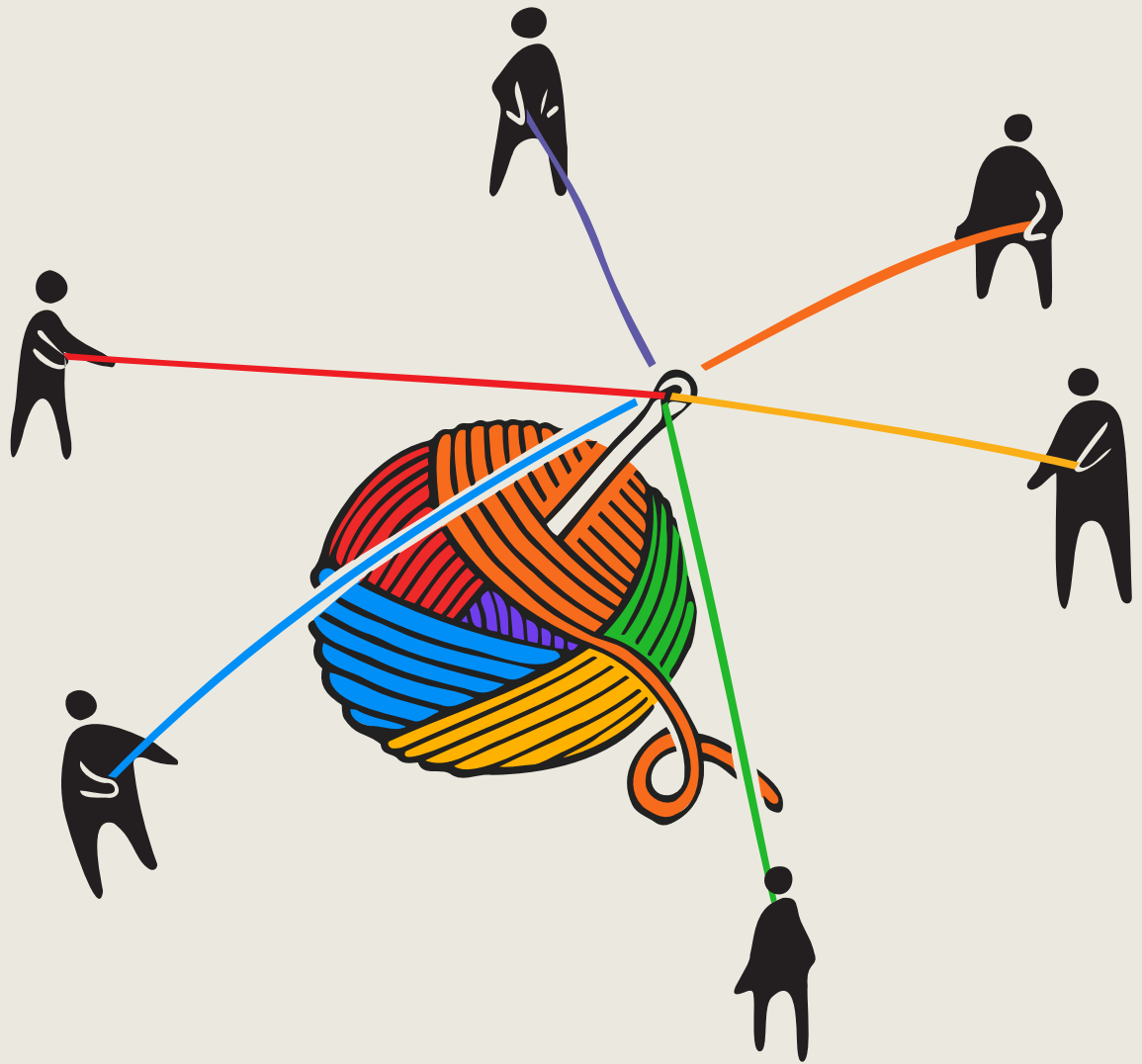


2021 ANNUAL REPORT



ILGA World - the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association is grateful for the support of its member organisations, staff, interns, consultants, Board and Committee members who work tirelessly to make everything we do possible. A heartfelt shout-out and thank you goes to all the human rights defenders around the world for the time and energy they commit to advancing the cause of equality for persons with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, and sex characteristics everywhere.

Our deepest thanks to those who have committed to financially make our work possible in 2021.



We also thank one significant anonymous donor and many other companies. 147 individuals made donations in 2021, including 21 donors who donated monthly or quarterly.

2021 AT A GLANCE

Covid-19 hasn't eased its grip on the world yet. To better understand the impact of the pandemic on our communities, we are convening a collective of 21 LGBTQ+ organisations to establish the [Global COVID-19 Research Initiative on SOGI](#).

JANUARY

For the first time in [Treaty Bodies' practice](#), a UN Committee addresses a case involving children in rainbow families: our joint third party intervention was crucial to inform this ground-breaking decision! Throughout 2021 ILGA World and our allies made sure to keep raising LGBTI voices at the [United Nations](#).

FEBRUARY

MARCH

We launch [the first issue of Women Moving Forward Together](#), the magazine created with a feminist approach by our Women's Committee to tell the story of how LGBTIQ women have been, are, and continue to be a driving force in the history of our movement.

We bring together high-level United Nations representatives and youth activists to raise awareness of [the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer youth](#). Having a stronger global youth movement for the human rights of LGBTIQ people is now more important than ever!

APRIL

MAY

We bring our global family together in a campaign reflecting on what does support and healing mean for our communities in a time of resistance. [Their answers](#) resonate loud and clear: "Let a healing kindness lead the way for our activism, social relationships, and political demands."

JUNE

In a ground-breaking initiative, we work with women, feminist, LGBTIQ, and trans-led organisations to [launch](#) the [Affirmation of Feminist Principles](#) and amplify the inclusive historical positions that feminists have taken in relation to understanding gender, sex, and sexuality.

JULY

While the [fifth UN Trans Advocacy Week](#) is taking place, 27 States call on the UN Human Rights Council to [urgently protect the human rights of trans people](#): a historic step forward for the global trans community!

We [open registration for the 30th ILGA World Conference](#), and launch a new website hosting all information for the event. We look forward to meeting you at one of the largest global gatherings of LGBTIQ changemakers! Together with the UN Youth Envoy, the Global Queer Youth Network, and the UN Independent Expert on SOGI, we launch the [Queer Youth Dialogues](#), a year-long campaign inviting LGBTIQ young people worldwide to engage, build capacity, network, and share their experiences.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Our Co-Secretary General Tuisina Ymania Brown delivers a rousing speech at the Human Rights Conference during [WorldPride](#): "We have reclaimed the meaning of Pride. Because there is nothing wrong with who we are, who we love and how we are born."

Switzerland - the country we are headquartered in - holds a referendum on marriage equality: the result is a historic victory for the local community. In an article, we reflect on the state of [marriage equality](#) worldwide, and what is at stake.

The world looks in shock at the Taliban takeover of [Afghanistan](#), and we join forces with organisations across the world calling for the protection of women, children, LGBTIQ people and other vulnerable persons in the country.

