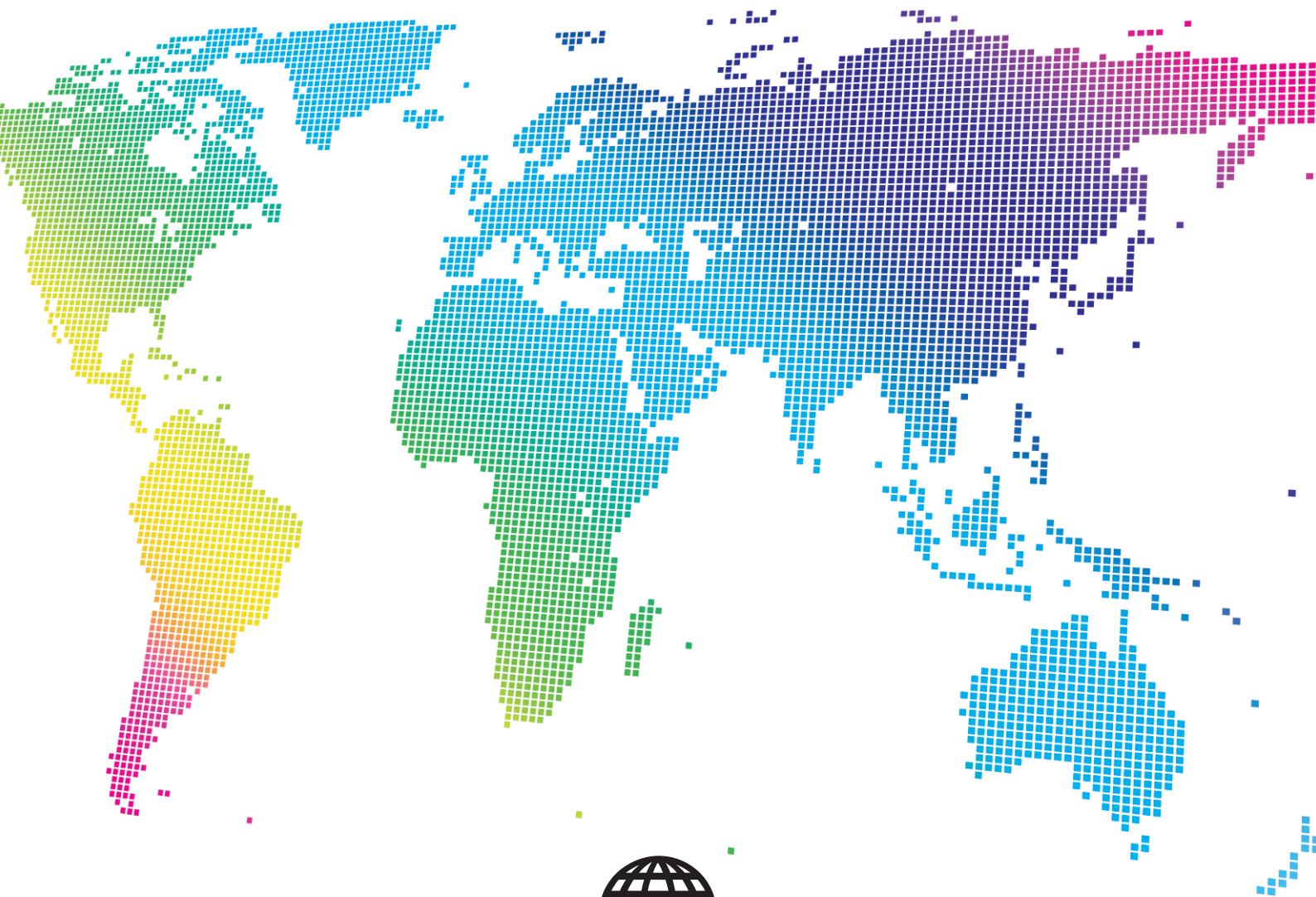


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annual report 2015

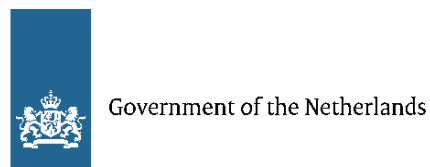
Uniting communities and movements



Thanks and acknowledgements

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association is grateful for the work and support of its volunteers, staff and executive board. A heartfelt thank you goes to the members of ILGA not only for their financial support, but also for the time and energy they commit to furthering the organisation's aims and objectives.

Last but not least, our thanks to the following organisations:



The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) is a worldwide federation of organisations committed to equal human rights for LGBTI people and their liberation from all forms of discrimination. Founded in 1978, it enjoys consultative status at the United Nations, where it speaks and lobbies on behalf of almost 1,200 member organisations from 131 countries.

Vision

ILGA is committed to help shaping a world where the human rights of all are respected; where everyone can live in equality and freedom; where global justice and equity are assured and established regardless of the people's sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and bodily diversity.

Strategic plan 2014-2018

become a representative voice of LGBTI civil society within international organisations, particularly the United Nations, through collaboration, engagement, and support of members and partners.

promote diversity, advance equality and effective application and enjoyment of human

rights standards and principles without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression, and sex (intersex).

reinforce and develop ILGA's organisational capacity (executive board, staff, regions and members) to achieve political, social and institutional change.

Mission

act as a leading organisation and a global voice for the rights of those who face discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression and sex (intersex).

work towards achieving equality, freedom and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people through advocacy, collaborative action, and by educating and informing relevant international and regional institutions as well as governments, media and civil society.

empower our members and other human rights organisations in promoting and protecting human rights, irrespective of people's sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression and sex (intersex), and to facilitate cooperation and solidarity among ILGA regions and members.

promote the diversity and strengths of LGBTI people around the world.



