continues to infect and affect people around the world at an increasing rate, but treatment for PLWHA has not successfully been scaled-up to reach significant numbers. How can the world reach the World Health Organisation's target of treatment of three million people with ARVs by 2005?

It is with this sense of urgency that organising for this summit began in late 2002. The logistics of the meeting, including agenda-setting and participant-selection, took place primarily by e-mail. A simultaneous process organised the writing of regional reports and the gathering of documentation and materials on treatment access. As the meeting date approached, the situation became tense. Would funding come through? Could flights be organised and translators found? Due to the key efforts of New York-based Gregg Gonsalvez, as well as by local organiser Onos Imhanwa and others from around the

world, the pieces of the puzzle came together. The summit took place.

Day by Day

Over four days, participants took part in a range of discussions and presentations. On day one, an opening address was given by Zackie Achmat of South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) where he drew up a framework for creating a global movement. Others followed with presentations on treatment literacy and advocacy, and on specific issues such as treatment guidelines, funding, health infrastructure, mother to child transmission (MTCT) prevention needs, and a standard of care for OI prophylaxis and treatment. The afternoon featured reports from various regions and countries, divided into Eastern and Central Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

On day two, the participants broke into discussion groups to identify needs, obstacles and models for treatment literacy and treatment advocacy. After a report-back from the groups, participants divided into regions and discussed the same issues. The day closed with a report from the Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) project in Khayelitsha, not far from Cape Town, which provides care for more than 3,000 people, with three hundred clients receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) with generic versions of antiretroviral drugs.

Day three split participants into discussion groups on the specific topics of Funding; Communications and Materials dissemination; Drug Pricing, Patents and Access; Stigma and Vulnerable Populations; Global Advocacy Efforts and Linkage with health care providers, drug treatment providers, NGOs, and other groups who provide care and education. In the afternoon, regional participants regrouped to discuss priorities and next steps for treatment education and advocacy. Following a report-back from this session was the first question and answer period on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM).

On the last day, participants representing developing countries heard presentations from representatives from funding organisations. A successful press conference was held that received local coverage, primarily focusing on the summit's support for

HIV/AIDS

TAC's upcoming civil disobedience campaign to pressure the government to commit to a public sector ARV program and to sign a Framework Agreement with business, labour and community on a National HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Plan. The afternoon saw a heated meeting with representatives of the Global Fund and a final session tried, unsuccessfully, to reach consensus on a Declaration of Action from the Summit (a discussion will continue by e-mail).

A strong meeting

The real success of meetings is often found in outcomes that happen after the meeting, or take place in ways that are undocumented. One of the possibilities of why this meeting was successful is in the way it created a momentum and drive in an international movement for treatment access. This happened by the very process of involving and bringing together key activists from around the world, many who are working at the frontlines. It also gave the opportunity for many people to meet for the first time, not only globally, but also giving an important opportunity for regional activists to meet, discuss and plan. Simultaneous translation in French, Spanish and Russian during the meeting allowed participants to take part in an authentic way and allowed perspectives to be heard by other participants, which would not take place in a conference limited by language.

The conference was also an important opportunity for funders to speak directly to PLWHA and non-governmental organisation (NGO) / community-based organisation (CBO) representatives. Representatives came from the World Bank, the World Health Organisation, the Tides Foundation, UNAIDS, the Catholic Medical Mission Board, USAID and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation. Often those who fund meetings are not present at them; but most of these funders observed the entire meeting, hearing directly from those involved in treatment access issues.

There was additional useful interaction between sectors. The majority of participants came from PLWHA groups and NGOs/CBOs. But there were also a number of health-care professionals, some wearing an "activist hat" as well. The deci-

sion had been made to generally exclude representatives from governments and international agencies. This seemed to work for this meeting, allowing it to remain small in size and activist in nature. But this is a question that could be revisited for regional and other follow-up meetings, since involving key decision-makers in discussions, such as was done with the funders at this meeting, can be constructive.

Communications and the dissemination of information may be improved as a result of the summit. The listserv discussions will likely continue. A report of the meeting is to be compiled and disseminated. Regional listservs may be developed. The many regional and country reports should also be distributed and may be a useful resource for global advocacy. Work is being driven forward on how to best document and disseminate treatment resources from around the world.

Finally, one can never underestimate the power of meetings to bring people together in informal discussions at coffee breaks, meals and social gatherings that can lead to the exchange of an important idea, the start of a key partnership, or the beginning of a concrete action plan.

There are currently follow-up regional meetings planned for most regions. An Eastern and Central European meeting in Belarus will take place in upcoming months as well as a Latin American and Caribbean meeting. The African participants met the day after the summit, hopefully to develop their African Treatment Action Movement. It is Asia with its differences in local situation and languages that makes follow-up meetings more difficult, but there will be possibilities for treatment advocacy at various Asian meetings. The success of regional meetings to carry forward an agenda could be the most important marker of success for this summit.

Other key themes

Our host organization, the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), provided inspiration for many, as participants spoke with Zackie Achmat and other TAC members. Their model of feisty, inspired, and practical organising certainly has elements that can be replicated in other locations. TAC asked for global support in April for their civil disobedience campaign against their

government's inaction in dealing with HIV and AIDS.

On listening to the needs of activists at the conference, what I heard was that people and organisations need basic capacity-building and training. In order to build any treatment access movement, we need to work to strengthen our individual parts: find ways for community-based organizations and groups to keep operating, to keep their activists alive, to make the principle of Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS (GIPA) a reality, to build advocacy-skills and more.

