



iranti

Dignity, Equality and Freedom

BID PROPOSAL TO HOST ILGA WORLD IN 2024: May 2022

BY:

Iranti (Presented by Jade Jacobs, Crystal Hendricks and Jabu Pereira)

Gender Dynamix (Led by Liberty Matthyse)

Context

As we celebrate the 30th conference of the ILGA General Assembly, we note that the 19th world conference held on the African continent on **19 – 26 September 1999 in Johannesburg under the theme, “Building partnerships for Equality”**. More than 200 delegates from 40 countries attended this conference.

As we pitch for 2024, we make this call twenty five years later, to state that it is time to return to Africa and to return to continents where vulnerabilities for being LGBTIQ are at all time high. Twenty five years later should the membership agree that ILGA 2024 should be held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Over the past twenty five years so much has happened in Africa. Some of these highlights include the formation and growth of number of LGBTI organisations. We proudly have Trans, Intersex and LBQ led movements. We have a diversity of issues being take up by a resilient LGBTIQ movements. Some of these issues we have taken forward in Africa are :

- Decriminalization of the Penal Codes that arrest trans women and Gay men – (successful cases, the most recent being Botswana, we also celebrate, Botswana, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde, Seychelles,
- Decriminalizing of Sex Work:
- Depathologization of Trans Health care
- Legal Gender Recognition
- Depathologisation of Intersex Health Care.

Our OFFERINGS

Gender Dynamix (GDx) and Iranti, are both well-established regional human rights in Africa. GDx is one of the oldest Trans rights organisations in Africa. Iranti is a decade old organisation focused on Trans, LBQ and Intersex Rights. We feel confident that this moment is an affirmation of the growth of the most vulnerable within our movement. Gender

Dynamix is based in Cape Town and Iranti is based in Johannesburg, providing a great support for the 2024 world conference as we propose South Africa as the host country.

South Africa

Since our democratic transition from Apartheid to Democracy, South Africa has made significant strides on LGBTI rights. Some of legal protections are:

- Provide express constitutional protection for non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender, amongst other grounds.
- South Africa became the fifth country in the world to legalise same sex marriage.
- Other legal gains pertain to same sex couple adoptions.
- Legal Gender Recognition is permitted (although imperfect)
- The Death penalty is abolished
- A lesbian couple recently won their rights to be recognized as the legal parents to their child that was conceived through artificial insemination.
- South Africa deeply recognizes socio-economic rights as an inherent right to alleviating poverty.
- In 2011, South Africa was the first country to lead on the resolution of LGBTI persons and the need for an independent expert that can focus on violence against LGBTI persons.
- The rights of transgender prisoners to express their gender identity whilst detained and incarcerated, despite having a legal gender marker and name change, has been upheld in the courts in 2019.

The stark contrast to these great legal protections, is that the racism both interpersonal and systemic discrimination have severely harmed Black Diverse South Africans. Unemployment in SA is at 35% and the growing class gaps are far more evident. Poor LGBTIQ persons face harsh abuse and prejudice by the state as LGBTIQ persons. LGBTIQ persons are “othered” and we have many struggles to find in South Africa in order to attain equality.

We believe these harsh human rights realities mirror the struggles are are now seeing in the world, growing hatred towards Trans people in the US, UK, and other countries. We see how prisons are filling up with Black incarcerated men who are profiled on a daily basis, as the key perpetrator. Despite all this South Africa is a resilient nation.

Core Team

GDX and Iranti will create a core team thus assign staff time and costs towards the planning of the world conference: This core team will link back to the Directors of both organizations who will assign key program leads. Iranti has a staff complement of 12 staff members and GDX has a fulltime staff complement of 13 staff members. 76% of the Ops Team are trans and gender diverse identifying and 50% of Board members are trans and gender diverse identifying.

Both GDX and Iranti has experience in hosting Conferences with the EU-SA Dialogue and Regional Trans Advocacy, Health & Research Conference which GDX has hosted biennially since 2011. GDX has successfully hosted five Conferences and can draw from lessons learned and best practices to support logistical arrangements and content creation. GDX also formed part of the Local Working Group for the Global LBQ Women’s Conference in 2019.

In addition, GDX and Iranti will recruit volunteers closer to the conference, we will train and manage volunteers required to help manage the smooth operations of the conference.