Dear friends,

ILGA is built on the energy and passion of its global membership and this year's Annual Report captures the interactions and dynamics present in every aspect of our work. Passionate and restless activists, along with partners, allies and families, continue to have a profound impact on many LGBTIQ lives around the world. 2015 was marked with groundbreaking moments around the world, and we take this opportunity to salute our members and activists who have worked for years to achieve these. Whilst we celebrate the successes, we continue to recognise the tireless and unseen work carried out in countries and communities facing injustices, setbacks or backlashes. We also remember the lives taken away by hate-motivated crimes and continue to celebrate these lives through our work.

ILGA represents networks, movements, communities, and bodies that continue to challenge oppressive and discriminatory systems, practices and norms that exclude, outlaw, mutilate and kill LGBTIQ people. Around the world, LGBTIQ movements and communities are led by those who fight these injustices. Their commitment and work help strengthen the links between local, national, regional and international communities of activists, and this is what ILGA is about. The work carried out at our office in Geneva and the regional offices in Bangkok, Brussels, Buenos Aires and Johannesburg reflects this complex web that is the global LGBTIQ movement.

This report represents one year in the work of this organisation that continues to represent ever-changing and ever-growing communities and movements determined to help shaping a world where everyone can live safely, equally and free.

In the last year, we developed new partnerships, embarked on new projects, increased our capacity and strengthened our governance structures, aiming at continuing to strengthen the 38-year-old legacy that ILGA has. We continue to be encouraged and inspired by all the positive energy that our movements represent, and we will continue to ensure that ILGA remains a global leader for the LGBTIQ movement.

In Solidarity,

*Ruth Baldacchino,
Helen Kennedy*
Co-Secretaries General

At the end of the second year of its 2014-2018 Strategic plan, ILGA finds itself in a process of sustained growth, both in terms of membership and activities. While members have grown from 1,112 to 1,167, the number and kind of activities has expanded considerably: advocacy at the UN Human Rights Council is no longer limited to the Universal Periodic Review and to lobbying activities in support of resolutions, but covers also Treaty Bodies; the content of the *State Sponsored Homophobia* report increases in extension of the issues covered and in the depth of the information provided, while ILGA partners with a Canadian data corporation, RIWI, to launch a global attitudes survey on LGBTI people in 65 countries as an innovative tool to acquire essential data for NGOs and allies to measure the effectiveness of their work on the ground and to improve on it. The increasing interest and capacity in dealing with LGBTI-related data at the global level has also led us to cooperate on a project about a global LGBTI inclusion index promoted by the United Nations Development Programme.

At the same time, the connection of ILGA with its Trans members and non-member organisations is revitalised thanks to the launch of the Gender Identity and Gender Expression programme, while the newly established Intersex secretariat confirms its relevance within the global Intersex movement. The regional structures of ILGA in the global South are successfully building their capacity, especially in



the case of Pan Africa ILGA, to provide the members in their regions with more opportunities to meet, to share and acquire new knowledge and skills and to better coordinate their advocacy in relation to their respective regional human rights bodies, while the participation of ILGA in the consortium of NGOs behind the EU funded initiative ProtectDefenders.eu provides us for the first time with concrete tools to help and support LGBTI human rights defenders in difficulty or even in danger.

This process of growth, however, does not come without challenges: the expansion of activities requires on the one hand both greater professionalism and increased funding to implement them, while posing the risk of stretching the energies of the organisation too thin. We like to look at these challenges as opportunities: the

increased visibility of ILGA and the relevance of its work will attract new funders and professionals willing to work for us, while the check and balances of our governance will ensure that the new activities remain within the possibility of the organisation and centred on our mission. This process of growth would not be possible without the leadership of the co-secretaries general and the board, the dedication and professionalism of the staff members and – ultimately – the support of the whole membership: these three elements are and will continue to be the key ingredients of ILGA's success.

Renato Sabbadini
Executive Director

2015 in numbers

North America
100

Europe
492

Latin America & Caribbean
295

Africa
104

Asia
131

Oceania
45

1,167 member organisations
from **131** countries representing **6** regions

2 regional conferences held

1 region (Pan Africa ILGA) officially registered
as a **non-profit organisation**

2 new staff members joining the ILGA World team

27 statements delivered at the United Nations
Human Rights Council raising LGBTI issues

17 human rights defenders welcomed to Geneva
for the UPR advocacy weeks

13 organisations or coalitions assisted in their
advocacy before **7** different Treaty Bodies

3 awareness-raising side events hosted during
three sessions of the United Nations Human
Rights Council

6,755 Facebook page likes

10,412 Twitter followers

38 LinkedIn followers

29 issues of the weekly *LGBulleTIn* published

10 media releases and statements issued

9 LGBTI human rights defenders
interviewed for the *ILGA meets...* series

1 social media campaign: *What Does The UN Say?*

ILGALAC

In 2015 Latin America and the Caribbean took **giant leaps forward**: the Civil union pact was approved in Chile, the ban on blood donations from LGBTI persons was dropped in Argentina, and Jamaica held the country's first Pride parade. The regional council of ILGALAC supported initiatives like the adoption of an employment quota for trans people by the Province of Buenos Aires (Argentina), or the project to increase punishments for aggravated crimes based on homophobia in El Salvador.

2015 was **a busy year** also in ILGALAC's office: our first press dossier about LGBTI adoptions in Colombia was published; we revamped our website, issued weekly regional news bulletins and launched our social media campaign **#SomosILGALAC**. We published two books about labour rights of LGBTI persons, in cooperation with ISP, and organised a

forum on lesbian and bisexual health during an international meeting in the Dominican Republic. We were also involved in a report on development, sexual orientation and gender identity in Uruguay, and we contributed to the birth of the Regional Centre for LAC in cooperation with Civicus and Counterpart International.