I continue to be amazed at the energy and passion felt by community activists about the Global Fund. It is clear that the community feels ownership of the Fund and wants to ensure that it meets the needs of those who it was set up to serve. Key discussions included how to ensure strong community participation in County Coordinating Mechanisms and how to write proposals that include strong treatment components. At the same time, I hope that activists around the world view the Fund as part of a solution, rather than the whole solution. Some national governments can afford to put more resources into responding to AIDS, and the Global Fund should not be an excuse for them to not do so. Debt relief could be another way for funds to be freed up for treatment access.

The organisers managed to successfully move away from a meeting dominated by presentations to one that included ample discussion time for participants. However, I'd like to recommend that we go one step further and aim to turn discussion into action, to not just share what our local situation is but plan concrete collaboration and actions.

All in all, though, the summit was a great success, and the more so for how quickly it was put together. An incredible group of volunteers worked hard to bring the event to fruition, and already, days after the end of the conference, work is continuing and e-mails are flying around the globe.

Our friends, colleagues, and brothers and sisters from around the world are dying senselessly, but we are doing something about it. We are working with urgency and commitment, and the summit was a best-case example of this.

MEET THE NEW ADMIN/INFO OFFICER

Estimados miembros y todos aquellos que creéis y apoyáis el trabajo de ILGA en calidad de representante internacional de Gays, Lesbianas, Bisexuales y Transexuales.

Mi nombre es Javier Lorenzo Castro, soy de Santiago de Compostela (España) y desde el 16 de Abril trabajo para ILGA en su sede de Bruselas como Administrativo e Informador. Es para mi un placer y un gran cometido personal trabajar para y con vosotros en ILGA deseando mantener una duradera relación en común para lograr la igualdad de derechos de Gays, Lesbianas, Bisexuales y Transexuales en el mundo.

Trabajar para ILGA representa la culminación de muchos de mis intereses académicos y profesionales, y sin lugar a dudas, esta oportunidad se presenta como un ambicioso desafío profesional. Pero sobre todo, trabajar por la igualdad de derechos de Gays, Lesbianas, Bisexuales y Transexuales representa para mi un gran cometido personal. Es mi interés personal comunicar la realidad en que los homosexuales vivimos en el día a día así como en el nivel de la provisión de derechos sociales y políticos en el mundo.

Javier Lorenzo Castro

Como todos sabemos, muchos han sido los logros de ILGA así como de muchas otras organizaciones locales y nacionales en lo que se refiere a la provisión de derechos sociales para homosexuales, principalmente en países del denominado primer mundo. En muy pocos de estos países, los homosexuales han logrado obtener incluso el derecho al matrimonio y la adopción, pero pocos son el ejemplo. Sin embargo, la provisión de derechos



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ha frenado la creciente homofobia producida por la rápida expansión del Sida que se ha venido a entender como una epidemia Gay. Además, la mayoría de los países del mundo todavía penalizan la homosexualidad a través de una variedad de mecanismos sociales y políticos como el encarcelamiento, la discriminación pública, así como la degradación verbal, física y psicológica. ILGA, y todos nosotros, tenemos todavía un largo camino por recorrer para lograr la igualdad de derechos de Gays, Lesbianas, bisexuales y Transexuales.

En calidad de Administrativo e Informador de ILGA Bruselas, mi cometido es dar apoyo administrativo y organizativo al trabajo de las regiones y organizaciones de ILGA así como asistir en la comunicación interna y externa de nuestra organización. No dudéis en contactar conmigo si deseáis apoyo o información detallada sobre nuestro trabajo en ILGA. Me despido atentamente hasta pronto.

Un saludo,
Javier Lorenzo Castro
Administrativo e Informador de ILGA
Bruselas

Dear members and all of you who believe and support the work of ILGA as the voice of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender individuals in the international arena.

My name is Javier Lorenzo Castro. I am from Santiago de Compostela (Spain), and from the 16th of April I am working at ILGA in its office in Brussels as Administrative and Information Officer. It is for me a pleasure and a great personal commitment to work for and with you at ILGA. I wish to maintain a long relationship together towards the achieving of the equal rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals world-wide.

Working for ILGA matches most of my academic and professional interests and presents itself as an ambitious professional challenge. Moreover, working for the achievement of the rights of Gays, Les-

bians, Bisexuals and Transgender individuals represents a personal commitment. It is my personal interest to communicate the reality in which homosexual individuals live both on a daily basis and at the level of the legal provision of social and political rights and protections world-wide.

As we all know, many have been the achievements of ILGA as well as local and national organisations regarding the provision of social rights, at least legally, for homosexual individuals, primarily in countries of the first world. In very few of these countries, homosexuals have achieved the right of marrying and adoption, but odd is the case. Moreover, the provision of rights for homosexual individuals has not stopped the growing homophobia brought about by the spread of HIV-AIDS that has come to be understood as a Gay disease. In addition, the vast majority of the world countries still

penalise homosexuality through a variety of legal and social mechanisms, such as imprisonment, public discrimination, verbal, physical and psychological degradation. ILGA, and we all, have still a long way to go to achieve the equality of rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals.

As Administrative and Information Officer at ILGA Brussels, I am committed to giving administrative and organisational support to our member organisations and ILGA's regions and to assist in the internal and external communication. You are all very welcome to contact me if you require any advice or detailed information about our work in ILGA. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,
Javier Lorenzo Castro
Administrative and Information Officer
ILGA Brussels

MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN SPEAK UP

By Ramyata Limbu

KATHMANDU, Feb 7 (IPS) - In a slinky back sari and a miniscule string blouse, Kumar glides across the packed conference room in four-inch heels, as numerous heads turn.

The 18-year-old tossed back long, black tresses and bats a luxuriant pair of false eyelashes, before addressing the first Nepal National Consultation Meeting for Male Reproductive and Sexual Health held here Feb. 1.

