



Proposal for a venue for the next ILGA World Conference

Who presents it

Mulabi/ Latin American Space for Sexualities and Rights

Political context

Costa Rica is the most politically stable country with the greatest possibilities for institutional strengthening in Central America. Although the fiscal deficit is considerable, its biodiversity and geography make it an attractive place for foreign investment and for migration from other neighboring countries with greater economic and political challenges.

Costa Rica has a solid normative framework in matters of fundamental rights enshrined in its Political Constitution and in its adherence to international human rights treaties and conventions. Derived from these constitutional obligations, the state has developed public policies in sectors such as health and education and works to eliminate discrimination in the public sector and guarantee access to justice and decent work for the LGBTI population. Some of these examples are the latest decrees and guidelines signed by the President of the Republic that benefit the BGLT population, both national and migrant.

The current president of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado, delves into his policy of inclusion of diversity. Last December, he recognized gender identity in residence cards and granted immigration status to binational couples. In addition, it facilitated access to housing bonds for same-sex couples.

Last week, in a decree against homophobia published in the official gazette La Gaceta, the president proposed to extend the celebration of May 17 to include bisexual people as victims of biphobia, which were previously not contemplated.

As of 2018, the governing government created the figure of the LGBTI Commissioner, an advisor belonging to the Executive Power and who will receive the reports of each Institution, as well as work on the pending issues in Human Rights of the LGBTI population in Costa Rica. This Commissioner will have as its main duty to be a mediator, and a direct spokesperson before the Presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica and the different civil society organizations for LGBTI Human Rights.

From different Ministries, Institutions of the Costa Rican State, regulations and policies have been incorporated. The Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Costa Rica approved Guideline No. 0252012, which establishes the prevention and treatment of situations where there is discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and the Occupational Health

Commission of the MTSS, previously had established the Guideline Agreement No. 997-10 that highlights respect for people regardless of sexuality.

Some other achievements reached from the public sector are the policies, regulations and manuals in the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (IAFA), the National Council of Public Policy of the Young Person, the Ministry of Public Education (MEP), the National Institute de la Mujer (INAMU), the Judicial Power, the four public universities (University of Costa Rica, Technological of Costa Rica, National University of Costa Rica, National Technical University) and the National Institute of Learning (INA), reforms in the conjugal visit of the penitentiary system, which entitles same-sex couples to enjoy this space and the voluntary declaration of some municipalities as spaces free of discrimination by DOSIG. Another important Decree against homophobia and the guideline for non-discrimination motivated by sexual orientation 2010 was issued by the Ministry of Education, the highest governing body of Public Education in Costa Rica, and also in view of the multiple acts of discrimination and "Bullying" against LGBTI students in schools and public schools.

Likewise, the Ministry of Health in 2011 promoted the National Sexuality Policy. In the first part of this guideline, and starting from the perspective of Human Rights and constitutional rights and legal norms related to sexuality, the State is endeavored to step up to the recognition of sexual citizenship, this implies that the State attends to the contributions and needs of citizens, in all their diversity, ethnic, geographic, religious, as well as their sexual orientation or expression of their sexual identity, that is, people who assume gay, lesbian, heterosexual, bisexual, transvestites, transgenders, transsexuals and intersexuals. It is also contemplated within the right to sexual and reproductive health, that the State guarantees the availability of health services for men who have sex with other men, lesbians and transsexuals and bisexuals.

At this moment and thanks to the Advisory Opinion of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, trans people can carry out the rectification of their name on the identity document (identity card), in an administrative manner before the Civil Registry.

If the ILGA World Conference is held in Costa Rica, it would be done within the framework of the country's Bi-Centennial.

Team organizer

The organizing team will be formed by members of different organizations and institutions, among which we name the following:

- Mulabi / Latin American Sexualities and Rights Area
- Chamber of Commerce Diversa Costa Rica and its affiliates
- Front for Equal Rights
- Igualitos Foundation
- Organizations of the Trans Costa Rican movement
- ILGALAC
- Independent activists

Resources

We would be able to obtain funds with different cooperation agencies and sponsorships of national and international institutions and companies; but we also require the guidance of the ILGA office to have clarity and guidance in that regard.

Place of the Conference

Taking into account the number of people who will participate in the ILGA World Conference, we suggest the following spaces:

- Windham Herradura Hotel and Convention Center
- Crown Plaza
- National Convention Center (There is a variety of hotels Around the Center)
- There is also a wide range of hotels on the Pacific coast that meet the requirements of an event of this caliber.

Speakers Program

Some people suggested as speakers are:

- The President of the Republic (Carlos Alvarado Quesada)
- Enrique Sánchez Carballo (Deputy of the Citizen Action Party)
- Johnny Araya (Mayor of San José)
- Luis Salazar (BGLTI Commissioner of the Presidential House)
- Victor Madrigal Borloz (Independent Expert BGLTI / United Nations)
- Epsy Campbell (Vice President of the Republic)
- General Secretaries of ILGA

Social Program

An event will be held in the Presidential House or in the National Museum where we will offer a cocktail to the participants and it will be open for other civil society organizations. This and other possible events will be the perfect opportunity for NGOs, donors and government institutions to dialogue informally and generate possible alliances.

Other possible places for these events can be:

- The Legislative Assembly
- The Jade Museum
- The Mayor of San José