Our council members were **involved also at the international level**: they took part both in the CSW and in the 7th Summit of the Americas, as well as in the Regional conference on Population and development in LAC and in the European Governmental LGBT Focal Points Network. The Executive Director signed a cooperation agreement with INADI in Argentina, and held meetings with the World Bank, Open Society Foundation, IDB, Human Rights First, USAID, HRCampaigne and OAS.

Sadly, this year was marked also by **terrible losses** of activists and key members of our community,

like the writer Pedro Lemebel, or the murders of trans activists Francela Méndez from El Salvador and Diana Sacayán from Argentina.

ILGA Asia

2014 was a groundbreaking year for ILGA-Asia: its first office was opened in Hong Kong, and later registered with the local authorities.

Building on the momentum, 2015 marked **other important steps** for the region. ILGA-Asia hired its first-ever office coordinator, Sattara Hattirat, and worked throughout the year to develop its organisational structures, looking to make its spaces more democratic and inclusive for both members and non-members.

These were the guidelines under which **the 6th regional conference was organised**: the event



took in Taiwan in October, gathering more than 360 activists and human rights defenders who took part in three days of workshops and roundtables, and then joined tens of thousands people marching in the Taipei Pride parade.

A new board was also elected during the conference: its members immediately carried on the work of their predecessors to implement ILGA-Asia's strategic and action plan, aiming to see the region grow more and more as a relevant advocacy member-based LGBTIQ organisation, serving and addressing the needs and priorities of communities in the continent.

ILGA Oceania

Despite being the smallest in terms of population, ILGA Oceania is perhaps the most diverse among all the organisation's regions, spanning across a wide range of time zones, islands and cultures.

It should come as no surprise, then, that ILGA Oceania has worked since its very first moments to see the **diversity of cultural values** being more and more **respected within the human rights framework**. During 2015, such efforts were made both towards the organisation and outwards: as much as region

representatives joined the Pacific UN Free & Equal campaign, and they committed to audit all of the organisation's communications for oppressive language.

The last twelve months saw the **representation of the Oceania region growing within the ILGA family**, and enter more and more the field of vision of international funders. An amazing result, that could not have happened without the constant commitment of grassroots activists: we are grateful to them all, and owe a special "thank you" to those who started working three months in advance to make the 2016 ILGA Oceania conference possible.



The whole community has taken the work done by the former ILGA ANZAPI and is building on that momentum, to see the human rights of LGBTI persons advance both in the region and internationally. The fires have indeed been stoked and ILGA Oceania is a region to watch in the future.

Pan Africa ILGA

Big news for Pan Africa ILGA broke on a late July day: the application it had filed months before was approved and granted. Starting 2015, Pan Africa ILGA is **registered as a non-profit organisation**: a tremendous gain benefitting both the organisation and its members, most of which still face state-imposed restrictions on their abilities to function as legitimate partners in civil society in their countries.

Such a victory made the organisation **as strong as ever**: a new coordinator and a communications officer were appointed, and the secretariat began operating in a Johannesburg, South Africa office shared with Iranti-Org.

Pan Africa ILGA worked throughout the year to **strengthen its advocacy initiatives**. In June 2015, it conducted its first training on the UN human rights bodies, bringing together activists from 14 countries due for their Universal Periodic Review. A training on African human rights mechanisms was also organised, with 25 LGBTI human rights defenders convening in Abuja, Nigeria to learn more on how to engage with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Finally, the organisation held a pre-conference at the Changing Faces – Changing Spaces conference in Kenya, exploring how to look at the struggle to advance the human rights of LGBTI people through a pan-African lens.



While busy preparing its 2016 regional conference, Pan Africa ILGA also launched *The personal is political*, a series of roundtable forums for human rights defenders to explore challenges and opportunities in building a powerful and resilient LGBTI movement in the continent.

Our **advocacy work** reached even further: we intervened at the UN Human Rights Committee's review of Canada's non-compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, we participated in Education International's world congress and we joined a meeting on LGBTI human rights in Honduras with the US embassy.

We **built relationships** with labour organisations, drafting a cooperation agreement with the Americas office of Public Services International, and we made our voices heard, working with civil society organisations in the review of the Canadian government's obligations under the UN's Treaty on economic and social rights.

ILGA North America

2015 will be remembered as the year same-sex marriage arrived in the United States. While we have all celebrated this victory, we have not forgotten that the **struggle towards equality** is still far from over.

This is why our region represented ILGA at two hemispheric human rights meetings of the Organization of American States, where we worked on **establishing relationships** with the OAS LGBTI coalition, advocated on pro-SOGI resolutions and pressed for legislative reform to protect the bodily autonomy of intersex children.



ILGA-Europe

The ever-growing regional LGBTI movement has to operate in times of political confusion: in 2015, the fact that human rights defenders struggle to make their voices heard was all too evident. Nevertheless, the movement scored **some important victories** in the bygone year, too. Just to mention a few: Ireland voted for marriage equality and introduced gender recognition legislation based on self-determination; Malta extended legal protection to trans and intersex people; Cyprus and Greece approved civil unions for same-sex couples.

Having to deal with such a ever-changing environment, ILGA-Europe followed in pursuit to **keep LGBTI equality at the top of the EU's agenda**, engaging with European Union's bodies, grassroots civil society organisations and national policy-makers. Since the 2014 annual conference in Riga, ILGA-Europe organised 13 conferences and as much training sessions; had meetings with 10 national governments and with several high-level

officials; submitted 43 policy papers to different European public consultations, as well as 6 third-party interventions to the European Court of Human Rights; re-granted 45 grants for projects carried out by member and partner organisations, and created three new programmes to provide resources to LGBTI persons and their allies. ILGA-Europe created alliances with NGOs working in the areas of women's rights, sexual and reproductive health and faith-based groups to see how they can work together to increase support for choice and dignity for all in Europe.

Among all this, ILGA-Europe also found the time to organise its first-ever fundraising Gala, to hold its annual regional conference in Athens and to move its team of 17 persons into a new office space in Brussels.