"I normally don't dress up in public," says Kumar, one of 60 or 70 men, ages ranging from 15 to 60, who gathered in the Nepali capital to identify gaps in sexual health interventions for males having sex with males (MSMs) in Nepal.

"But self-realisation is extremely important, as well as awareness and education on sexual orientation, health and behaviour," Kumar adds.

In the language of the subcontinent, Kumar, who used to dance in a local nightclub before opting to study hotel management, is a 'meti', a self-defined feminised male who has sex with men, and uses his feminine behaviour in public spaces to attract men for sex.

'Metis' are the most vulnerable and high-risk group of homosexuals, as they have multiple 'ta' partners, men who have sex with other men or women.

"Evidence from research in South Asia clearly shows that the process of stigmatisation and thus vulnerability arise from concepts of masculinity in these cultures, which lead to marginalisation, social exclusion, and abuse of the most vulnerable of MSM - those with feminised identities," explains Shivananda Khan, executive director of the Naz Foundation International.

The foundation has been involved in providing technical, financial, and institutional support to MSM collectives across South Asia since 1996 and has assisted in the development of some 27 such projects

that between them have reached over 500,000 MSM.

"Studies in Kathmandu, as well as anecdotal evidence from other urban areas in Nepal, clearly indicate that there are significant numbers of 'metis' across the country," says Sunil Babu Pant, founder and director of the Blue Diamond Society, the only self-help, community-based organisation that provides sexual health promotion services in Kathmandu for 'metis' and their partners.

The society, through outreach workers like Kumar, provides counseling, education and support to MSMs, drop-in services, clinical referrals.

Working across 18 sites in Kathmandu during a nine-month study in 2002, the organisation has so far reached some 7,000 MSMs, 3,000 'metis' and the remainder 'tas'. During the survey, 3,000 were referred for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

"MSMs are an extremely vulnerable group, as male-to-male transmission of STI/HIV may be largely undetected because of relatively low levels of testing, the invisibility and denial of male-to-male sex, the levels of shame experienced by those involved in male-to-male sex and also the lack of sensitivity, awareness and knowledge of the medical profession in this regard which makes access problematic," stresses Pant, who struggled to found the society in 2001.

Until a few years ago, Nepalis, even those in the medical profession, were awkward and uncomfortable discussing problems of men who have sex with men and their rights.

"It's a historic moment that we've reached the stage where we can gather and talk about the needs and sexual health rights of MSMs without squirming. Everyone is entitled to live a safe life with dignity," says Dr Bala Krishna Subedi, acting director of Nepal's National Centre for

AIDS and STD Control.

"While it's crucial to have a better appreciation of factors like size estimation and risk behaviour among MSMs, it's important that what was once a hidden domain is now recognised and is being addressed in national policy," agrees Dr James Ross, country director of Family Health International.

Despite the chill at this time of the year, 'metis', 'tas', and 'dohoris' (a label given by 'metis' to other homosexuals whose public behaviour is normatively masculine) from urban areas around Nepal, many of them dressed in drag, turned up to discuss strategies needed to meet their sexual health needs at last week's conference.

These, they hope, will enable effective networking, and to explore human rights and social justice issues regarding MSMs and advocate ways to address stigma and discrimination - including changing laws discriminatory to homosexuals.

"It's a curse in many ways," says dusky-skinned Sharmila, who turned up with his partner after hearing about the meeting through the local network of MSMs. "From the outside, you're male. But every instinct cries out that you're female."

Since as long as she remembers, Sharmila has been dancing and singing to celebrate the births of babies and other auspicious occasions in Kathmandu's homes.

Others like 24-year-old Alex, the only son of three children, has been fighting off increasing parental pressure to get married. "Tying the knot and making some girl's life miserable is not a solution. But my parents don't understand. Once, I told them half-seriously, find me a boy and I'll get married," he recalls. "They were aghast.")

*Submitted by Rebeca Sevilla,
Coordinator, Education International
and former ILGA Secretary General*

HOMOSEXUALS IN CUBA: INVISIBLE NO MORE

by Vanessa Bauzá

HAVANA - Is Cuba ready for a safe-sex ad highlighting gays? That was the question on AIDS activists' minds recently as a small crew filmed a 30-second public service announcement featuring a svelte brunette transvestite and two men exchanging condoms.

The government has not yet approved the television ad to air. But if it finds its way into millions of Cuban households, it would be a sign of change in a society where gays say they were virtually invisible only a decade ago.

"We are writing history, though we still don't know whether anyone will read it," said Nelson Joel Valdez, 30, a volunteer at Havana's AIDS prevention center, who helped develop the ad. "Sometimes we don't know how far to go, or whether we aren't going far enough."

Like most changes in Cuban society, acceptance of gays has been tentative. Ten years ago the breakthrough film *Strawberry and Chocolate* was the first to hold a critical mirror to this macho society's

homophobia and portray the friendship between a gay man and a young communist. Gay topics are mostly taboo in the state-run media, and homosexuals in Cuban soap operas are largely depicted as flighty buffoons. Still, many gays feel society has become more open-minded and tolerant.

"Before *Strawberry and Chocolate* there were no transvestites," says Kiriam Gutiérrez, 28. Gutiérrez, the transvestite who appears in the safe-sex commercial, began dressing as a woman in public in 1993, the year the film debuted. Like many, he draws a direct line between its release and a positive change in his personal life.

"People used to throw eggs, tomatoes, whatever," Gutiérrez said. "Now things are different. People who were hidden before are not anymore."

There are still many barriers, however, say those who have come of age in the past decade. Gay clubs, marches, magazines and organizations are nonexistent. Hangouts adopted by gays are sometimes temporarily closed or their hours are limited to control attendance.

Clandestine parties held in parking lots, secluded fields or private homes are now the most common way for gays to get together. Many gays say police often break up the gatherings, ask partygoers to leave and in some cases issue fines for being in an inappropriate place at an inappropriate hour.