OCTOBER

53 countries calls on UN member States to [combat violence and discrimination against intersex persons](#), and we join civil society worldwide to tell the UN Human Rights Council that "unless immediate action is taken, severe human rights violations against intersex people will prevail and continue". After almost two years of virtual calls, our Executive Board goes back to in-person meetings. [Here's a photo of them with staff in Geneva](#), marking Intersex Awareness Day!

NOVEMBER

Julia Ehrt is appointed as the [new Executive Director of ILGA World](#). "In these deeply divided times" she says, "we must strengthen alliances with other movements and let our feminist values guide our work, if we want to dismantle the patriarchal systems of power which continue to oppress and exclude so many of us".

DECEMBER

We release a new report showing that [arrests and prosecutions for consensual same-sex sexual acts, or for diverse gender expressions](#), continue unabated across the world, despite governments claiming that criminalising laws are 'dormant'. These laws, our research shows, represent a constant threat both to our communities on the ground and asylum seekers.

Dear friends,
we are honoured to share the ILGA World 2021 Annual Report with you, our members and our global community. In these pages, you will find one year in our work to be alongside LGBTI people worldwide, support them, and raise their voices at the international level.

Our LGBTI communities are all facing challenges that may at times seem overwhelming. In many parts of the world, authorities had brutal responses to the social unrest that continued to build during the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Civilians were the ones bearing the brunt of intensifying conflicts or of dramatic takeovers of power, such as the one witnessed in Afghanistan. As we are writing these words, the world is looking at the people of Ukraine and mobilising solidarity for vulnerable communities in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. So many more conflicts around us continue unabated.

We know all too well how those who are already targeted with discrimination in their daily lives are even more at risk of paying a higher price whenever war, global insecurity, and other crises ensue. And it is in times like these that **we should call for more global solidarity, not less.** We need more unity to support our diverse communities, instead of fabricated conflicts among historically allied movements.

The power of cross-border, cross-movement, and cross-identity solidarity, allyship and community has never been more needed than right now. This is what ILGA World has

strived to do in 2021, making sure that feminist and gender-inclusive values continue to guide our work. Throughout the year, we helped LGBTI peoples from all over the world raise their voices in international fora. We brought our global family together virtually, both to build their capacity and to help restore a sense of community in a time when isolation has seemed too daunting. We released ground-breaking research on laws that affect us and on how human rights bodies are looking into our lived realities. And we continued to create communications to win over hearts and minds, featuring community voices like never before.

We also welcomed our new Executive Director, Julia Ehr. We believe that, with her strategic leadership, ILGA World will undoubtedly continue to grow in its capacity to make an impact in achieving justice, equality, and liberation for all - in our LGBTI communities and beyond. And we farewelled and thanked André du Plessis for all his work done over the years, for taking ILGA World to unprecedented heights.

We have always believed that when we unite, we can really bring about change! **A victory for our grassroots communities has the power to re-stoke the fires of hope everywhere.** Despite all the adversities we faced, 2021 gave us many reasons to celebrate: we saw the coming into effect of laws decriminalising consensual-same sex sexual acts in both Bhutan and Angola, and the Botswana Appeals Court upheld the High Court's ruling to the same end. We saw marriage equality passed in both Switzerland and Chile. "Conversion therapies" were banned



ph. ILGALAC



in Canada; other jurisdictions worldwide are heading in the same direction, with France following suit early in 2022. In Aotearoa New Zealand, parliament unanimously passed sex self-identification law making it easier for a person to amend their birth certificate to correctly identify their gender. A growing number of States at the United Nations is calling to protect the human rights of trans and intersex people.

We know all too well that these advances are not the full picture. Change often seems much slower than what we would hope for: regressive laws and violent actions by State and private actors alike keep threatening LGBTI persons around the world in all regions. This is why we have no other choice but to remain vigilant and committed to human rights for all: because our lives, and the lives of our members and LGBTI communities around the world, are at stake.

During these past two years, we have all missed the energy and the hope that can only come from being in the same room with like-minded spirits, each of us from diverse walks of life. **We are all looking forward to meeting our global family again at the 30th ILGA World Conference in May 2022**, re-filling our resilience tanks, and re-joining our collective fight with reinvigorated minds, bodies, and spirits.

In solidarity,

Luz Elena Aranda and Tuisina Ymania Brown
Co-Secretaries General

Overcoming every day the challenges posed by a pandemic with no near end in sight, 2021 has been a year of sustainably adapting to new realities and strengthening creative ways to advance change.

As the world was facing the consequences of Covid-19, many among our member organisations had to secure the stability of their work in radically shifted conditions, and some had to restructure entirely, pivoting to virtual spaces while still catering to the needs of our grassroots communities.

Throughout the year, ILGA World worked to make sure that our membership was not left alone in their operations, connecting organisations on the ground with our regions and international human rights fora, as well as with each other. As one of the few LGBTI organisations that could be present at the UN in Geneva, we carried additional responsibility to be visible in UN human rights mechanisms.

Our global family indeed continues to grow: ILGA World is now shaped and led by 1,756 organisations from 168 countries and territories, each of them committed to changing the world for our communities for the better. They are the true foundation of our movement: supporting their work - so that decisions made at the regional and global level reflect the needs of our LGBTI family on the ground - is the deepest reason of our existence.



ph. Ben Buckland

Throughout the year, ILGA World also continued to provide strategic, institutional, and financial support to our regions. Despite the challenges posed by an almost complete absence of travels, Pan Africa ILGA and ILGA-Europe brought together hundreds of human rights defenders in online conferences, and ILGA Oceania held a large virtual symposium on laws and reforms to hear the rainbow activist voices of the Pacific.

We cannot wait to finally be reunited with so many from our global communities at our 30th World Conference in Long Beach, LA, California, United States in May 2022! As the Covid-19 pandemic is not over yet, we will implement strict safety protocols for the event: the health and well-being of all will be at the highest priority. We are aware that the global situation is one that will not allow some people to make it to Long Beach: our team has been working tirelessly to provide as much support as possible to people who require a visa, and for the first time we will also offer some form of virtual participation to our World Conference.

Speaking of our ILGA World office: this is as well a time of unprecedented growth! In 2021 we hired the first staff member dedicated exclusively to intersex issues, and more amazing talents are joining (or will soon do so) to strengthen our work around United Nations human rights mechanisms, gender backlash, and on communications: you may have already met

some of them during the first weeks of 2022! Over the next few months, we will also be implementing new working conditions, to make sure we better enable people from all over the world to become part of our team – as it should be in a global organisation.

This is also the first time I address our ILGA World family from these pages: after three years as the organisation's Director of Programmes, in November 2021 I was entrusted to become the new Executive Director. I take the opportunity to thank and congratulate our former Executive Director, André du Plessis, for handing over a well-run and sustainable organisation! In over 40 years of its history, ILGA World has been an instrument in the hands of marginalised communities to make their struggle visible - from the grassroots up to international fora such as the United Nations. This crucial voice of the LGBTI movement is more necessary than ever, and I am honoured to work with our dedicated Board and to lead an outstanding staff team to amplify this voice. Together we will continue to translate ILGA World's strategic vision into positive impact and lasting change for the communities that we serve.

In solidarity,

Julia

Julia Ehrt
Executive Director

OUR ADVOCACY: GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE ON THE GROUND



Over the last two decades, international human rights bodies have been at the forefront of promoting equality and fair treatment of LGBTI people. Their work is not over yet, but they cannot do it alone: civil society is a key pillar in the international human rights architecture, and making sure voices from our communities on the ground are heard is paramount to further advance international norms and policies.