A great body of work, which ILGA-Europe will build upon throughout 2016: a year that will bring new challenges to the LGBTI movement in the region, and that will also mark the organisation's **20th anniversary**.



ILGA-Europe: Athens, 28-31 October 2015

Let the numbers speak for themselves: with more than 450 registered participants from 53 countries, dozens of speakers and over 40 workshops held in just four days, 2015 has seen **the biggest ILGA-Europe conference to date.**

Hosted by OLKE in collaboration with a handful of other organisations in Athens, Greece, the conference and its sheer size provided a clear illustration of how strong the European LGBTI movement can be, especially when it opens conversations with allies.

As the goal of equality is fiercely threatened by opposition groups, ILGA-Europe recognised the need to work to ensure that the whole LGBTI movement benefits legal, political and social change: no one must be left behind, and this is why *Many voices, one movement - Together, mobilised for a just society* was chosen as the theme of the conference. Workshops and sessions were organised to **explore intersectionality issues** and to offer

more visibility to minority groups within the LGBTI community, and **the first ILGA-Europe Diversity Awards**, bestowed on LGBTI People With Disabilities, was presented in an effort to recognise good practices in promoting inclusiveness.

The four days in Athens, then, also saw Darienne Flemington, Dragana Todorovic, Yuri Guaiana, Vladimir Simonko and Micah Grzywnowicz being elected new ILGA-Europe board members. Meanwhile, in an unprecedented show of support for the rights of LGBTI people, representatives from all the main Greek parliamentary parties signed an equality pledge during the conference, committing to advance registered partnership, family law reform, legal gender recognition and combating discrimination in the country. Less than two months after the announcement, Greece became the 26th European country to recognise same-sex partnerships.



ph. ILGA-Europe and Tongzhi Hotline

ILGA Asia: Taipei, 28-30 October 2015

In late October, 362 delegates of LGBTI organisations from around the world - as well as representatives of UN agencies, governments, the ASEAN SOGIE caucus, the European Union and national human rights

souls and bodies of LGBTI persons who still suffer from stigma, pathologisation and many more human rights violations. During the conference, member organisations adopted a plan to hold **sub-regional consultations**

organisation's strategic plan: ILGA Asia is currently processing the raw data records collected during the conference, and hopes to obtain results that will lead to producing comprehensive materials for advocacy.



and activities around advocacy and awareness campaigns, and also delivered statements on the issues of inclusivity of intersex persons, inclusion and diversity - particularly of diverse women - and gender incongruence of childhood.

New regional board members from South Korea, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand and Indonesia, offering a broad representation of the SOGIESC spectrum, were elected from a list of eleven nominees: Minhee Ryu, Hiker Chiu, Shakhawat Hossain, Manisha Dhakal, Kritipat Chotidhanitsakul (Jimmy), and Lia Vica will remain in office for the next two years.

commissions - gathered in Taipei for the sixth ILGA Asia regional conference. The event, preceded by a Trans and an Intersex pre-conference, was hosted by the Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association, and came as a precious occasion for human rights defenders to discuss networked initiatives and advance equality in Asia, reclaiming independence for

The conference gave ILGA-Asia the chance to gain further insight about what LGBTIQ communities ask the organisation in terms of contributing to grassroots activism and regional advocacy strategies. Their requests will now be integrated into the



ph. ILGA-Europe and Tongzhi Hotline

Women's secretariat

United and Strong INC (Saint Lucia) represented by **Kenita Placide**

A just society cannot be developed without the empowerment of all women. And yet, even today, women and girls are still experiencing inequality and harsh realities throughout the world. **LBTI women face even higher risks** of being subject to violence and discrimination on various levels, and this - as the Women's secretariat of ILGA highlighted in a statement delivered during the 29th session of the UN Human Rights Council - is something that "neither cultural diversity nor freedom of religion" can justify.

The Women's secretariat worked throughout 2015 to bring to the fore how multiple forms of violence and discrimination affect the lives of lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex women, and to raise awareness of the specific struggles facing them.

This happened first and foremost on the international level: the secretariat **engaged with governments and civil society representatives** at the 59th session of the Commission of the Status of Women, and was consulted during the works that will eventually lead to the adoption of the UNDP LGBTI Inclusion Index. It also took part in the inaugural Commonwealth Women's Forum, and participated in the first People's Forum to ever host sessions on LGBTI perspectives, held a few days ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta.

The secretariat was also involved in organising the third Caribbean Women and Sexual Diversity Conference: hosted together with CariFLAGS Eastern Caribbean Hub and Womantra, with the support of the Women's Caucus of Trinidad and Tobago, the conference allowed more than 50 LBT women and straight allies from all over Latin America and the Caribbean to come together, share their experiences in advocating human rights, join forces and strategize on how to pursue the freedom and liberty of all women.

Intersex secretariat

MULABI - Espacio Latinoamericano de Sexualidades y Derechos (Costa Rica) represented by **Natasha Jiménez Mata**

One of 2015's groundbreaking moments saw Malta becoming the first country in the world to approve a law prohibiting normalizing genital surgeries on intersex infants. Much more work still lies ahead, though, and ILGA's first-ever Intersex secretariat committed tirelessly throughout 2015 to raising awareness and advancing the human rights of intersex persons.

The secretariat took part in the Forum on Civil Society at the pre-Summit of the Americas and in June, soon before delivering a statement at the UN Human Rights Council in response to the High Commissioner's report on female genital mutilation, it joined a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the right to health. These efforts paved the way for the unprecedented events that followed: during his opening statement at the 30th session of the Human Rights Council, the



High Commissioner for Human Rights specifically talked about intersex persons. Two days later, the first UN-convened expert meeting on intersex was held. While continuing to work at a United Nations' level, the secretariat also supported the Intersex European Forum that gathered dozens of activists in the French city of Douarnenez, and took part in a meeting of LGBTI political leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean.