"I can't tell you whether the first justification is to combat delinquency or to combat homosexuality," said Raúl Regueiro, 33, a bank worker. "What we need is a place where we can get together peacefully in public, without fear."

A survey released last week of 300 Cubans across the island found that 71 percent of those questioned defined homosexuality as an "inclination toward people of the same sex," while 22 percent called it an illness and 7 percent viewed it as a personality disorder. Conducted by a group of Cuban journalists and presented at the

16th annual World Congress of Sexology conference in Havana, the survey found slightly more tolerance for gay men than lesbians. About 58 percent of those interviewed said they would treat a lesbian "like any other person" compared to 61 percent who said they would treat gay men the same way.

"When people see a woman making an independent life with another woman, they fear it," said Malena Perez, 23, a student. "It's as though they think we might have the power to convince other women to be lesbians."

During the 1960s, gays, priests, some artists and others considered unfit for military service were put into labor camps, known by the Spanish acronym UMAP, or Military Units to Aid Production. Homosexuality was considered a capitalist import, and gays were excluded from some university careers because they were considered untrustworthy. In the 1980s, a law against publicly flaunting homosexuality was removed from the penal code. Today, many gays focus on societal rather than institutional discrimination.

Gutiérrez, for example, says he endures daily confrontations, insults and whispered name-calling because he dresses like a woman. But he has also received free treatment for a hormone imbalance as well as psychiatric therapy sessions at Havana's National Center for Sex Education. "It's a common misconception that gays are not revolutionaries or socialists," Gutiérrez says. "I believe in socialism. But as long as I don't commit a crime no one has the right to rule my life."

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Vanessa Bauzá can be reached at vmbauza1@yahoo.com



LIFESTYLE: THE GAYS IN UGANDA A story of where they are, who they are and what they are up to

By Daniel K. Kalinaki
The Monitor Newspaper, Kampala

We met in a dimly lit Chinese restaurant near the Pioneer Mall in Kampala.

We walked in with my photographer, Henry, and stood in the middle of the half-full restaurant. I made the phone call and Lule answered it promptly. We'd spoken on the phone before to set up the appointment, but I didn't know whom I was going to meet. The instructions had been very specific; I had to turn up with only one other person, the photographer. Lule had actually been waiting outside the restaurant and had seen us come, park our cars and walk into the restaurant.

Confident that we hadn't been followed, he walked back in and offered a hand-shake, then guided us to a table in the corner where Peter, who'd been watching us all the while, was seated.

The gays in Uganda are used to this hide-and-peek game. Homosexuality is illegal; and several top government officials, including President Yoweri Museveni, have ordered a clampdown on gays.

But homosexuals exist. And, unknown to most people, they have an umbrella organisation, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, which wages an underground war on anti-gay legislation in Uganda.

We sat down and ordered drinks; sodas for them, beers for us.

Then Nikki walked to our table. He was dressed like a man but she spoke with a soft, woman's voice. I agonised silently over Nikki's gender as the interview went on. She was quiet all through and only her feminine hands gave her away. In fact, Nikki is biologically a woman; but in her lesbian relationships, she is a man.

Lule is an outspoken advocate for gay rights. For the first fifteen minutes, we listened silently as he laid out their case. "In Uganda, there is a problem of ignorance,"

he said. "We are harassed as if we go around coercing people to have sex with us. We are treated like aliens. I am a normal human being like you," he says to no one in particular, "only that I have a different sexual orientation."

Lule is the chairman of GALA, their umbrella organisation. The group was formed on 17 May 2001 to lobby for gay rights. Lule says they currently have more than 600 fully registered members around the country and from all walks of life. "We have prominent people in business, politicians and even have members of the clergy," Lule says.

Homosexuality exists in Uganda, and the three who turned out for the interview demonstrate its different faces. Lule, 31, is a businessman; Peter, 27, is employed; and Nikki, 21, is a student.

Besides GALA, there are smaller organisations like Gay Uganda, which mainly operates on the Internet. The group has a website (www.geocities.com/gayug) which they maintain regularly. When I sent an e-mail requesting for an interview, the response came within hours.

Lule and others in the gay community are particularly bitter about being turned into social outcasts. "I don't think we are as dangerous as people who embezzle public funds," he says. "What I do in my bedroom does not affect the national economy or public offices. I pay my taxes and

contribute to the development of the country, so I have a right to be free like other people and a right to be protected by my country," Lule adds. "In 2001 I was appointed as a mobiliser for the movement. It is unfortunate that President Museveni hates us personally."

GALA wants government to decriminalise homosexuality so that they can sensitise the public about what they stand for. The group has written to the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative as well as to the Uganda Human Rights Commission, but they have received no response. They have also written to the Constitutional Review Commission asking for the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

There is a lot of ignorance and outright homophobia in Uganda. But the practice is alive and kicking, hidden, and yet around us.

Lule recently found himself standing next to Hon. Miria Matembe at a party. The Ethics and Integrity minister has been one of the most outspoken critics of homosexuality and has called on police to arrest all gays. "I realised that if I could stand next to Matembe at a public function and not appear out of place, then I am not a social misfit and should not be treated like one."

In a country with strong cultural traditions and religious views it will take more than standing next to ministers at cocktails for homosexuals to be accepted.

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GIVE GENEROUSLY!**

from Rex Wockner

CANADIAN COURT MANDATES GAY MARRIAGE

A third Canadian province has ordered the federal government to legalize ordinary marriage for same-sex couples.

The British Columbia Court of Appeal, the province's top court, ruled unanimously May 1 that restricting marriage to "one man and one woman" is unconstitutional.

The court gave the government a deadline of July 12, 2004, to change the law. If the government does not act, the court itself will legalize same-sex marriage beginning that day.