This is why advocacy at the international level continues to be at the core of what we do at ILGA World: throughout 2021, even against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic continuing to disrupt the usual course of work, we continued mobilising support for SOGIESC issues globally, and assisted dozens of grassroots activists as they raised their voices at the United Nations to help advance change in their local communities.

At the **UN Human Rights Council**, we continued to highlight how discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics often adds an additional hurdle for people to fully enjoy their rights. Working with our communities on the ground, we pointed out how actions under the women, peace and security agenda routinely overlook LGBTIQ women and girls; we raised concerns on how accessing adequate housing can be

difficult for many in our communities; we showed how the protection of LGBT and gender diverse people is fully enshrined in international human rights law; and we called on States to recognise hatred against LGBTI women as an aggravating circumstance for rape and other crimes. As resolutions were negotiated, we also made sure that their language addresses the realities of our grassroots communities.

The work ILGA World and many other organisations are doing is bringing about change! The 27 States forming the new Group of Friends of the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on SOGI called on the UN Human Rights Council to urgently protect the human rights of trans people: a historic step forward for the global trans community!

In 2021, we also expanded our work on intersex advocacy. For the first time, a staff member joined the team to specifically work on sex characteristics issues, and we also established an Intersex Policy Advisory Group – a group of intersex activists that advises our Intersex Steering Committee and ILGA World on policy and advocacy. Thanks to our work with intersex organisations, a growing, cross-regional group of 53 countries also called on UN member States to combat violence and discrimination against intersex persons, and we joined 85 civil society organisations worldwide to tell the UN Human Rights Council that “unless immediate action is taken, severe human rights violations against intersex people will prevail and continue”.

Inevitably, Covid-19 continued to have an impact on advocacy work. For the second year in a row, online

spaces became our daily reality. We organised three virtual Advocacy Weeks around the **Universal Periodic Review**, facilitating meetings between grassroots activists and representatives of more than 30 diplomatic missions. In 2021 alone, as the UPR closed its third cycle, we saw 494 recommendations made on SOGIESC issues by a growing, cross-regional number of States. It will now be up to grassroots organisations to follow-up on their implementation, and we'll make sure to support them also in these sensitive advocacy phases. Similarly, we also co-hosted the fifth Trans Advocacy Week, and we saw a significant increase in diplomatic missions engaging with issues relating to trans rights.

In only ten years since the first SOGI resolution, we have witnessed seismic advances in the recognition of rights of LGBTI persons in UN spaces. In 2021, the **Treaty Bodies** issued their first decision on children in rainbow families – a historic development ILGA World contributed to with a third-party intervention together with ILGA-Europe, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Child Rights International Network (CRIN) and Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations (NELFA). Additionally for the first time Treaty Bodies issued urgent recommendations demanding effective protection to bodily integrity, self-determination and reparations for intersex people. As the committees resumed their country reviews, we continued to provide consultations, information, training, and support to local groups engaging with them. We also kept engaging with several **Special Procedures** mandate holders, both by providing inputs



28

statements delivered at the UN Human Rights Council

35

permanent missions to the UN engaged during our work around the Universal Periodic Review

1,700+

organisations informed about Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures advocacy opportunities

23

organisations working on trans issues engaged in various projects worldwide

85

intersex-led organisations engaged around advocacy at the United Nations

for their thematic reports and by supporting local groups interacting with them. In 2021 we especially worked more closely with LGBTI persons with disabilities to challenge ableism and cisheteronormativity through human rights mechanisms, and addressed the need to tackle gender-based violence in its intersection with sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

Our advocacy, however, goes beyond United Nations human rights fora. In 2021, we continued to make sure that LGBTI issues were high on the agenda in key international spaces, speaking powerfully for inclusion at a high-level gathering of world leaders to commemorate the Holocaust, and at the Global Roundtable on Protection and Solutions for LGBTIQ+ People in Forced Displacement co-organised by the UN Refugee Agency and the Independent Expert on SOGI.

We also redoubled our efforts to accelerate LGBTI equality and inclusion in the workplace. Besides our engagement in the Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality, we participated in the International Labour Conference, highlighting SOGIESC issues during the discussion on Inequalities at the World of Work: this was the first time that an LGBTI-focused NGO brought these issues to the table!

We also saw how sports are increasingly becoming a battlefield for equality, and we stepped up our work with both the Sports and Rights Alliance and the Centre for Sport and Human Rights to raise awareness at the highest levels on the challenges for LGBTI persons in this field. With major sporting events happening in 2022, and the slew of exclusionary legislation being proposed in many parts of the world, this work is now more important than ever!

Throughout the year, we strived to raise the voices of those who are most often unheard: in the lead-up to our 2022 World Conference, which will have LGBTIQ youth front and centre, ILGA World continued to provide support to the Global Queer Youth Network, and worked alongside the Office of the UN Secretary-General Envoy on Youth and the UN Independent Expert on SOGI to empower youth activists worldwide to be part of the change they want for themselves.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Uniting feminist and LGBTI movements

2021 was a year that saw amplified attacks against gender equality and inclusivity from many angles. But these attacks underestimate one important truth: LGBTI movements have feminist and women's organisations as the most consistent allies, and trans, bisexual, and lesbian women have been contributing to feminism from the very beginning.

It was time for a Feminist Affirmation: in a ground-breaking initiative, we worked together with women,

feminist, LGBTIQ, and trans-led organisations to launch the Affirmation of Feminist Principles, outline values that are fundamental to the achievement of gender equality, and amplify the inclusive historical positions that feminists have taken in relation to understanding gender, sex, and sexuality. To date, more than 2,000 individuals and human rights groups from across the world have signed on to this statement, and are encouraging others in their networks to do the same. This was complemented by yet another unprecedented side event sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the USA, and co-sponsored by over twenty UN member states, on violence against trans women.

At the United Nations, we supported the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity's two reports looking at the inclusive framework of gender and the current hostility against gender identity and trans persons.

Throughout the year, we also deepened our cooperation with women-led organisations and those working on sexual and reproductive health rights, and held three days of dialogue with different organisations, institutions, permanent missions and donors - uniting to respond to gender backlash and anti-trans narratives. Those dialogues are the foundation of our future work in the field.



Looking ahead:

At a time when even hard-won rights are constantly at risk, it is more important than ever to continue pushing for change: this is why our team is growing, allowing ILGA World to broaden the scope of our advocacy. In 2022, we will be able to conduct specific work on the Sustainable Development Goals, and to tackle the global backlash against gender, to

ensure UN recommendations are implemented at the national level, and to redouble our communities' effort towards decriminalisation. We will also be working hard to ensure that the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on SOGI is renewed, and to connect and support our global network of regions even more. Because we are, and will be, in this together, pushing for a better future for all.

BREAKING THE ISOLATION TO EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES



We know how our member organisations and our LGBTI communities at large have stretched themselves to the limit during these past two years, and yet they continued to change the world in a myriad of ways.

For many, the Covid-19 pandemic meant having to restructure their work, and to provide basic support to our populations whenever public authorities left us behind. The isolation has at times been daunting and overwhelming, and ILGA World worked throughout 2021 to stand by our member organisations as they continued serving our communities on the ground.