An Intersex workshop, then, took place during the ILGA Asia Intersex pre-conference: the event marked an unprecedented chance for community members in the region to share stories and resources, and culminated in an Intersex Asia Coming Out Day, when six activists were invited to the stage of the biggest Pride parade in the region and were introduced to nearly 80,000 people marching for equality.

Trans secretariat

STRAP - Society of Transsexual Women Philippines (Philippines) represented by **Mikee Inton** and **Brenda Alegre**

In essence, the Trans secretariat had a good year. Good, as it got exposed to current issues faced by trans people worldwide; and good, as it was able to connect human rights defenders and organisations from around the world, and helped them network.

The overarching theme of **intersectionality as an approach to human rights advocacy**, a guiding principle for all of the organisation's work, surfaced many times during the year also for the secretariat, and especially during the ILGA-Asia Trans pre-conference. The event was attended by more than 40 human rights defenders and activists, who

issued a statement - consistent with the Cape Town declaration - to **support the ban of gender identity diagnoses in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)**. It was a truly defining moment, marking the commitment of the secretariat to supporting the global movement fighting against gender incongruence in childhood.

In 2015, the secretariat also gave a talk on a panel at the Commission of the Status of Women, and took part in meetings with UNDP, UN Women and Unicef; it was represented at the ILGA-Europe conference, and it joined the conversation about the fight against fundamentalism at the Outsummit. All these occasions allowed the secretariat to highlight best practices in advocacy, and also to connect with human rights defenders committed to advancing equality. This network will surely be of help in furthering the secretariat's **new project on Trans Terminologies**, a collection of write-ups from around the world about local terms that refer to trans or trans-like identities. Currently in the works, it will hopefully be launched at the 2016 ILGA World Conference in Bangkok.



ILGA AT THE UNITED NATIONS



*As the only global federation of LGBTI organisations, ILGA uses its access at the UN to raise the visibility and protection of LGBTI persons at various **United Nations fora**. The last twelve months proved crucial for the organisation to gain even greater strength.*

In May 2015, ILGA appointed a new UN Programme officer, Helen Nolan, and has launched a programme to better engage with the UN Treaty Bodies – the independent organs that monitor State compliance with international human rights law treaties.

With an expanded team, to which three interns also gave an invaluable contribution throughout the year, ILGA could start to focus on UN Special Procedures, while continuing to conduct advocacy at the Human Rights Council, or help member organizations to question their governments' record on LGBTI human rights within the Universal Periodic Review, or raise LGBTI visibility at the Commission on the Status of Women.

The ILGA UN team also reached out beyond these mainstream UN spaces. In 2015, it took part in various advocacy weeks, conducted trainings, worked to establish a coalition of NGOs supporting diverse family inclusion in UN spaces, and engaged in platforms addressing HIV/AIDS response and the intersectionality of faith and LGBTI human rights.

Thanks to the hard work of many, ILGA is giving voice to grassroots, national and regional LGBTI civil society at the international level with ever-growing efficacy. 2016 will see the association building on that momentum, and continuing its call for positive change for LGBTI persons worldwide.

ILGA engages three times a year with the **UN Human Rights Council**, and 2015 was no exception: much had to be done to build on the energy Council's successful approval in 2014 of its second SOGI resolution.

During the **28th session**, ILGA followed-up on statements delivered by States commenting on that resolution, and responded to the report by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

The pace picked up dramatically in the **29th session**. In fact, SOGI issues took centre stage again after the new OHCHR report on *Discrimination and violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity* was released. ILGA led, joined and delivered fifteen SOGIESC-specific statements. It also coordinated a joint statement made by over 400 civil society organizations, calling on governments to take further action at the Human Rights Council. Two side events – organised with ISHR and Civicus, and with the governments of the USA and Brazil respectively – were also convened.

The **30th session** began with the historic mention of human rights violations facing intersex persons by the High Commissioner for Human Rights during his opening remarks, and continued with ILGA delivering eight SOGIESC-related statements. The organisation also convened a side event with intersex human rights defenders.

New challenges and opportunities await in 2016: the year will probably see a third SOGI resolution, and ILGA has already begun consulting with both civil society and government representatives.

For the first time in the organisation's history, in May 2015, ILGA launched a new programme to better engage with the **UN Treaty Bodies**. The early days of the programme centred on consultations with organisations already contributing to committees, and to establish a working group to share strategies.

Later in the year, ILGA briefed experts in the annual joint meeting of the Committee against Torture and the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture regarding torture risks to LGBTI persons; it assisted in a briefing of the Human Rights Committee on intersex persons, and also made a submission in consultation with Kaleidoscope, ICJ and ISHR to the Human Rights Committee on its draft General Comment on the Right to Life. Throughout the year, ILGA maintained its core work of supporting LGBTI organisations in engaging with the committees, assisting 13 NGOs and coalitions in preparing reports and/or their advocacy in Geneva before seven different Treaty Bodies.

"ILGA was greatly helpful not only logistically but also emotionally because lobbying at the UN sometimes can make one feel helpless and intimidated in front of experts."

(Azusa Yamashita, Gay Japan News)

The Committees have shown some sensitivity to a wide variety of important issues for LGBTI human rights defenders. Encouragingly, between 2014 and 2015, there was an increase from 34% to 46% of country reviews that resulted in Concluding Observations containing SOGIESC issues. Further engagement with the UN Treaty Bodies will be crucial for the advancement of the human rights of LGBTI persons in the years ahead.

Historically, ILGA has engaged in the **UN Special Procedures** on an ad hoc basis only.

Starting 2015, though, thanks to its newly expanded team, the organisation began to interact more often with this system of independent human rights experts. ILGA met and connected LGBTI human rights defenders with a wide range of Special Procedures. The organisation also notified its members of upcoming country visits by Special Procedures so that they could share information on SOGIESC issues.