Host City

Iranti and GDX have agreed that we will propose Cape Town as the host city. Cape Town has many symbolic and meaningful sites of memory for the struggles of LGBTIQ persons as well as the larger struggle for freedom in South Africa. One of most memorable site is that of Robben Island, where political prisoners were incarcerated, the most political prisoner of conscious known is Nelson Mandela and Robert Sobukwe. Other sites of trauma, relate to the immense displacement of Black African and Coloured persons were forcibly removed from the land, thus destroying homes, families, and inherent culture including queer culture, the most famous area is known as District Six. Cape Town is many ways is a mirror to the growing realities of South Africa, which glaringly shows the struggles against economic racism, which sees a large representation of white dominance, as you fly into Cape Town, the economic disparities are very evident, it's a beautiful city with painful realities. We believe this is important, as this is where a large majority of LGBTIQ persons reside and face these daily realities. In addition, Cape Town has a growing population of African refugees and migrants, both documented and undocumented. Currently we are also advocating to decriminalize sex work, which adds further unsafe realities especially for Trans women sex workers. Despite this, Cape Town remains the top and best city in Africa and ranks well globally.

Cape Town as a Host City

There are many conference possibilities to convene a global conference. Dependent on the dates we propose :

- University of Cape Town
- University of Western Cape
 - o Universities normally have their residence available and large halls available for conference opportunities, this could also be cost effective
- International Conference Centre (ICC) is designed to house large conferences, with a main hall having the capacity to house 1500 people. In addition there are many break out small conference rooms all housed under one space.
<https://www.cticc.co.za/organiser/conference-and-convention-venue/>
- Cape Town has no shortage of conference venues and hotels
- <https://www.capetown.travel/conference-centres-in-cape-town/>
- Cape Town International Airport, as the 2nd busiest airport in RSA and 4th busiest on the continent, has been rated best Airport in Africa on numerous occasions including in 2020.

Fundraising and Hosting of ILGA Events

Gender Dynamix and Iranti have earmarked reaching out to local businesses that are aligned to the LGBTIQ rights agenda to come on board as contributors for local organizing events. There are many businesses that have core Corporate Social Initiatives we could appeal too.

In addition, all three tiers of government reside in Cape Town, that being National Assembly- Parliament, Provincial Government of the Western Cape and the Local Government of Cape Town. If selected we will actively seek out ways in which the state could partner with the ILGA world conference. Cape Town Prides itself on the LGBTIQ friendly, and welcomes Queer global people to the city. If selected we will invite Embassies to come on board as key role players, and given the rise of special envoys, there is an opportunity for local missions to host and contribute towards the overall programme. Iranti and GDX will workshop and develop a resource mobilization strategy.

Keynote Speakers and Voices from the Continent

We recognize that it is time that ILGA world returns to the motherland, since 1999, ILGA world has been absent from Africa, and now is the time.

As it pertains to keynote speakers we list a few options

Political Speakers

- President or Deputy President of SA
- National Minister of Foreign Affairs (DIRCO)
- African Commission of Human and Peoples Rights
- Openly LGBTI-identifying politicians like Zakhele Mbele
- Commissioners from the SA Human Rights Commission

Judiciary

- Edwin Cameron
- Botswana judge on the decrim case
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Civic Leaders

- We will select a spectrum of speakers from the continent that are directly working on high level advocacy changes.

UN Mechanisms

Head of UN women – Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

SOGI Expert -

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Cape Town has a vast variety of options, both for our large cultural gatherings. In the conference district, many queer performance and night clubs reside. Cape Town has well known queer and drag performers that enrich the cultural life of the city. Depending on the season, there are some outdoor festivities that can be integrated .

There are well known national – global artists that reside in Cape town and closer to the time we can engage with the artists. There is no shortage of our rich cultural diversity.

We will as stated above get prominent buy in from the state to host a dinner and a cultural programme for one or 2 of the evenings.

Finally, Iranti, GDX with the backing of Pan Africa ILGA Board and its members, we will believe Africa 2024, brings ILGA World Full Circle.

We look forward to presenting a colorful bid in ILGA. Please accept our written submission as a commitment to being the future World Conference hosts

Yours truly,

Jabulani Pereira

Iranti ED

Liberty Matthyse

GDX ED