With no travels, almost all community interactions have moved into the virtual world. We responded by creating spaces, further streamlining our online events and trainings despite the inevitable *Zoom fatigue*.

We organised virtual conferences on the occasions of [Trans Day of Remembrance](#) and of [Intersex Day of Solidarity](#), ensuring a strong global

South presence in these events. We continued to work in collaboration with other organisations for our advocacy weeks, ensuring online access for grassroots activists and connecting them with global fora. Each one with their specific expertise, our staff trained human rights defenders, students, and professionals on a wide array of topics – be them UN human rights mechanisms, intersex issues, or media reporting on LGBTI stories.

We also joined a consortium of organisations running [Free To Be Me](#), a programme paving the way for targeted advocacy to get SOGIESC issues mainstreamed in economic development cooperation and human rights advocacy. This is a strong partnership which will continue to grow, enabling local organisations to become sustainably resourced, leading on legal and policy advances, and changing public attitudes.

Meanwhile, our Steering Committees are connecting bisexual, intersex, trans, women and youth populations, making sure their voices reach decision-makers globally – for example with a [new magazine to celebrate LGBTIQ women](#) in our movement, or a moving piece for [Bi Visibility Day](#), or a powerful campaign on [trans depathologisation](#).

In [Africa](#) and in [Europe](#), ILGA regions brought together hundreds of human rights defenders for their online conferences, and [Oceania](#) held a large virtual symposium on laws and reforms to hear the rainbow activist voices of the Pacific.

This is how we keep creating spaces and connecting our beautiful, diverse movement!

Connecting LGBTIQ youth worldwide

MAKING AN IMPACT

The Global Queer Youth Network is an initiative which aims to connect and strengthen regional and international LGBTIQ youth civil society organisations, so the voices of youth with diverse SOGIESC can be heard at the global level.

Through our Youth Steering Committee, ILGA World has been supporting global youth organising right from its very start. In 2021, however, we stepped up our commitment, and joined forces with the Office of the UN Secretary-General Envoy on Youth, the UN Independent Expert on SOGI, and the Network itself for a year-long campaign: the Queer Youth Dialogues.

A series of both public and private events running from July 2021 to May 2022, and focusing both on high-level advocacy and facilitating

capacity-building activities, the Queer Youth Dialogues touched upon issues ranging from political participation to disability rights, from environmental action to experiences with the private sector, up to digital security and capacity building in fundraising.

Through these events, we were able to connect hundreds of LGBTIQ youth activists from across the world, allowing them to network, learn new skills, and be better equipped to speak up for their rights and their inclusion.

The year-long initiative will culminate in the 30th ILGA World Conference, happening under the theme “LGBTIQ youth: future present change”: the perfect moment to say, loud and clear, that youth activists know how to weave intergenerational alliances, deserve a seat at the table, and must at the forefront of the fight for social justice!

Looking ahead:

Our member organisations are the foundation of what ILGA World is about. In 2022, we will continue to empower them with our trainings, assist them as they engage with human rights mechanisms, and connect them with one another.

We are about to launch exciting, new digital ways for our global family to build capacity, and easily access all the information they need for their work. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements!

Of course, 2022 will also be the year when we'll finally meet again in person. Our 30th World Conference is just around the corner, and we can't wait to be reunited at last. For those who will be unable to join: some form of digital participation will be possible for the first time, too! In such a challenging moment in history, it is more important than ever that our communities from around the world have a shared and safe space to come together, reconnect, and move forward.



AT A GLANCE

22

workshops and events organised to build activists' capacities

120

stakeholders engaged in dialogues around anti-gender backlash responses

2000+

staff participating in ILGA World presentations on business and SOGIESC human rights

1000+

young people engaged over the course of the Queer Youth Dialogues

RESEARCH: CLOSING THE DATA GAP TO LET THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT US



Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex people exist. This may seem a very basic, matter-of-fact statement, and yet we know how even such a simple reality about our communities is constantly put into question. Some States go as far as denying our existence in their jurisdictions, or fail to acknowledge any human rights violations against us.

But we know otherwise, and meaningful progress on LGBTI human rights can only happen when accurate and reliable information – combined with the voices of our communities – casts a light on the inequalities that we keep facing. Data and stories are our power, our way to show the

challenges we face, our tool to indicate how laws, policies and attitudes should change.

This is why ILGA World continues to publish landmark reports to let the world get the facts about us: year after year, our publications have proven to be go-to sources for mainstream media, international human rights bodies and local governments whenever they need information on LGBTI communities.

Our research is the knowledge foundation of all our human rights engagement, and throughout 2021 we continued to develop tools behind the scenes to enlarge the scope of the issues we cover. A substantive

body of work was conducted to get much-needed facts on legislation impacting people not only on the grounds of their sexual orientation, but also on their gender identity and expression, and their sex characteristics. The result of such an all-encompassing work will be released in 2022, and promises to be game-changing for activists, public officials, legal aid providers, journalists, students, and researchers. We can't wait to show you!

But that is not all: during 2021, we also kept developing ways to proactively track of community news from media outlets, CSOs, governmental agencies and academia: a wealth of information that feeds into the work of our staff and regional offices, as we

Let it be known: criminalising laws never sleep

MAKING AN IMPACT

To date, around one third of United Nations member States continue to criminalise consensual same-sex sexual acts between adults, even though governments often dismiss these provisions as 'dormant regulations'. In 2021, however, a brand-new publication by ILGA World showed that these claims are largely inaccurate: Our Identities Under Arrest documented hundreds of cases in which law enforcements subjected LGBT and gender-diverse persons to fines, arbitrary arrests, prosecutions, corporal punishments, imprisonments and more – up to (possibly) the death penalty.

Wherever criminalising laws exist, and non-normative behaviour is read as evidence of non-heterosexuality, the way a person looks, dresses and talks can often be seen as indicative of probable 'criminal activity'. A diverse gender expression, in other words, can often be enough to warrant an arrest, and police abuse appears to be present in almost all documented instances of enforcement.

Our research was quoted in media from across the world, and exposed a hard reality: laws criminalising consensual same-sex sexual acts or diverse gender expressions represent

a constant threat. This is true not only for our communities on the ground, but also for those seeking asylum after having managed to flee hostile environments. Claims that a law is rarely enforced are simply not enough to make a country safe for those who nevertheless are in danger of persecution there.

Thanks to our research, this evidence will now be harder to ignore: it is now up to governments worldwide to do better by our communities.

collectively advocate to advance human rights for all.

We released some new, ground-breaking research too: the Our Identities Under Arrest report provided evidence of how arrests and prosecutions for consensual same-sex sexual acts, or for diverse gender expressions, have continued unabated across the world over the years, despite governments' claims that laws criminalising our communities would often be dormant.

Our research continues to be, first and foremost, a matter of collaboration, and it would not be possible without our communities on the ground. Their expertise and lived realities continue to inform our publications, and we make sure that their voices are heard as international mechanisms look at intersectional issues – be them the human right situations of indigenous people, of LGBTI older women, or the pervasiveness of violence against women.

Looking ahead:

Data about LGBTI communities often remains difficult to access. Jargon and complex language keep people at bay. Facts have to fight their way among a sea of misinformation. ILGA World is working to change that, and we have spent months to prepare for very significant changes in how our research is structured and presented.