ILGA began to make submissions to Special Procedures in order to ensure that their thematic reports made SOGIESC references where relevant. Submissions were made to shape the reports of the Special Rapporteur on health on mental health and on adolescents, the Working Group on Discrimination against Women's report on health and security, and the Special Rapporteur on housing's report on homelessness. The organisation also provided

substantial comments for the report of the Special Rapporteur on health on sports and healthy lifestyles, as well as for the report of the Special Rapporteur on torture's report on detention. All of the published reports above contain in-depth discussion of SOGIESC issues.

ILGA supported the Women's secretariat in its engagement at the 59th session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** held in March 2015 in New York, which focused on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action twenty years after its adoption, at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

During the session, ILGA worked in coalition with other NGOs to hold an awareness-raising side event, monitored developments of the debate and met with government representatives, encouraging them to include references to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics in the language endorsed by the CSW.

As a crucial occasion for networking and discussing common strategies, ILGA also maintained an email group to facilitate discussion on LGBTI issues during the session.



In 2015 ILGA assisted LGBTI human rights defenders from 16 of the countries being reviewed under the **Universal Periodic Review** mechanism. The team has variously supported both their presence in Geneva and their preparation of reports and statements to be delivered, while also monitoring recommendations made at the working group sessions.

This strategy is leading to important results. During the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, due to end in 2016, there has been an increase in recommendations on issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics both being made and accepted: an indication that more and more LGBTI human rights defenders are being heard in the

"ILGA provided us with tools and guidelines on the process both on the ground in Bolivia and in Geneva. Without their support, our participation would have been something impossible to achieve."

(Frank Evelio Arteaga, MANODIVERSA, Bolivia)

As civil society is involved in every step of the lengthy and often complicated reviews of their countries, ILGA puts special effort to help them navigate the process. Three weeks of advocacy around the Universal Periodic Review were organised in 2015 in Geneva, during which human rights defenders were trained on advocacy, made presentations to States, exchanged views with each other and held many meetings with diplomatic missions, all organized by ILGA.

UPR process, and that the sensitivity of several governments on SOGIESC issues is increasing.

The work on the Universal Periodic Review was led for the best part of 2015 by UN Programme officer Alberto Ulises Quero García, who left the team in October after nearly two years. The UPR work was then run by Kara DeMilio until a new UN Programme officer, Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera, was appointed in early 2016.



GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION PROGRAMME



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Spivak

In 2015, ILGA developed its Gender Identity and Gender Expression strategy, solidifying and giving direction both to the programme and the work of the programme officer.

It aims to achieve a number of things, all of which are in some form of partnership – with ILGA's Trans secretariat, trans-led organisations and experts around the world, ILGA's United Nations programme, other human rights organisations and UN agencies.

It is well known that the strength of ILGA lies in its membership. However, for the Gender Identity and Gender Expression programme the strength also lies in the knowledge and strategic thinking of those who have laid the groundwork in trans movements, and of those who continue to do so today. While the organisation aims at supporting the work of local, regional and global trans-led organisations and programmes, it recognises first of all that the expertise lies in the trans communities themselves.

ILGA also contributes through its work at the United Nations and on location in Geneva.

Through supporting civil society engage the Treaty Bodies, Universal Periodic Review and the Human Rights Council, and raising issues before Special Procedures, ILGA brings issues to the fore in the advancement of trans rights. With community input, ILGA contributed to two reports by the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, participated in expert consultations at the UN, contributed to public events, conferences and trainings and made strategic statements at Human Rights Council sessions. A Trans pre-conference was also held at the ILGA-Asia conference.

In 2016, we plan to release guides on utilising the Treaty Bodies and an advocacy tool on legal rights, in addition to building on longer term strategic and capacity building work already started in 2015. We are looking forward to a fruitful year ahead.

LOOKING OUTWARDS



An integral element of ILGA's raison d'être is to assist activists in achieving their self-identified aims through work with international human rights mechanisms, organizational capacity development and dissemination of credible information.

State Sponsored Homophobia and Map of Sexual Orientation Laws in the World

The tenth edition of ILGA's flagship annual publication, *State Sponsored Homophobia* and its attendant map, was launched at the United Nations' Palais de Nations on 13 May 2015. Mona Rishmawi from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ambassador Regina Maria Cordeiro Dunlop of Brazil, Nigerian human rights defender Joseph Sewedo Akoro and co-author Aengus Carroll addressed the gathering. Representatives of the diplomatic missions of Uruguay, Chile and Colombia, among the initiators of the second-ever SOGI resolution at the Human Rights Council in 2014, were also in attendance.

Researched and written by Aengus Carroll and Lucas Paoli Itaborahy, the 2015 edition lists laws that criminalise us (activity), protect us (discrimination or hate) or recognise us (relationships), and provides a credible reference source for human rights defenders, activists, researchers, organisations and institutions.

"This comprehensive analysis should be used as an eye-opener to those oblivious to the fact that 76 countries in the world still criminalise same-sex sexual acts, and more countries that criminalise 'homosexuality' in other ways, subjecting individuals to dangers, risks, abuses, harassment and violations on the basis of their gender and sexuality."

source: International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association: Carroll, A. & Itaborahy, L.P. *State Sponsored Homophobia 2015: A world survey of laws: criminalisation, protection and recognition of same-sex love* (Geneva: ILGA, May 2015)

This 10th edition carried more information on States' engagement with international mechanisms than previously, in light of the human rights work being carried out by LGBTI human rights defenders in criminalising States. As well as an essay on intersectionality in LGBT advocacy written by the Sexual Rights Initiative, the 10th edition featured an overview of SOGI work at the UN and ILGA's part in that, as well five socio-legal regional overviews on each continent.