"Civil marriage should adapt to contemporary notions of marriage as an institution in a society which recognizes the rights of homosexual persons to non-discriminatory treatment," wrote Justice Kenneth Mackenzie.

The decision overturned a lower-court ruling which declared that the main goal of marriage is procreation.

"I find that procreation ... resulting from sexual intercourse between a husband and wife can no longer be regarded as a sufficiently pressing and substantial objective [to justify discriminating against same-sex couples]," wrote the Court of Appeal's Justice Jo-Ann Prowse.

She added, "Same-sex couples can 'have' and raise children, given technological developments and changes in the law permitting adoption."

Pro-gay-marriage decisions handed down by lower-level courts in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario are currently being appealed by the federal government. A decision is expected this summer.

Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms prohibits discrimination that cannot be "demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society."

MEXICO BANS DISCRIMINATION

Mexico's Congress banned discrimination based on "sexual preferences" in mid-April, according to the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

Article 4 of the Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination also bans discrimination based on ethnic or national origin, sex, age, disability, social or eco-

omic status, health, pregnancy, language, religion, opinion and civil status.

It further bans discrimination based on an individual's decision to "openly acknowledge one's sexual preference," be that via "dress, talk [or] mannerisms."

The law applies in the areas of education, employment, medical care, social security benefits, public services, private institutions providing public services, reproductive rights, property rights, sports, cultural and recreation activities, civil and political organizations, media messages and images, and free movement.

It criminalizes exploitation, degradation and physical or psychological abuse against protected individuals and prohibits promoting or engaging in hatred, violence, rejection, ridicule, defamation, slander, persecution and exclusion toward protected groups.

In the case of violations by public officials, the newly created National Council to Prevent Discrimination will demand an explanation from the accused party, call a conciliation hearing, and suggest solutions. If a solution is not forthcoming, the council will punish proven violators.

In the case of violations by private entities or individuals, the council will suggest a conciliation hearing and mediate between the parties.

ILGA TARGETS EU'S NEW MEMBERS

Ten more nations will join the 15-member European Union on May 1, 2004, and the International Lesbian & Gay Association says that makes it more important than ever that the EU's new constitution directly protect GLBT rights.

Unlike many current EU nations, sever-

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Rex Wockner

al of the incoming nations have a less-than-impressive record on gay issues. The accession countries are Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

The EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights prohibits anti-gay discrimination and the EU's Employment Directive 2000/78/EC requires member nations to protect gays in the workplace.

"But doubts remain with regard to the accession countries' willingness to embrace these values and policies to their full extent," said ILGA Public Affairs Officer Birgit Hardt.

"Despite clear statements by Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen that 'the prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation is part of the political criteria of accession to the EU,' there is mounting evidence of hesitation to accept this."

Only protection via the EU constitution itself can secure respect for GLBT rights across the socially divergent 25-nation union, ILGA said.

TEACHER IN TROUBLE FOR LETTERS

The British Columbia College of Teachers, the Canadian province's teacher certification and regulation body, will suspend a teacher from the south-central town of Quesnel for writing anti-gay letters to a local newspaper.

Chris Kempling is set to be decertified

for a period of one month but the punishment could be delayed while he appeals to the provincial Supreme Court. Kempling says his rights to freedom of expression and religion, as guaranteed by Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, have been violated.

The College of Teachers ruled that Kempling's "discriminatory" and "derogatory" statements constitute unbecoming conduct that conflicts with the provincial education system's commitment to equality, dignity and respect for gay people.

ANTI-GAY RULING IN PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico's Supreme Court ruled in mid-April that domestic-violence statutes do not apply to same-sex couples, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

The court said the laws were designed to protect the family which it defined as the "sentimental and legal union between a man and a woman."

As a result of the ruling, charges were dropped against Leandro Ruiz Martínez for beating his boyfriend, Juan J. del Valle.

The decision led to demonstrations, pro and con, outside the Supreme Court, and Justice Secretary Anabelle Rodríguez urged the court to rethink its ruling.

KOREA TO UNBAN GAY WEB SITES

South Korea moved to unban gay Web sites April 3.

At the urging of the National Human Rights Protection Committee, which had been lobbied by gay activists, the National Youth Protection Committee altered the Youth Protection Act so that homosexuality is no longer classified as "obscenity and harmful to youth."

The change was sent to Congress and to the Information Communication Ethics Committee, the Publication Ethics Committee, the Media Rating Board, and the Korean Broadcasting Commission for appropriate revisions within their charters.

The human-rights officials said that prohibiting youth from accessing sites with gay content -- which resulted in a de facto ban on all gay Web content -- violated constitutional guarantees of happiness, equality and free expression.

THUGS TRASH TRANSGENDER CENTER

The headquarters of the Santiago, Chile, transgender group TravesChile were trashed by thugs April 12.

Thirty young men used sticks, stones and guns to practically destroy the facility. They also stole valuables and beat up transgender activists. The organization's vice president, Alejandra, remains hospitalized due to injuries suffered in the mêlée.

Police arrived half an hour after the attack began and have not made any arrests.

"We are very concerned about this episode because TravesChile has documented and denounced several instances of police abuse against transgender people and the organization's president, Silvia Parada, has said that police inaction might be in fact 'revenge,'" said the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

CANADIAN CHILD CAN'T HAVE THREE PARENTS

A two-year-old boy in London, Ontario, Canada, can't have two moms and a dad, Family Court Justice David Aston ruled April 11.

Although the three adults share parenting of the boy, only the biological mother and father are his parents, Aston ruled.

The judge said he wanted to rule otherwise, but the Children's Law Reform Act prevents him from naming more than two people as a child's parents.