We know how important it is for human rights defenders to have the key information to-hand for their advocacy, and for the world to get the facts right about how laws and attitudes impact the daily lives of LGBTI people. This is why we set out a very ambitious goal: to cover the whole scope of socio-legal developments that affect people with diverse SOGI-ESC, and to make it easily accessible. All these changes will see the light of day later in 2022: keep your eyes peeled for future announcements!

AT A GLANCE

900

incidents of enforcement of criminalising laws tracked in the *Our Identities Under Arrest* report

20,915

sources on LGBTI issues tracked on a daily basis

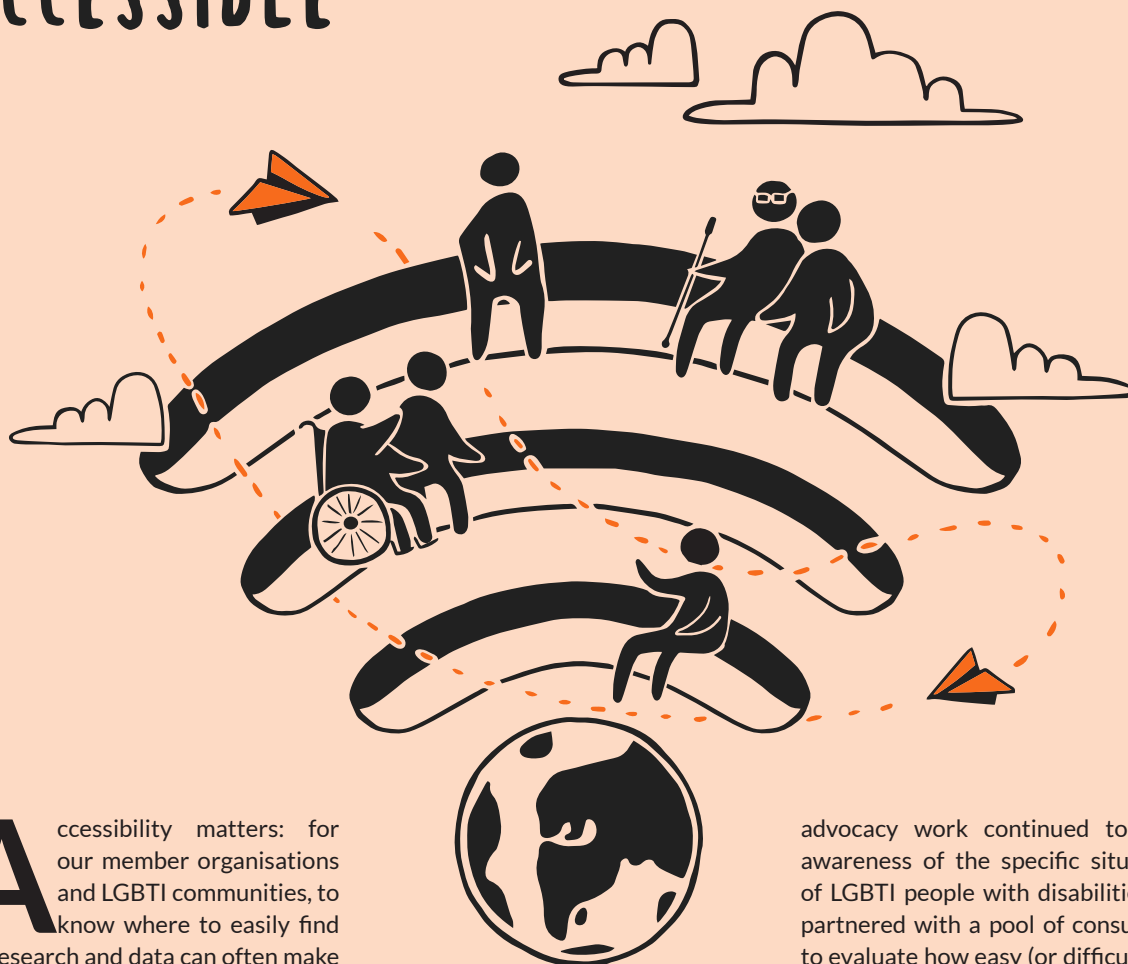
3,115

files with laws, regulations, and judicial decisions collected in our legal repository

26

researchers and human rights defenders engaged or consulted

COMMUNICATIONS: MAKING OUR INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE



Accessibility matters: for our member organisations and LGBTI communities, to know where to easily find key research and data can often make the difference as they engage with human rights mechanisms, and connect with each other.

At the same time, media, decision-makers and the general public can also benefit from easily available, reliable and accurate information on LGBTI lived realities – especially at a time when the fight for our rights is often willingly misconstrued and weaponised for political gains.

During the year, we connected with journalists from leading media outlets worldwide and contributed

to numerous publications, exposing a potential readership of hundreds of millions to LGBTI-respectful perspectives, stories, and data. As the Human Rights Council discussed the Forum on Minority Issues' recommendations to tackle hate speech on social media, we also raised awareness of how targeting us on online spaces aims at intimidating our communities back into silence, and hampers access to the digital world.

But there are also other ways in which accessibility matters. As our

advocacy work continued to raise awareness of the specific situations of LGBTI people with disabilities, we partnered with a pool of consultants to evaluate how easy (or difficult) it is for people with visual or other impairments to interact with our communications – be it on our website, social media, or online events. We emerged from this process with a wealth of very valuable recommendations: some were already implemented in our daily communications work, and some more will be applied over the coming months. This is only the start of a much-needed process, making sure that ILGA World will incorporate an accessibility-first perspective in every project, and that we better serve the needs of people of marginalised SOGIESC in all their diversity.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Spotlight on our member organisations

How do we make sure that our communications actually serve our member organisations? And how can we use our expertise to help them build their capacities, and in which areas? In 2021, we worked to assess our membership's views on our communications work: the results of the preliminary survey that we conducted are now helping us shape new strategies to engage with our member organisations, and to make sure they are and feel an active part of our global family.

The work of the amazing organisations that form ILGA World deserves to be known, and we can be their global platform – be it through public awareness campaigns, or in social media takeovers where they shared their stories, their latest advances, and why being part of our global LGBTI family matters to them. We look forward to introducing even more of them to our international community over the coming years!

Looking ahead:

We know how important it is to make sure that the world hears LGBTI voices in all their diversity, and that our community has all the tools it needs to keep bringing about change. In 2022, the ILGA World communications team will grow, and we will be working on new, exciting strategies around social media and membership engagement.

As we continue to improve the accessibility of our communications, we will also take stock of how LGBTI

rights are reported on globally: for the first time in the history of ILGA World Conferences, we will host a media pre-conference, bringing together activists and journalists working for international media outlets.

The World Conference will be a unique moment for our global family to join the campaigns that we are planning for the whole year, but also let us know how we can better-serve them: don't miss this opportunity!