Throughout the year, in line with rising institutional and corporate consciousness around LGBTI issues, we have seen *State Sponsored Homophobia* cited in numerous impactful forums and documents (UN, EU, IACHR, US Supreme Court, World Bank, UNAIDS, OHCHR, World Economic Forum, and many more).

The UNDP LGBTI Inclusion Index

The Global LGBTI Inclusion Index is an initiative that seeks, amongst other objectives, to create or enhance the tools to fill empirical data gaps and address key areas of LGBTI life around the world. Following a multi-sectorial experts' meeting in September 2015, convened by the UNDP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, it was agreed that ILGA and OutRight Action International (formerly IGLHRC) would oversee a global consultation process on a number of proposals put forward.

ILGA designed (with UNDP) and disseminated a survey on what should comprise the central themes of focus, or *dimensions*, and the sets of indicators that

should flow from them in areas such as economic life, socio-political engagement, safety and violence, education and health. The report on the findings from this survey will be available in 2016. In December 2015, a three-day activist meeting was facilitated by OutRight Action International to discuss the findings and concepts – again, a report on this will be distributed by the UNDP in 2016.

The ILGA-RIWI Global Attitudes Survey on LGBTI

At the launch of *State Sponsored Homophobia 2015*, ILGA also delivered the results of a 52-country survey on public attitudes to same-sex marriage that had been carried out in 2014 by a Canadian data research company, RIWI. Although same-sex mar-

“LGBTI economic, political and social exclusion remains pervasive, resulting in a lack of access to things like adequate education and health services. If LGBTI people continue to face exclusion, the Sustainable Development Goals will remain out of our reach. We must quickly sort out what it will take to ensure LGBTI inclusion.”

Source: CORTEZ C., *When People Are Counted, No One Is Left Behind*, undp.org



PROTECTDEFENDERS.EU

International civil society implementing the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism

riage as an advocacy objective exists for only a part of ILGA's membership, it was the effectiveness of the technology to garner information on SOGI issues, particularly from LGBT-hostile states, that was of great interest.

Through targeting digital devices (phones and computers) that try to access non existing web addresses (i.e. typed in the address bar by mistake), the RIWI technology sends a survey in the appropriate world language to potential respondents in any city, province, country or territory in the world. This means comparative SOGI-related data from hard-to-reach places (for example, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Sudan) can for the first time ever be collated.

As such, in July 2015 ILGA began to engage with RIWI to determine the viability of creating a longitudinal study on public attitudes to LGBTI people and our issues, so that attitudinal changes to sexual orientation and gender identity can be tracked annually, and reliable empirical data can be triangulated and deployed by activists in their advocacy work nationally and internationally. During 2015, 31 survey questions were identified: many of which ask specifically about LGB-identified subjects, gender identity



and expression, and about intersex, while others are more generic - about 'LGBTI'.

It is expected that when finances allow us to stay in the field in any of these countries to amass a large respondent base, we may be able to make very real LGBTI population estimates. The manner in which data is returned allowed researchers to analyse it ('cut') by age, gender identity (male/female/other), sexual orientation, sex characteristic status, and geography. This is the first study of this scale and reach in the world.

For the first phase of this study, formally titled *ILGA-RIWI Global Attitudes Survey on LGBTI People 2016*, in partnership with Logo, 65 countries were targeted. ILGA decided that to be able to speak definitively on these figures and so they can be relied on in advocacy, a minimum cut-off figure of 700 respondents per country would suffice. As will be reported by ILGA, this figure was surpassed in 53 countries.

This ILGA/RIWI survey data and the on-going work in *State Sponsored Homophobia* are expected to be utilised in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) LGBTI Inclusion Index, which ILGA and others were involved in the seminal stages of designing and negotiating in 2015.

ProtectDefenders.eu

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. And yet, working to defend LGBTI human rights often renders LGBTI activists as target of hate. It is crucial to offer them means to break the isolation they are forced to work into, and this is why ILGA chose to become part of ProtectDefenders.eu, the first comprehensive EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism.

Funded by the European Union, ProtectDefenders.eu was launched in Brussels in December 2015. It offers human rights defenders at risk a platform to receive practical support, apply for emergency grants, ask for temporary relocation or join trainings to meet their long-term security needs. In case of immediate threats, human rights defenders can also call the 24/7 emergency hotline, where LGBTI-friendly operators speak Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

ILGA (which will begin working in the Consortium in 2016) is part of the mechanism along with eleven other international civil society organisations, committed to working together for human rights defenders worldwide.

Executive board members

Co-secretaries general



Ruth Baldacchino
Malta Gay Rights Movement
Malta



Helen Kennedy
Egale Canada
Canada

Alternate co-secretary general



Richard Lusimbo
Sexual Minorities Uganda
Uganda



Tamara Adrián
Diverlex
Venezuela
until September 2015

Women's secretariat



United and Strong INC
Saint Lucia
represented by **Kenita Placide**

Alternate Women's secretariat



CHOUF Minorities
Tunisia
represented by **Khouloud Mahdhaoui**

Trans secretariat



STRAP – Society of Transsexual
Women Philippines
Philippines
represented by **Mikee Inton**
and **Brenda Alegre**

Alternate Trans secretariat

Movimiento Antidiscriminatorio de Liberación
Argentina

Intersex secretariat



MULABI - Espacio Latinoamericano
de Sexualidades y Derechos
Costa Rica
represented by **Natasha Jiménez Mata**

Alternate Intersex secretariat



OII Australia
Australia
represented by **Morgan Carpenter**

Pan Africa ILGA



Monica Tabengwa
Botswana
Human Rights Watch



Yahia Zaidi
Algeria / Belgium
MantiQitna Network

Pan Africa ILGA alternates



Akudo Oguaghamba
Nigeria
Women's Health and Equal Right
(WHER) Initiative



Richard Lusimbo
Uganda
Sexual Minorities Uganda

ILGA Asia



Hiker Chiu
Taiwan
OII Chinese



Manisha Dhakal
Nepal
Blue Diamond Society

ILGA Asia alternates



Minhee Ryu
South Korea
The Korean Society of Law and Policy on
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity



Kritipat Chotidhanitsakul (Jimmy)
Thailand
Transmen Alliance Thailand

ILGA-Europe



Anastasia Danilova
Moldova
Information Center GENDERDOC-M



Martin Iversen Christensen
Denmark
LGBT Denmark

ILGA-Europe alternates



Krister Karttunen
Finland
SETA

In ILGA-Europe, the co-chairs (**Joyce Hamilton** of COC Nederland and **Brian Sheehan** of GLÉN - the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network) are not the same as the representatives on ILGA World's board

ILGA LAC



Josefina Valencia Toledano
Mexico
El Closet de Sor Juana



Beto de Jesús
Brasil
Instituto Edson Neris

ILGA LAC alternates



Natasha Jimenez Mata
Costa Rica
MULABI - Espacio Latinoamericano
de Sexualidades y Derechos



Sandra Alvarez Mosalve
Ecuador
Organización Ecuatoriana
de Mujeres Lesbianas

ILGA North America



Haven Herrin
United States of America
Soulforce



Stephen Seaborn
Canada
Solidarity Pride Committee – Ontario
Federation of Labour

ILGA North America alternates



Jose Alegria
United States of America
El Centro Hispano

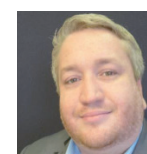


Dominique Dubuc
Canada

ILGA Oceania

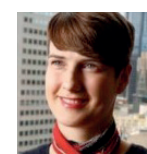


Ymania Brown
Samoa
Samoa Fa'afafine Association



Corey Irlam
Australia
Victorian Gay and Lesbian
Rights Lobby

ILGA Oceania alternates



Anna Brown
Australia
Human Rights Law Center



Morgan Carpenter
Australia
OII Australia

Executive board members as per 31 December 2015.

Movimiento Antidiscriminatorio de Liberación, the alternate Trans secretariat, has been represented on the ILGA executive board by Diana Sacayán. She was killed in October 2015.

ILGA Asia was represented on the executive board by Kaona "Toto" Saowakun (Thailand) and Dan-Dan "Dana" Zhang (Chinese Lala Association, China/Hong Kong) from March 2013 to October 2015. Their alternates were Toen King Oey (Arus Pelangi, Indonesia) and Poedijati Fen Siang (Gaya Nusantara, Indonesia).

Natalia Voltchkova
Finance manager

Renato Sabbadini
Executive director

André du Plessis
UN Programme and
advocacy manager



Alessia Valenza
Membership
and communication officer

Helen Nolan
UN Programme officer

Zhan Chiam
Gender identity and gender
expression Programme officer

Aengus Carroll
Researcher on SOGIESC-related socio-legal subjects

Daniele Paletta
Social media consultant



The year saw quite a few changes in the staff. After six years as a finance and administration officer for ILGA, **Espérance Kana** left the team in October 2015. Around the same period, also **Alberto Ulises Quero García** resigned from his position as UN Programme officer, after having lead the work on the Universal Periodic Review after almost two years. Three more persons have joined us in our office during 2015: **Annelise Kannenberg-Canavarro**, **Paula Olaz** and **KaraDeMilio** have all interned with ILGA, giving an invaluable support to the work of ILGA's United Nations team.



This summary is based on ILGA audited accounts for 2015, which are presented without comparison to 2014. The financial accounts for 2015 and 2014 are not directly comparable as they have been prepared according to two different legislations following the move of ILGA headquarters from Belgium to Switzerland.

The total operating expenditures in 2015 was 1,235,240 EUR (1,348,400 CHF), while the total income in 2015 was 1,242,360 EUR (1,356,173 CHF).
ILGA ended 2015 with a positive operating results of 7,120 EUR (7,772 CHF).

Balance Sheet

For year ending December 31, 2015 (in presentation and functional currencies)

	2015, EUR	2015, CHF
Assets		
Current assets	398,807	435,342
Non-current assets	58,803	64,190
Total Assets	457,610	499,532
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	87,372	95,377
Non-current liabilities	263,669	287,824
Total Liabilities	351,041	383,201
Equity		
Legal Reserves	156,120	170,422
Results for the year	(49,551)	(54,091)
Total Liabilities & Reserves	457,610	499,532

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

For year ending December 31, 2015 (in presentation and functional currencies)

	2015, EUR	2015, CHF
Income		
Core income	771,766	842,468
Project income	470,594	513,705
Total Income	1,242,360	1,356,173
Operating Expenses		
Operational capacity	678'875	741'067
Direct project costs	548'818	599'094
Amortization	7,547	8,239
Total Operating Expenses	1,235,240	1,348,400
Operating Results	7,120	7,772
Financial Results		
Financial Results	56,671	61,863
Total Results	(49,551)	(54,091)

ILGA's 2015 Annual Report was coordinated and edited by Daniele Paletta.
Spanish translation: Paul Caballero, ILGALAC
Graphic Design: Luca Palermo for EdLine ADV

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)
5th floor – Rue Rothschild 20 | 1202 Geneva | Switzerland
+41 22 731 3254 | www.ilga.org

ILGA mourns the loss of all the human rights defenders and members of the LGBTI community who have left us in 2015.

Xolile Sane Mabuza “Malume”, Mirka Negroni, Joel Gustave Nana and Diana Sacayán - who was serving as an alternate representative of the Trans secretariat on the board of ILGA when she was killed - are only a few of those who are no longer with us, after having spent the best part of their lives working to advance the human rights of LGBTI persons in their countries, and worldwide.

We remember them all, with enormous gratitude.