The boy "obviously [is] thriving in a loving family that meets his every need," Aston said.

The nonbiological mother told the London Free Press, "We are heartbroken that, in his honor's view, our lives cannot reflect the truth of our son's life."

ILGA E-MAIL DIRECTORY

Please note that listing in the ILGA E-Mail Directory is open to all member groups who request it. It is **not** automatic, as we wish to protect those who prefer to retain their privacy.

ELECTRONIC MAIL UPDATE

Send us your E-mail contact address for administrative purposes.

With a view to improving communication with our members, the Administrative Office is planning to set up a mailing system via electronic mail. This will include communications concerning membership renewal and fees reminders, as well as any other messages that the office may need to post between Bulletin releases.

Please send us an update of your group's E-mail address. If your group uses more than one address, please specify the purpose of each.

Thank you for your co-operation.

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ILGA asylum information pool (Denmark)	asyl@lbl.dk
Bisexuality information pool c/o ABN	ausbinet@rainbow.net..au
International Gay Lesbian Human Rights Commission	iglhrc@igc.apc.org
ILGHRC asylum project (San Francisco)	asylum@iglhrc.org
ILGA documentation centre c/o Homodok	info@homodok.nl
Homophobia, Religion and Ideology:	
- Tom Hanks (Other Sheep, Argentina)	thanks@wamani.apc.org
- Luiz Mott (Brazil)	luizmott@ufba.br
- David & Jonathan (France)	georges.gonzalez@worldonline.fr
- Georg Trettin (Germany)	georgtrettin@hotmail.com
- Jerry Cleator, O.P. (Catholic, Mexico)	cleator@att.net.mx
- Bernal Esquivel (Pentecostal, Costa Rica)	bernalesquivel@hotmail.com
- Mary Ann Tolbert (Methodist, USA)	mtolbert@psr.edu
- Daniel Helminiak (Catholic, USA)	dhelmini@westa.edu
- Faris Malik (Islam, USA)	aquarius@well.com
- Michael Adee (Presbyterian, USA)	michaeladee@aol.com
- William Countryman (Episcopal, USA)	bcountryman@cbsp.edu
- Mel White (UFMCC, USA)	melwhite@soulforce.org
- Luis Perelman (Jewish, Mexico)	shalomamigos@hotmail.com
- Doug Torr (Anglican, South Africa)	djtorr@cpsa.org.za
- Robert Katongo (MIRICA, Zambia)	rkatongo50@yahoo.com

- Roger Corless (Buddhism)	roger.corless@duke.edu
- Mark Pickering (Other Sheep, USA)	osworldwide@aol.com
ILGA information office Berlin	hartmut.schoenknecht@t-online.de

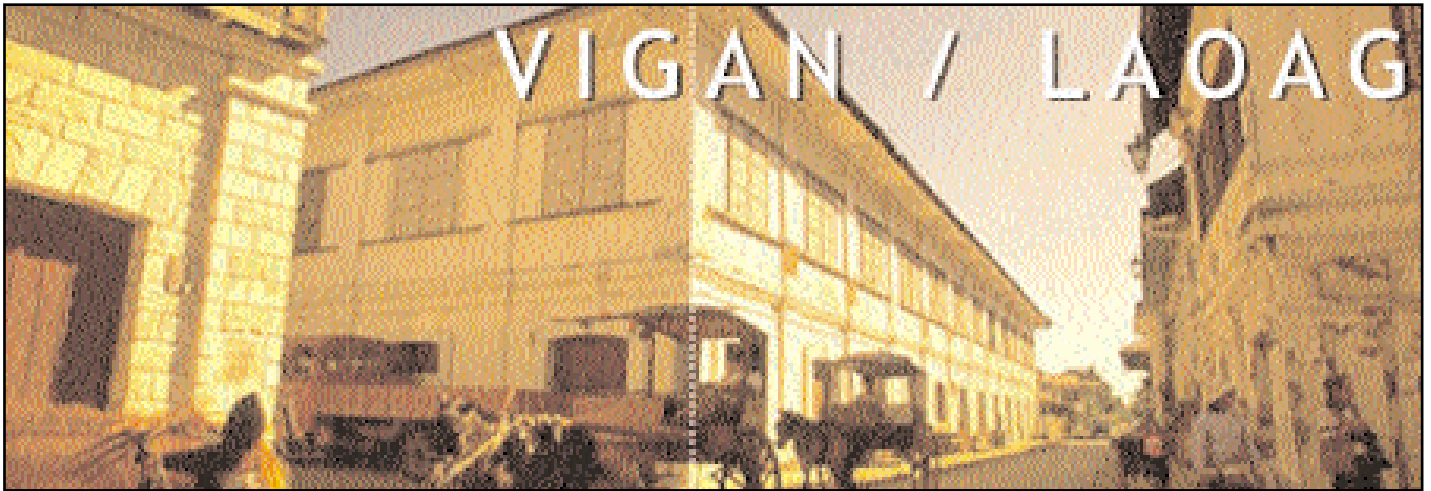
Organizations

Argentina: escrita en el cuerpo/lesbianas a la vista	ales@wamani.apc.org
sigla	sigla@sudnet.com.ar
Comunidad Homosexual Argentina	informacion@cha.org.ar
Australia: Australian bisexual network	ausbinet@optusnet.com.au
Gay Lesbian Rights Lobby, Sydney	glrl@ilga.org
GLITF-Gay Lesbian Immigration Task Force	glitf@ipacific.net.au
ALSO Foundation	also@also.org.au
Austria: Rechtskomitee Lambda	office@RKLambda.at
HOSI Wien	office@hosiwien.at
HOSI Linz	ooe@hosilinz.at
Belgium: Holebifederatie	info@holebifederatie.be
Tels Quels	telsquels@skynet.be
English-speaking Gay Group	tomhoemig@skynet.be
Bermuda: bermuda human rights alliance	sfox@ibl.bm
Brazil: grupo arco-iris	lfreitas@ax.apc.org
Grupo Gay de Bahia	glb-glb@uol.com.br
PSTU - socialist party gays and lesbian	whsilva@cat.cce.usp.br
atoba	atoba@alternex.com.br
abia	abia@ax.ibase.org.br
grupo dignidade	tonidavid@avalon.sul.com.br
satyricon	satyricon@recife.net
Canada: Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario	clgro@web.ca
committee on homophobia, university of toronto	jarvis@psych.toronto.edu
EGALE Canada	egale.canada@egale.ca
Chile: movimiento unificado de minorias sexuales chile.	movim@manquehue.net
China Society for the Protection of East Asians' Human Rights	speahr@firei.org
Colombia: Proyecto Dignidad por los Derechos Humanos	camdef@uni.fi
Denmark: LBL-48 c/o Steffen Jensen	steff@inet.uni2.dk
Ecuador: FEDAEPS	admin@fedaeps.ecuanex.net.ec
En Directo	irene@irenel.ecx.ec
Estonia: Estonian Lesbian Union	eluell@saturn.zzz.ee
EU: Egalité (equality for g&l in the European institutions)	100337.2537@compuserve.com
Finland: Tanpreen SETA Ry	treseta@sgic.fi
SETA Finland:	seta@seta.fi
SETA Sysop (Kari Koivumakki)	kari@seta.fi
France: David and Jonathan	davidetjonathan@wanadoo.fr
CARITIG	caritig@caritig.org
Germany: Schlips	eike.stedefeldt@topwave.de
Lesbian and Gay Liberation Front e.V.	lglf.cologne@t-online.de
Homosexuelle und Kirche Germany	st.weitzel@t-online.de
International Lesbian and Gay Cultural Network	ILGCN.culturenet@pride.de
Greece: Opoth	opoth@ilga.org
Co-operation Against Homophobia	sympraxi@rocketmail.com
Hungary: Háttér Support Society for Gays and Lesbians in Hungary	hatter@hatter.hu
India: Humsafar Trust	humsafar@bom5.vsnl.net.in
Sakhi (lesbian group)	sakhi@ilga.org
Sangini	sangini97@hotmail.com
Indonesia: Gaya Nusantara Foundation	gayanusantara@indo.net.id
Ireland: GLEN	suzyb@irelands.web.ie
Japan: OCCUR (Japan Association for the Lesbian and Gay Movement)	occur@kt.rim.or.jp
Lebanon: HeLeM	h_e_l_e_m@yahoo.com
Lithuania: Lithuanian Gay League	lg1@gay.lt
Malaysia: PT Foundation	isham@pop7.jaring.my
Mexico: Voz Humana	amac@laneta.apc.org
also good for: Global network for PLWHAs (Latin America & Caribbean)	closetsj@laneta.apc.org
El Closet de Sor Juana	closetsj@laneta.apc.org
Grupo Y Que	grupoyque@aol.com

ILGA E-MAIL DIRECTORY (continued)

Letra S: Salud, Sexualidad y Sida	adiaz@laneta.apc.org	NLGLA (natl l&g law assn)	jwilets@miami.ir.miami.edu
Moldova: GenderDoc-M, Information Center	genderdoc_m@mll.net	NGLTF (natl g&l task force)	nglft@aol.com
Namibia: The Rainbow Project	trp@ilga.org	NetGALA (g&l alumni/ae assns)	NetGALA@aol.com
Netherlands: COC Nederland (national Dutch organization)	info@coc.nl	More Light Presbyterians for LGBT Concerns c/o James Anderson	jda@mariner.rutgers.edu
Homostudies, Utrecht University	homosecr@fsq.ruu.nl		galz@samara.co.zw
COC Haaglanden	info@cochaaglanden.nl	Zimbabwe: GALZ	
Rozelinks	rozelinks@yahoo.com		
Homodok	info@homodok.nl	International:	
AOb, teachers' union	E. Kunnen@phys.uu.nl	International Gay and Lesbian Youth Organization (IGLYO) secretariat and information pool	iglyo@intex.ie
Schorer Foundation	info@schorenet.nl	IGLYO American Secretariat	EP4417A@AUVM.American.Edu
Dutch Bisexual Network	lnbi@lnbi.demon.nl	International Lesbian Information Service	s.anderson@ifor.ccmail.compuserve.com
Netherlands Antilles (Curaçao): APEX	apex@caribbe.an	Other Sheep, MMMS	GIHerzog@aol.com
Norway: Landsforeningen for lesbisk og homofil frigjøring	llh@c2i.net	World Congress of Gay, Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Jews	president@glbtjews.org
Peru: MHOL	mhol+@amauta.rcp.net.pe	European Pride Organisers Association secretariat	hartmut.schoenknecht@t-online.de
Philippines: CLIC (Can't Live in the Closet)	clic_phils@yahoo.com	Crosswix	crosswix@ix.netcom.com
Order of Saint Aelred	st_aelred@hotmail.com		
Progay Philippines	progay@edsamail.com.ph		
Poland: International Lesbian and Gay Culture Network (Poland)	ilgcn@ilgcn.gej.net	Other useful addresses:	
	lambdawarszawa@wp.p	Lesbian Studies Network, Finland	lesbotutkverk@seta.fi
Portugal: ILGA Portugal	ilgapt@esoterica.pt	Amnesty Intl Members for lg Concerns	aimlgc@igc.apc.org
Opus Gay Association	anser@netcabo.pt	Lesbigay Directory of Scholars	lcrew@andromeda.rutgers.edu
Quebec: Coalition Gaie et Lesbienne du Quebec	cglq@videotron.ca	Diversity, UK	nigel@stonewall.demon.co.uk
Romania: ACCEPT (Bucharest Acceptance Group)	accept@fx.ro		
Russia: Argorisk	argorisk@glas.apc.org	Selected press:	
Krilija	krilija@ilga.org	Rex Wockner	wockner@concentric.net
Gay.Ru	info@gay.ru	This Way Out (radio, California)	tworadio@aol.com
Serbia: Arkadia (in care of...)	Jelica.Todosijevic@zamir-bg.ztn.zer.de		
Slovakia: Altera	altera@nexta.sk	Homepages:	
Slovenia: Lesbian Group Skuc-LL	sekcijaskuc@mail.ljudmila.org	ILGA	http://www.ilga.org
South Africa: Lesbian and Gay Equality Project	admin@equality.org.za	ILGA-Europe	http://www.ilga-europe.org
ABIGALE	raisin@icage.co.za	ILGA on the Queer Resource Directory	http://www.qrd.org/qrd/orgs/ILGA
GLOW	glow.p@mweb.co.za	The ILGA Euroletter	http://www.steff.suite.dk/eur_inde.htm
Triangle Project	info@triangle.org.za	Comparative survey of the legal situation for homosexuals in Europe	http://inet.uni2.dk/~steff/survey.htm
Spain: Coordinadora Gai-lesbiana (cg-l), Barcelona	cogailles@pangea.org	Recognition of gay & lesbian partnerships in Europe	http://inet.uni2.dk/~steff/partner.htm
COGAM, Madrid	cogam@ctv.es	IGLYO	www.iglyo.org
Sri Lanka: Companions on a Journey	coj@ilga.org	ILGA Documentation Centre	http://www.homodok.nl
Sweden: RFSL (Swedish national organization)	forbund@rfs.se	Gay & Lesbian International Lobby	http://inet.uni2.dk/~steff/glil.htm
RFSL-Pitea alvdal & norra Vasterbotten/Polarstar	polarstar@ilga.org	Hosi Wien	http://www.hosiwien.at
International Lesbian and Gay Cultural Network Nordic	bill.schiller@p6.SR.SE	Queer Europe	http://home6.swipnet.se/~w-66936/q-e.htm
Switzerland: Pink Cross	office@pinkcross.ch	Euro-Queer	http://home6.swipnet.se/~w-66936/e-q.htm
Lesbian Organization, Switzerland (LOS)	info@los.ch	International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators Inc.	http://www.interpride.org
HAZ - Homosexuelle Arbeitsgruppen Zürich	info@haz.ch	European Pride Organizers Association	www.interpride.org/epoa/
Thailand: Association for Social Knowledge	sanders@law.ubc.ca	Háttér Support Society for Gays and Lesbians in Hungary	www.hatter.hu
Turkey: Lambda Istanbul	lambda@lambdaistanbul.org	International Lesbian and Gay Cultural Network	www.erato-net.de
Sisters of Venus	sevinc@boun.edu.tr	International Lesbian and Gay Culture Network (Poland)	http://ilgcn.gej.net
KAOS GL	kaosgl@ilga.org	World AIDS Awareness Days	http://www.outpr.com.au/waad.html
UK: Consortium of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Voluntary and Community Organisations	admin@clgb.org.uk	IGLHRC	http://www.iglhrc.org/
Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (LGCM)	lgcm@lgcm.org.uk	Belarus Lambda League for Freedom of Gays and Lesbians	http://www.irex.minsk.by/~gayforum/
Leicester University Student LGB Assn. c/o P Humble	pjh1@le.ac.uk	Satyricon	http://www.satyricon.recife.net
London Bisexual Group	iwatters@cix.compulink.co.uk	HAZ - Homosexuelle Arbeitsgruppen Zürich	www.haz.ch
London Gay and Lesbian Switchboard c/o	admin@lgs.org.uk	Humsafar	www.humsafar.org
Outright Scotland: The Secretary	secretariat@outright-scotland.org	Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (LGCM)	www.lgcm.org.uk
Press for Change	letters@pfc.org.uk	Lithuanian Gay League	www.gay.lt
Pride Trust	info@pride.org.uk	CARITIG	www.caritig.org
Stonewall Immigration Group	info@stonewall-immigration.org.uk	Russian National Gay and Lesbian Site Gay.Ru	http://www.gay.ru/english
Unison National Lesbian and Gay Committee	out@unison.co.uk	Press for Change	http://www.pfc.org.uk
Ukraine: Nash Mir (Our World) Gay and Lesbian Center	ourworld@cci.lg.ua	Lambda Warszawa	www.lambda.org.pl
USA: Bisexual Political Action, San Diego	paquette@mail.inetworld.net	UNISON	www.unison.org.uk/out
Center GAP, New York	lgcscnyc@aol.com	World Congress of Gay, Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Jews	www.glbjews.org
G&L Assn of Choruses (GALA Chorus)	galachorus@aol.com	News/Magazines:	
GLAAW (g&l activists of Washington)	rick.rosendall@glaa.org	GLINN, the Gay/Lesbian International News Network	http://www.glinn.com
GLPCI (g&l parents coalition intl):	GLPCINat@ix.netcom.com	De Gay Krant, The Netherlands	http://www.bart.nl/~megatel/gaykrant/nl
Family Values	FamValues@aol.com	Rex Wockner World News	http://www.qrd.org/qrd/www/world/wockner.html
Global Aids Action Network (GAAN)	globalaids@aol.com	This Way Out	www.planetout.com!
International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists	peobumjong@aol.com	PlanetOut	http://www.planetout.com/
L&G Community Services Center, NY	lgsc_nyc@aol.com		
NLGA (natl l&g health association)	nlgha@aol.com		

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