AT A GLANCE



1,683

media outlets mentioning our work

129

in countries and territories worldwide

51%

of media coverage from Global South countries

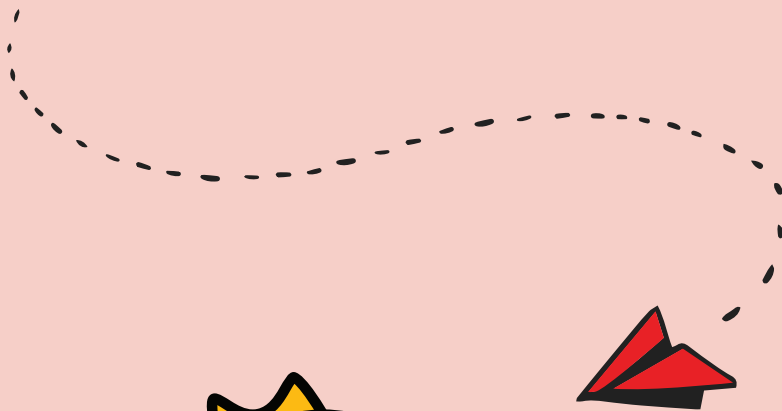
1,179,088

website page views

+18%

follower increase across all social media

TOWARDS OUR 2022 WORLD CONFERENCE



ilga 2022
world conference

LA • LONG BEACH

LGBTIQ YOUTH: FUTURE PRESENT CHANGE
JUVENTUD LGBTIQ: CAMBIO FUTURO PRESENTE



Ever been to an ILGA World conference? These events are one of the largest global gatherings of LGBTI changemakers, and a unique chance to assess where our communities stand, share experiences and best practices, build alliances and partnerships, discuss the future of our movement, and collectively chart ways to advance equality worldwide.

Conferences have been part of our history since the very beginning, back in 1978. Fast-forward to 2022: the 30th ILGA World Conference will take place from 2 to 6 May in LA Long Beach, CA, United States, hosted by the It Gets Better Project.

For the first time in the history of our conferences, we will focus on the power of LGBTIQ youth for the whole global movement. With social injustice and economic disparities cutting across our world, it is clear that we need radical, positive change. Our youth are key to this: from climate justice to feminism, from disabilities to anti-racism, up to the fight against

gender-based violence and LGBTIQ oppression and discrimination, our youth are a powerful part of social justice movements. They mobilise millions, speak truth to power, weave intergenerational and intersectional alliances, and make space to also speak for themselves. LGBTIQ youth are our future. They are also our present. And together we can change the world. **Future present change.**

Beyond the theme, the format of the conference will mark another first for ILGA World. To ensure a more diverse participation at a time when travels can be particularly challenging, this will be a hybrid conference: registered participants who won't make it to Long Beach will be able to attend all our plenaries, as well as some key sessions, through an online platform. All information is available and regularly updated on our [brand-new, dedicated conference website](#), available in English, Spanish, and French. Either in person or through a screen, we can't wait to be reunited at last!

AT A GLANCE



600

in-person participants from across the world

17

pre-conferences on a range of thematic areas

11

regional and population caucuses

100+

sessions

5

evenings of social programme

OUR ILGA FAMILY

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In 2021, ILGA North America and the Caribbean held a series of meetings and dialogues with members to develop new governance structures for the region. These have been designed to increase collaboration and networking within the region, to establish a strategic plan and to increase advocacy efforts at regional and international human rights mechanisms - including the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and UN mechanisms in New York.

Furthermore, the region strengthened its engagement with Caribbean organisations, conducted membership outreach, and planned for the ILGA NAC regional gathering held in conjunction with the ILGA World conference in Long Beach, California in May 2022. Most importantly, it launched the Global LGBT Decriminalisation by 2030 project in partnership with ILGA World, with activities at the regional level to begin in 2022.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

During the year, ILGALAC has continued to implement a regional advocacy agenda by strengthening member organisations, holding seminars and online discussions, monitoring the situation of LGBTI+ rights in each of the countries and providing technical and political support to local and national initiatives. It has also monitored the presidential elections in Peru, Ecuador, and Chile through its electoral observatory for LGBTI+ rights, and has initiated a project to monitor violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In June, the regional Board temporarily took over the management of ILGALAC's operations, and is in the process of initiating a call for a new executive director. It also designed its new annual operational plan, and began preparations for its next regional conference to be held in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Throughout 2021, [ILGA-Europe](#) kept a focus on remaining close to what was going on within the movement in the region. Regranting work was prioritised, paying particular attention to reaching groups who are traditionally under-resourced. ILGA-Europe continued to strengthen capacity by creating spaces for peer learning and exchanges to respond to current needs of activists. [The Hub](#) was launched, to provide an online resource-sharing tool to facilitate ongoing learning and knowledge exchange for activists. The publication of the first EU LGBTIQ Strategy by the European Commission in November 2020 was a major achievement, one ILGA-Europe had been pushing for over a decade, and it provided a strong basis to open new conversations within the EU. Finally, ILGA-Europe dedicated significant time to internal learning on intersectionality, socioeconomic justice, and anti-racism.

All this learning will be brought back to the membership and applied in ILGA-Europe's own advocacy and practices.

The full list of ILGA member organisations is available at ilga.org. The following pages of this report list member organisations and their regions as of 31 December 2021.

1,756
member
organisations from

168
countries and territories
representing

6
regions



ASIA

Through its [Covid-19 Humanitarian Grant Assistance Program](#), our Asian region supported organisations that provided aid to more than 80,000 LGBTI individuals during the year. In response to the human rights crisis in Afghanistan, it also launched a [Special Program](#) to make sure our LGBTI communities in the country could have access to humanitarian aid.

Beyond emergency response, ILGA Asia also provided a wealth of information to our communities on the ground, with a ground-breaking data-driven research project on SOGIESC developments in [16 Asian countries](#), and started digital advocacy campaigns-including [#TDORChatroom](#) series, on ending [gender-based violence](#), and a podcast on [LGBT & Faith](#) with the Salzburg Global Seminar.

AFRICA

The PAI 5th regional conference was the greatest achievement of the region during the year. Due to Covid-19, it was held virtually in August 2021 at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg, South Africa. This conference had 1007 registered participants: it was the largest LGBTIQ+ gathering in the continent to date! The significance of Constitution Hill as a venue comes from the constitutional history of South Africa - the first country in the world to provide constitutional protection to LGBTIQ+ people.

During 2021, Pan Africa ILGA also documented the impact of Covid-19 among the LGBTIQ+ communities and organising in Eastern and Southern Africa; it grew its staff capacity, and coordinated with local and regional organisations, as well as with international partners, to respond to human rights crises in the continent - such as the arrest of [21 LGBTI human rights defenders in Ghana](#) and [44 LGBTI people in a shelter in Uganda](#).

OCEANIA

In February 2021, ILGA Oceania held the first [Law and Reform Symposium in the Pacific](#); dozens of voices from rainbow communities in the regions gathered together virtually to discuss the most pressing issues, policies or laws within the countries that negatively affect their human rights situations - be it the criminalisation of consensual same-sex relations, climate change or Covid-19.

Through its disability sub-committee, the region engaged with ILGA World to raise the voices of LGBTI persons with disabilities in international fora, including at the United Nations.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL



Tuisina Ymania Brown
Pacific Human Rights Initiative
Samoa



Luz Elena Aranda
Teatro Cabaret Reinas Chulas AC
Mexico

BISEXUAL COMMITTEE CHAIR



Rāwā Karetai Wood-Bodley
Rainbow Lifestyle Protection
Aotearoa New Zealand

INTERSEX COMMITTEE CHAIR



Tony Briffa
Intersex Human
Rights Australia
Australia

TRANS COMMITTEE CHAIR



Jabulani Pereira
Irantí
South Africa

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CHAIR



Cristina González Hurtado
Corporación Femm
Colombia

YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIR



Martin Karadzhev
Metro Centre Ltd and
LGBT Consortium
United Kingdom

PAN AFRICA ILGA



**Barbra Wangare
EATHAN**
Kenya



**Star Rugori
MOLI**
Burundi

ILGA ASIA



Candy Darim Yun
Korean Sexual-Minority
Culture & Rights Center
South Korea



Shadi Amin
Iranian Lesbian and
Transgender Network (6Rang)
Iran

ILGA OCEANIA



Vanessa Lee-Ah Mat
Australian Greens LGBTI
members
Australia



Ken Moala
BIMBA
Kiribati

ILGA NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



Kimberly Frost
OUTreach
United States



Stephen Seaborn
Pink Triangle Committee
Canada

ILGALAC



Ari Vera Morales
Almas Cautivas
Mexico



Darío Arias
Conurbanes por la Diversidad
Argentina

ILGA-EUROPE



Olena Shevchenko
Insight Public Organization
Ukraine



Yuri Guaiana
Associazione Radicale
Certi Diritti
Italy

ALTERNATE CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL



Barbra Wangare
EATHAN
Kenya

PAN AFRICA ILGA ALTERNATES



**Líria Victoria Miguel
de Castro**
Arquivo de Identidade
Angolano
Angola



**Rukundo Isaac
Mugisha**
Spectrum Uganda
Initiatives
Uganda

ILGA ASIA ALTERNATES



Ngo Le Phuong Linh
ICS Center
Viet Nam



Charbel Maydaa
Mosaic MENA
Lebanon

ILGA OCEANIA ALTERNATES



Miki Wali
Australian GLBTIQ
Multicultural Council
Australia



Iru Tau
Kapul Champions
Papua New Guinea

ILGA NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN ALTERNATES



Winnie Luk
Rainbow Railroad
Canada

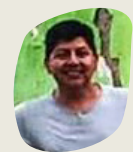


Justin Tindall
It Gets Better Project
United States

ILGALAC ALTERNATES



Marlin González
Hombres y Mujeres Nuevos
de Panama
Panama



David Aruquipa - Danna Galán
Comunidad Diversidad
Bolivia

ILGA-EUROPE ALTERNATES



Annika Ojala
Seta - LGBTI Rights in Finland
Finland



Yves Aerts Jacobs
Çavaria
Belgium

* Board members and alternates as of 31 December 2021.
The latest members of the Board can be found [here](#).

In 2021, ILGA World said goodbye to Board members and alternates from the Pan Africa ILGA region, following elections at its conference. A big word of thanks to the following: Nnedinma Ulanmo, Sheba Akpokli, and Jennifer Henshaw!

OUR STAFF

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021

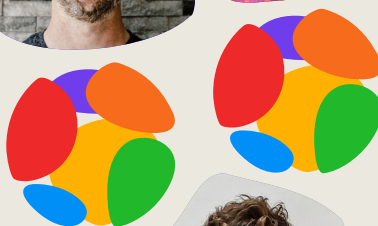
André du Plessis
Senior Advisor to the
Executive Director



Julia Ehrt
Executive Director



K. K.*
UN Programme Manager



N. V.*
Director of Finance and Support Services

Lucas Ramón Mendos
Research Coordinator



Gabriel Galil
Senior Programme Officer (UN advocacy,
Human Rights Council and UPR)



Chamindra Weerawardhana
Consultant - Gender Identity & Expression and
Sex Characteristics Programme



Eli Rubashkyn
Consultant - Gender Identity & Expression
and Sex Characteristics Programme



J. Andrew Baker
Coordinator - Donor relations



Daniele Paletta
Communications Manager



Paula Klik
Membership and Events Senior Officer



Polyxeni Kallini
Senior Finance Officer, Grants and Reporting



* full name withdrawn for security reasons

At the end of 2021, we said goodbye to André du Plessis, who has been with ILGA World for over eight years. During this time, he first led the organisation’s United Nations programme, to then become Executive Director in March 2018, overseeing a period of great growth. We are truly grateful for all his work, and wish him all the best on his future endeavours!

During the year, ILGA World also expanded its Gender Identity & Expression and Sex Characteristics Programme team, welcoming our first team member focusing exclusively on sex characteristics issues: **Eli Rubashkyn**. We now have more capacity to work alongside our intersex communities worldwide!

A special shout-out and thank you goes also to the 12 interns that have worked with us during the year, and to

all the consultants who have made our work possible! As we head into 2022, our internship programme will be re-named “International Junior Professionals Programme”, continuing to welcome to our team persons who are at an early stage of their career.

In 2022 our team will continue to grow, and together we will continue to assist our global communities as they conduct crucial work.

ALSO WITH US IN 2021

UN PROGRAMME INTERNS
(Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures)

Amira Eid



Guillermo Ricalde

UN PROGRAMME INTERNS
(Human Rights Council and UPR)

Farai Chikwanha



Diego Quesada Nicoli

INTERNS - RESEARCH

Francisco Peña Díaz



María Roques de Borda

INTERNS - GIESC PROGRAMME

Tristán Samuel López Aguilar



Hazel T. Mokgathi

INTERNS - COMMUNICATIONS

Nazlı Mayuk



Tofunmi Odugbemi

IT INTERN

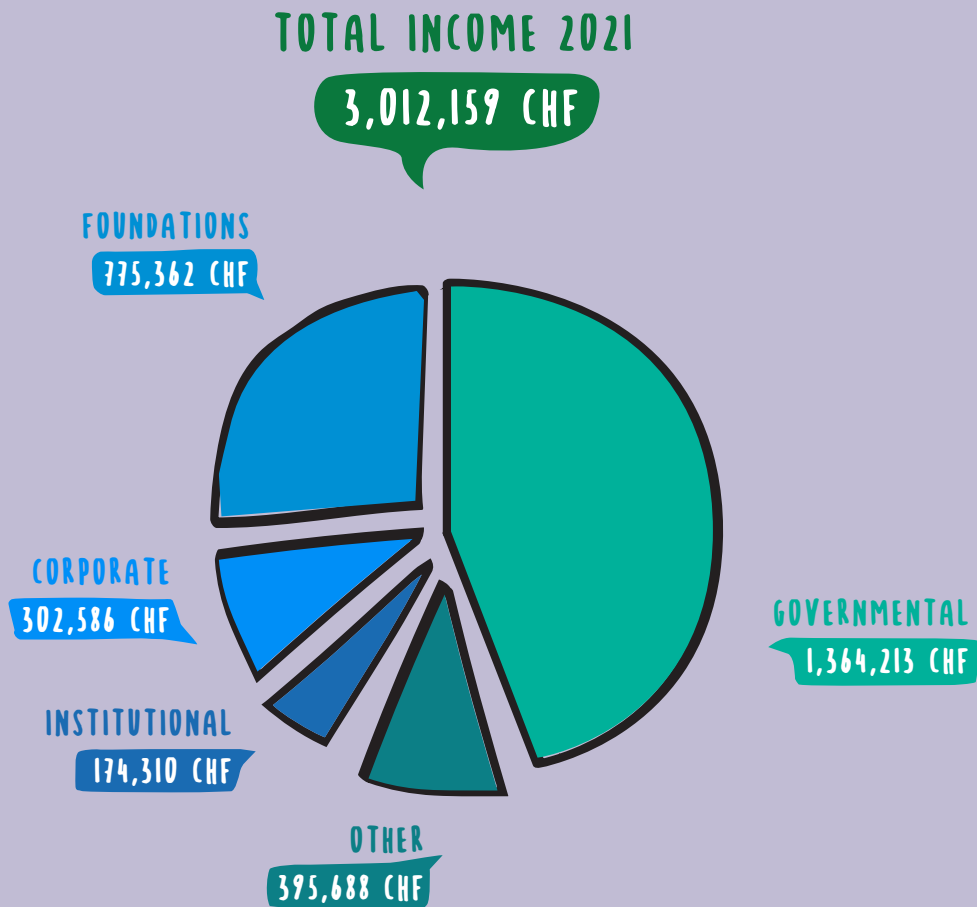
AR Arcon



Demet Gümüş

INTERN - CONFERENCE SUPPORT

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

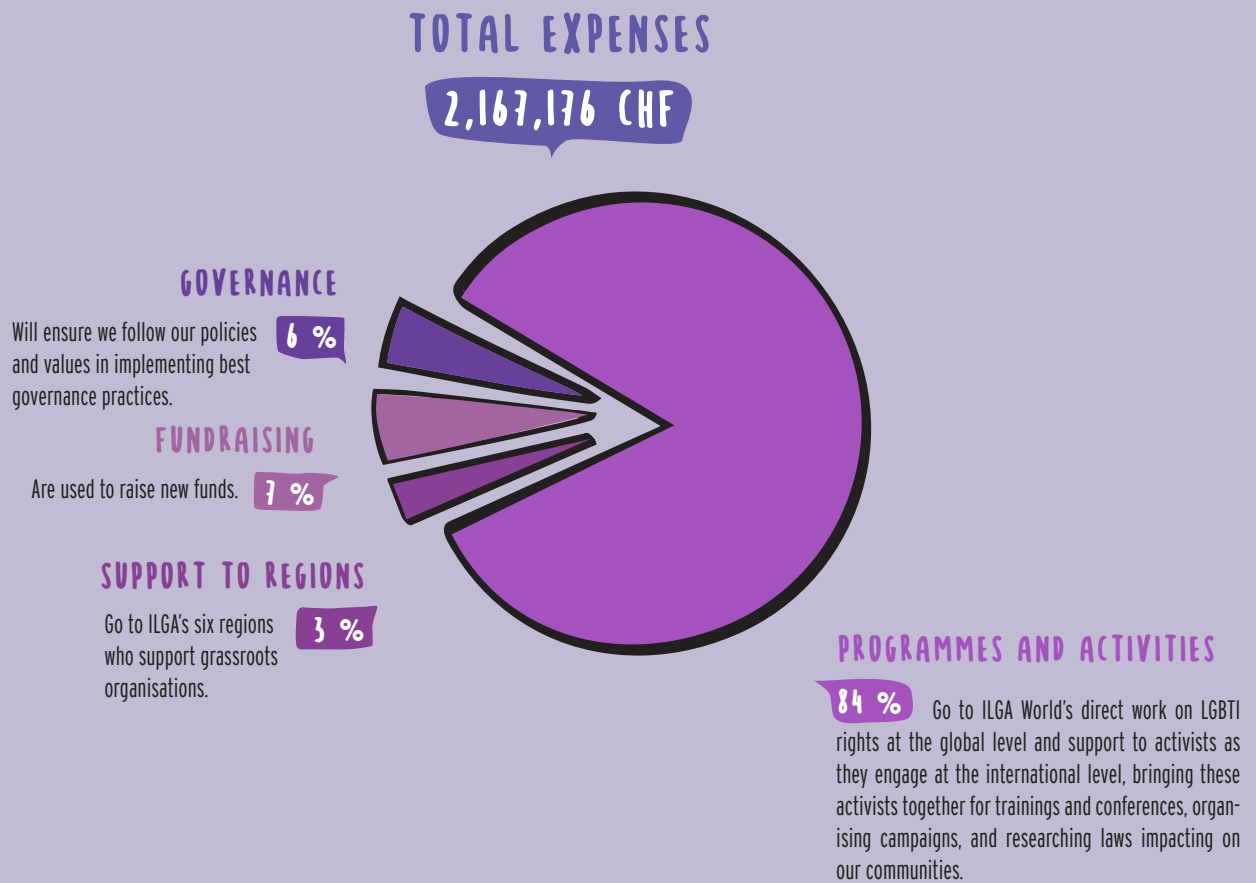


How do ILGA World engines keep running smoothly?

ILGA World is led by – and works with – its member organisations from across the world to advance LGBTI human rights.

This work would not be possible without the support of our donors: individuals, foundations, governments, member organisations, and other institutional funders. We are grateful to everyone who made generous contributions to our work throughout 2021!

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? YOUR DONATIONS TO ILGA WORLD HELP BRING ABOUT CHANGE!



ARE YOU READY TO GIVE?

DONATE!

With a donation, you will help ILGA World continue to support LGBTI communities worldwide working for a better future: supporting activists as they speak at the United Nations and other international spaces to call for equal rights; backing our research into laws and attitudes affecting LGBTI persons around the globe; making our conferences, training programmes and advocacy campaigns sustainable.

**We know that change is unstoppable
when we're united!**

We are here to do our part: will you chip in?



HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

DOES YOUR ORGANISATION WANT TO BECOME AN ILGA WORLD MEMBER?

Becoming a member of ILGA World will allow your organisation to have a say in shaping the life and work of a worldwide federation of organisations committed to equal human rights for LGBTI persons.

It also gives the opportunity to advance the protection of LGBTI human rights in international and regional fora - including at the United Nations - where we can support your work or speak on your behalf.

Members also have the opportunity to participate to ILGA regional and world conferences, and enjoy priority access to scholarships, capacity building trainings and networking opportunities. Most of all, you will meet a global family of people working every day to advance equality for LGBTI persons. Join us: there's strength in numbers!



ILGA World's 2021 *Annual Report*
was written, coordinated and edited by **Daniele Paletta**.
Managed by **Julia Ehart**

Spanish translation:
Daniel Zacariotti

Design and typesetting:
Roberta Bruno – roberta.comics@gmail.com

Illustrations:
Stefano Casolari – stefano.casolari95@gmail.com

This annual report covers the period from **1 January to 31 December 2021**,
and it is released under an Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0
International ([CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)) license.

On the names of countries and territories in this publication

ILGA World is an organisation with ECOSOC-accredited consultative status at the United Nations. Therefore, our publications must follow UN-recommended language on the names of countries and territories. Nothing in an ILGA World publication should be taken as a position made by the organisation on the status of any country or territory. If you have any doubts or queries with regard to this aspect of this publication, please contact ILGA World at info@ilga.org.



**ILGA World - The International Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association**

20 Rue Rothschild, 5th floor
1202 Geneva, Switzerland

For more information about our work,
or to download our publications,
please visit our website: ilga.org
or contact us at info@ilga.org

Join the conversation:

