

# ilga

## annual report 2016

*Strengthening each other*



## 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 ILGA's aims and objectives.

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



ILGA's 2016 Annual Report was coordinated and edited by Daniele Paletta.  
Managed by Renato Sabbadini.  
Spanish translation: Paul Caballero  
Graphic design: Luca Palermo for EdLine Adv  
Pictures (unless otherwise stated, and except pages 16-17 and 40): Jacuzzi News

This annual report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016.

*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 more than 1,200 member organisations from 132 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 sex.

## 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.

## 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.



**D**ear friends,

ILGA shares a vision with the global community of LGBTI human rights defenders and allies. It is a vision of a world where - regardless of a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics - the human rights of all are respected.

Sadly, this past year gave us constant, sobering reminders of how this vision is not shared by everybody. We witnessed human rights violations continuing unabated in all parts of the globe, extremist movements subjecting people to horrific violence, and hate preachers trying to pit minorities against each other with their messages of intolerance.

And yet, 2016 showed us an enlightening side, a side full of moments to celebrate. We witnessed energising demonstrations of how powerful our communities can be when we join forces to speak out against injustices and pave the way towards change.

ILGA is proud to be the global voice of networks, communities and movements tirelessly committed to shaping a world where everyone can live safely, equally and free. The document you are about to read captures the essence of the work we have done to help support them, and to help strengthen the complex and resilient web of links among human rights defenders who continue to work at local, national, regional and international levels.

All around the world, our member organisations continue to challenge oppressive and discriminatory systems that put our lives at risk, violate our bodies, disregard our rights and deny us equal opportunities. This struggle can be a heavy burden to carry, but we want our communities to remember that we fight this injustice together.

This is one reason why an event like our World Conference is so important. Occasions where people fighting injustices can gather and discuss ways to advance equality for everybody are now more essential than ever, as spaces for

civil society are shrinking globally. The days in Bangkok where empowering, and we witnessed how far this 39-year-old organisation has grown in its capacity to represent our movements.

During the conference, we were honoured to be entrusted to continue leading ILGA for another two years. We look forward to strengthening its capacity and to building partnerships with more communities and movements. We are proud of this organisation, and we will continue to ensure that ILGA remains an inclusive and respected leader for the LGBTI movement on the global stage.

In solidarity,

Ruth Baldacchino,  
Helen Kennedy  
co-Secretaries General

## 2016

has been a year in which ILGA expanded its output considerably, reaping the seeds planted since its arrival in Geneva. During this year, ILGA has provided activists, media organisations and partners with eight high-quality publications: crucial advocacy and education tools like its authoritative *State Sponsored Homophobia* report, which has now reached its 11th edition, but also the *Trans Legal Mapping Report*, *The ILGA-RIWI Global Attitudes Survey on LGBTI People*, the research on *Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression*, and *Sex Characteristics at the UPR*, the guide on *Advocating on Gender Identity and Gender Expression - The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, two annual compilations for the Treaty Bodies and a summary of the 12 Special Procedures' references on SOGIESC issues.

More than 150 activists received training, either in Geneva or at regional and world conferences, on issues such as digital security and advocacy at the United Nations. Over 50 media organisations from across the world have documented our work, while more than 700 participants attended the ILGA World Conference in Bangkok. The conference



offered 9 pre-conferences, 30 workshops, 20 Rainbow Talks and one panel on the strategic relevance of LGBTI-related data, along with a series of side events covering issues ranging from the 10th anniversary of the Yogyakarta Principles to the state of LGBTI human rights in Commonwealth countries.

This considerable growth in activities was made possible not only by key strategic partnerships with several organisations, but also thanks to the increasing specialization of our staff in collecting and analyzing data and information gathered by ILGA members.

Moreover, long-established and consolidated relationships with fellow human rights organisations and allied governments have allowed ILGA to lead the campaign which resulted in

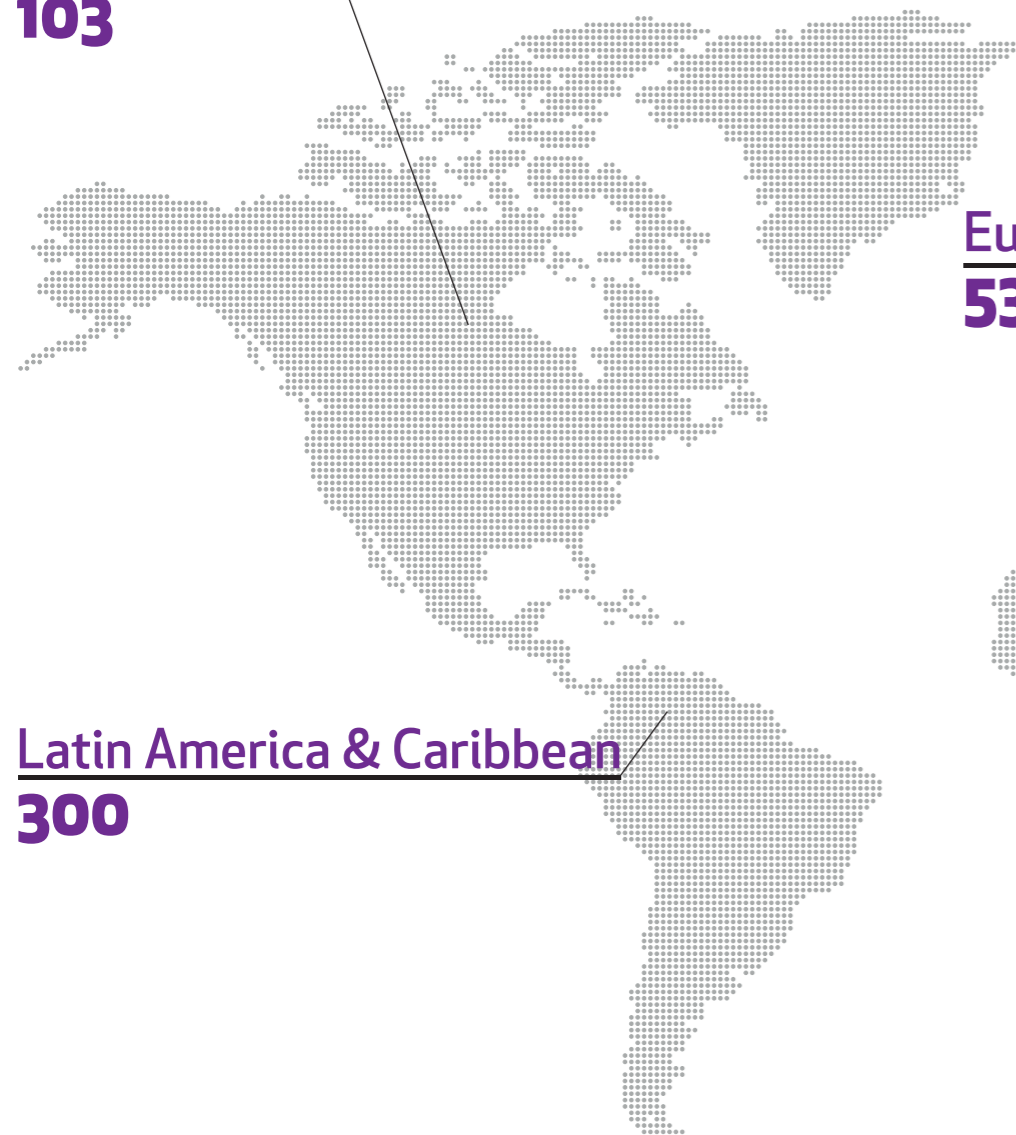
the establishment of a United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

All of the above sets a new kind of expectation in relation to what ILGA can do, and to the quality of our work. Inevitably, greater human and financial resources will be needed to keep pace and serve our communities even better: securing new funding by exploring untapped resources, along with those that have traditionally supported our work, will be key to our growth, thus harnessing the energy of a broader community for the benefit of all.

Renato Sabbadini  
Executive Director

# 2016 in numbers

North America  
**103**



Europe  
**532**

Latin America & Caribbean  
**300**

**1,228** member organisations  
from **132** countries representing **6** regions

**1** world conference, gathering more than 700 participants from 101 countries, who attended 9 Pre-conferences, 20 Rainbow Talks and 30 workshops under the assistance of 120 volunteers

**3** regional conferences  
more than **150** activists trained

ILGA World staff team grown to **7** persons based in Geneva and **2** consultants

**30** statements delivered at the UN Human Rights Council raising LGBTI issues

**2** UPR Advocacy weeks co-organised

**5** awareness-raising events hosted during three sessions of the UN Human Rights Council

**8** new publications released

**1,300** persons visiting our website every day

**10,039** Facebook page likes  
(+ 47.4% compared to December 2015)

**14,248** Twitter followers  
(+ 36.8% compared to December 2015)

**238** LinkedIn followers  
(+ 526.3% compared to December 2015)

**42** new videos uploaded to our Youtube channel

**40** issues of the *LGBulleTIn* published

**15** media releases and statements issued

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

**72,000,000** estimated online or print readership exposed to ILGA information and publications. Here are a few media outlets that quoted us during 2016:



Asia  
**139**

Africa  
**105**

Oceania  
**49**

# THE 2016 ILGA WORLD CONFERENCE

Bangkok, Thailand:  
November 28 – December 2



*It would always be advisable to judge the success of an event not only by its numbers, but also by what it offered. And, indeed, there is more than one reason to call the 2016 ILGA World Conference a success, and an unprecedented one.*

More than **700 LGBTI human rights defenders from 101 countries** gathered in Bangkok, Thailand to network, take stock of the many ground-breaking moments celebrated by our communities in the past years, and strategize about our future.

**Hosted by Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand and Purple Sky Network**, and made possible also by the **invaluable contribution of a huge team of volunteers**, the conference marked a **handful of firsts**: a Bisexual Pre-conference made its debut along the ones dedicated to women, trans and intersex persons. Participants were offered a mobile app to explore the conference programme and network with other attendees. Topics like sex work,

**the first-ever UN Independent Expert on SOGI**: he enjoyed a day of meetings with advocates, and addressed the crowd at the opening plenary alongside with Thai government representatives, Karen McKenzie (Head of Human Rights at the Commonwealth Secretariat) and Luc Stevens, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand.

ILGA conferences are also the place where members of the only global federation of LGBTI organisations elect their representatives. In Bangkok, **the Executive Board was renewed and expanded** to include also the first-ever Bisexual Secretariat, and **both Ruth Baldacchino and Helen Kennedy were confirmed as co-Secretaries General for two more years.**

**700 participants**  
**101 countries represented**  
**9 pre-conferences**  
**20 Rainbow Talks**  
**30 workshops**  
**120 volunteers**  
**6 regional caucuses**  
**11 side events, receptions and social events**  
**2 United Nations Special Procedures mandate holders hosted**

the struggles of LGBTI refugees and migrants, and indigenous communities were addressed for the first time in the organisation's gatherings. Furthermore, the conference hosted **one of the first public appearances of Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn as**

"We are proud of this organisation, and honoured to be entrusted to continue leading it for another two years," they said. "We look forward to continue strengthening ILGA's capacity and building partnerships with more communities and movements."

## Health

This pre-conference aimed at identifying potential partnerships and strategies when focusing on health education, health disparities and intersectional experiences of different groups, including LBQ women, trans and non-binary persons, intersex people, bisexual people, youth, indigenous people, sex workers and other marginalised groups in our movements.



## Education

The LGBTI Dialogue on Education identified some key priorities that were adopted by the ILGA World Board, including requiring governments to monitor and collect data on violence based on SOGIE in the education sector, and centering an intersectional framework in education efforts.



## Bisexual

The decision was made in 2014 that a Bisexual Secretariat within ILGA would be established. Two years later, the Bangkok conference marked the first Bisexual Pre-conference, addressing what can be done to take into account the welfare and health of this community in a more effective way, and also to outline areas of focus for the new secretariat itself.



## Trans

The Trans Pre-conference served not only as a space for trans, gender-diverse people and their allies to caucus and strategise on movement building; it also gave new input to ILGA's Trans Secretariat and the Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme, reflecting on broad themes that have cross-regional importance, such as health and trans funding.



## UN advocacy

Attended by almost 100 human rights defenders, this pre-conference gave a chance to learn in more detail what the Special Procedures are and do, and to reflect on how they have been – and can be – useful to help protect human rights in communities around the world.



## Women

Dozens of human rights defenders attended this pre-conference, which proved to be an important forum where to take stock of achievements, challenges and priorities for the various regional movements, discuss how to bring forward intersectional advocacy, and address sexual reproductive health and rights for lesbians and non-conforming women.



## Intersex

Human rights defenders used this pre-conference space both to generate awareness among ILGA members about the experiences of intersex people, and for the intersex movement itself to engage in a closed session and strategise on future action plans to advance and protect the human rights of the community.



## Interfaith

Held under the theme *Spiritual power is political power*, this pre-conference provided a safe and healing space for LGBTI persons of faith to meet others, learn, share experiences and build collective strategies to engage with religious leaders about LGBTI issues. The day-long event was concluded with a heartfelt blessing ceremony, where participants brought oil, water, soil from all corners of the world, and used them to pray for and bless one another.



## Workplace Pride Business Conference

Dozens of corporation representatives and human rights defenders came together not only to explore how the work floor is a vital component to activism around the world, but also to discuss on how businesses and companies can be turned into allies of rainbow communities.



## Workshops and caucuses

*30 workshops took place during the five days of the conference. Their topics ranged from trans perspectives on the International Classification of Diseases to the economic cost of social exclusion for LGBTI communities, from using indigenous knowledge to guide national movements to techniques for video production in activism. Each of the regions within ILGA, then, also had the chance to come together and hold their caucuses to strategise on future areas of actions.*

## Welcoming the UN Independent Expert on SOGI

Just a few months before the ILGA World Conference began, **the United Nations made history on the protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**, as the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution to mandate the appointment of an **Independent Expert** on the subject.

ILGA strongly supported the establishment of such mandate, welcomed the choice of Professor Viti Muntarbhorn for the position and battled against continuous attempts to scuttle his mandate. As the organisation held its conference in Thailand, it seemed both very appropriate and perfectly fitting to commemorate Professor Muntarbhorn's appointment in his home country.

And the SOGI Independent Expert did not shy away from the occasion, joining LGBTI human rights defenders for a full day at the conference.

"Resolute action is required to **stop the violence and discrimination** affecting not only LGBTI communities but also the human rights defenders working with them," he said, addressing the crowd at the opening plenary for a keynote speech that resonated way beyond the conference walls. "This goes hand in hand with the broader aspirations of human rights, freedoms, democracy, and peaceful and inclusive societies."

People cheered the Independent Expert as he spelled out **five linchpins** to guide actions

towards ending human rights violations against our communities. Professor Muntarbhorn spent several hours **meeting advocates' caucuses**, and also engaged in a **Q&A session** to better explain his vision for the mandate.

A rather intense day, that was completed with a **celebration of the Yogyakarta Principles**, which Professor Muntarbhorn helped co-chair in 2006 and had turned 10 just a few days before the conference started. Such a relevant body of work will lead our communities forward, the Independent Expert said, "for we seek simply to be what we are, in our love, friendship, privacy and intimacy, under the protection of International Law."

extent of both human rights violations and of attitudes towards LGBTI people.

These issues were discussed extensively in a conference plenary. In front of a packed room, Professor and economist Lee Badgett referenced a global research proposal designed to expand academic commitment in the field, while Clifton Cortez – who had recently been appointed as a Senior SOGI Advisor to the World Bank – spoke about the value of LGBTI research in guiding his new role. Data needs to be collected, processed and analysed: this is why Head of Global Citizen Engagement for RIWI Corp. Eric Meerkemper explored how current technological capacities can be used, and Aengus Carroll – researcher on the *State Sponsored Homophobia* report and other surveys for ILGA – addressed some of the realities in LGBTI data sourcing.

An area of work that is still relatively unexplored, yet very relevant, provided that it will represent the full spectrum of our communities. **"We are sitting on a goldmine of data that people are actually wanting to know,"** pointed out ILGA Oceania co-Convenor and session moderator Tuisina Ymania Brown.



"Combine them with our hearts, stories and activism: can we not change the world, already?"

**Being LGBTI intersects with many other aspects of our lives**, and it is important that such connections are acknowledged and discussed. This is why, for the first time in 2016, ILGA introduced a new conference format named Rainbow Talks: shorter presentations to be delivered in front of the largest audience possible, touching on topics ranging from the economic cost of social exclusion suffered by our communities to policies that states are implementing to advance LGBTI human rights. Such a new format allowed us to raise awareness and jump-start conversations on a wide variety of *LGBTI issues*: a very positive experience, that we look forward to repeating at future conferences.

### Rainbow Talks

*LGBTI issues* is an interesting turn of phrase: how many subjects can actually be considered LGBTI-related? Audre Lorde brilliantly pointed out that "there is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives," and human rights advocates follow suit in explaining how **identities and lived realities are interconnected** and cannot be examined separately from one another.

### See you in Aotearoa / New Zealand!

*The next ILGA World Conference is set to take place in two years in Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara / Wellington, as a collaborative bid of three major Aotearoa / New Zealand LGBTI organisations (Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand, Tiwhanawhana Trust, and Rainbow Youth) has successfully won the bid to host what already looks like an historic event. In fact, not only will the XXIX ILGA World Conference be held in Oceania for the first time, but it will also be an occasion to celebrate the organisation's 40th anniversary.*



### The strategic value of LGBTI-related data for advocacy purposes

The value of having **non-anecdotal and disaggregated data** on the situations facing LGBTI people across the world can't

be overstated. This applies to the many countries that pursue inclusive non-discrimination or equality policies just as much

as to those states where punitive measures are taken against LGBTI visibility and expression. In the former case, programs and services can be advocated for, designed and delivered based on what we actually know; in the latter, data can explain the actual



ph. Daniele Paletta



ph. André du Plessis





# Executive Board members

## Co-Secretaries General



**Ruth Baldacchino**  
Malta Gay Rights Movement  
Malta



**Helen Kennedy**  
Egale Canada  
Canada

## Alternate Co-Secretary General



**Tuisina Ymania Brown**  
Samoa Fa'afafine Association  
Samoa



**Yahia Zaidi**  
MantiQitna Network  
Algeria/Belgium

## Women's Secretariat



United and Strong INC  
represented by **Jessica St. Rose**  
Saint Lucia

## Alternate Women's Secretariat



Teatro Cabaret Reinas Chulas  
represented by **Ana Francis Mor**  
Mexico

## Trans Secretariat



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

## Alternate Trans Secretariat



Fem Alliance Uganda  
represented by **Jay Mulucha**  
Uganda

## Intersex Secretariat



NNID  
represented by **Miriam van der Have**  
The Netherlands

## Alternate Intersex Secretariat



OII Australia  
represented by **Morgan Carpenter** and **Tony Briffa**  
Australia

## Bisexual Secretariat



Manodiversa  
represented by **Frank Evelio Arteaga**  
Bolivia

## Alternate Bisexual Secretariat



LNBi  
represented by **Hilde Vossen**  
The Netherlands

## Pan Africa ILGA

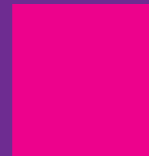


**Akudo Oguaghamba**  
Women's Health and Equal Right  
(WHER) Initiative  
Nigeria



**Richard Lusimbo**  
Sexual Minorities Uganda  
Uganda

## Pan Africa ILGA alternates



**Kanyanta Kakana**  
Zambia



**Star Rugori**  
MOLI  
Burundi

## ILGA Asia



**Hiker Chiu**  
Taiwan  
OII Chinese

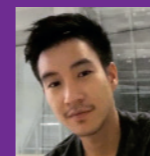


**Manisha Dhakal**  
Nepal  
Blue Diamond Society

## ILGA Asia alternates



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



**Kritipat Chotidhanitsakul (Jimmy)**  
Transmen Alliance Thailand  
Thailand

## ILGA-Europe



**Anastasia Danilova**  
Moldova  
Information Center GENDERDOC-M



**Martin Iversen Christensen**  
Denmark  
LGBT Denmark

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

## ILGALAC



**Josefina Valencia Toledano**  
El Closet de Sor Juana  
Mexico



**Beto de Jesús**  
Instituto Edson Neris  
Brazil

## ILGALAC alternates



**Darío Ramon Arias**  
Jóvenes por la Diversidad  
Argentina



**Sandra Alvarez Mosalve**  
Organización Ecuatoriana  
de Mujeres Lesbianas  
Ecuador

## ILGA North America



**Kimahli Powell**  
Rainbow Railroad  
Canada



**Yazmeen Nunez**  
Soulforce  
United States of America

## ILGA Oceania



**Tuisina Ymania Brown**  
Samoa Fa'afafine Association  
Samoa



**Rawa Karetai**  
Wellington Pride  
New Zealand

## ILGA Oceania alternates



**Simon Margan**  
LGBTI Language Exchange; Australia  
Greens Members  
Australia



**Sulique Waqa**  
Haus of Khameleon  
Fiji

# ILGA AT THE UNITED NATIONS



*Undoubtedly the single biggest event at the UN for LGBTI rights in 2016 was the creation of a new UN Special Procedure: the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. ILGA was central in advocacy efforts to have the position created in the face of strong opposition and now works closely with Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, the first appointee to the post.*

**The ILGA UN team changed this year.** Joining us were Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera from Colombia, heading-up ILGA's work on both the Universal Periodic Review and the Human Rights Council, and Kseniya Kirichenko from Russia, leading our work on the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures. We also said goodbye to Helen Nolan with deep gratitude for her work.

The day-to-day work in these four areas – the UPR, the Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council and the Special Procedures – is the backbone of our support for our global member organisations as they engage with the UN.

2016 also saw **two ground-breaking publications by the team.** Firstly, a new series of annual

compilations of UN Treaty Bodies' human rights jurisprudence on SOGIESC issues with an analysis of trends and gaps for advocates' use. Secondly, a long-awaited analysis of the Universal Periodic Review process and LGBTI, with a series of recommendations to States and civil society on how to maximise the impact of this powerful mechanism. Both these publications deserve their own space and are discussed elsewhere in this report.

At the end of the year, the ILGA UN team was in full-force at the ILGA World Conference, **facilitating several different discussions on how to use UN mechanisms** to help bring changes to the daily lives of LGBTI persons around the world. What a year it's been!

## UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The year was spent strategising, advocating and campaigning for the establishment of the new UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (UNIESOGI).

In January, ILGA co-organised a **two-day strategy meeting** with defenders from around the world that focused on the possibility of such a position. After a unanimous decision at the March meeting of the Board, **the UN team at ILGA then led the call for the creation of the UNIESOGI**, talking with the governments whose support would be needed to carry the process through the UN.

In June, ILGA was joined by defenders from around the world in **a truly global advocacy outreach** effort that secured the requisite number of votes for the position to be created. 628 NGOs from 151 countries worldwide, called on the UN to take meaningful action to end abuses on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and create the UNIESOGI position. Shortly after Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn started his work on 1 November, ILGA was again **fighting to defend the very existence of the mandate** in four

separate votes brought to the General Assembly in New York by governments intent on destroying it. Advocates from around the world worked tirelessly together to successfully protect the very existence of the position.

Even in the first few weeks of the mandate, **ILGA worked closely with Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn**. He came to the ILGA World Conference in Bangkok where he gave a rousing keynote address and met with many defenders.

## UN Human Rights Council

Aside from the political advocacy involved around the establishment of the UNIESOGI at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), ILGA continues to ensure that LGBTI persons are included in the other political debates, including monitoring resolutions and discussions where LGBTI persons need to be represented or protected.

We made **15 statements throughout the year at the HRC**, on issues ranging from housing to torture; from water and sanitation to health. And **in partnership with advocates from the countries concerned, we made another 15 on the situations in their specific countries**: from Lebanon to Nauru; from Suriname to Singapore.

We held **three HRC awareness-raising events**: in March with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture on how to end impunity for torture and ill treatment of LGBTI individuals; in a June event we drew attention to the particular forms of violence faced by LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers in places of immigration detention; and in a panel discussion again in June we looked at some of the legislative changes that have taken place over the last year balanced with the lived-realities of LGBTI persons on the ground, showing the need for the UNIESOGI.

## UN Universal Periodic Review

During the last few years of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), there has been **a steady increase in the number of recommendations made on SOGIE issues, and the first recommendation on intersex issues was made at the end of 2016**. During 2016 we saw SOGIESC recommendations being implemented by the different States: decriminalisation, trainings of police, regular meetings with the government and constructive debates on LGBTI issues.

Accordingly, in 2016 ILGA continued to strengthen its work on the UPR with ILGA members by informing them when their country is coming-up for review and by providing technical support, both online and in Geneva if needed. We supported the preparation of reports, advocacy papers, in-country advocacy and statements that were delivered at briefings and at the UN itself. We also reported and shared the SOGIESC recommendations and other relevant information delivered during the sessions of the UPR.

**Two UPR Advocacy weeks were organized in 2016 in Geneva**

*"Our experience in working with ILGA during the UPR process was great. Prior to this UPR involvement, I had only heard of ILGA's UPR work through Board reports. Seeing it in action really brought home for me the importance of that work."*

(Tuisina Ymania Brown, Samoa Fa'afafine Association)

*"We would like to thank you for all your support. ILGA helped us with finding accommodation in Geneva, with drafting and practicing an oral statement which we presented at the informal meeting, and with negotiating with mainstream women's groups about time allocation of oral statements. It was greatly helpful."*

(Azusa Yamashita, Gay Japan News, Japan)

when 14 defenders from countries as different as Hungary, Lithuania, Samoa, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela and Zimbabwe were trained on advocacy strategies before then meeting with States to discuss their countries' upcoming UPR review. These were great learning moments where defenders treasured each other's experiences as well as the training.

In addition to this, ILGA produced a guide on *How to get ready for the UPR advocacy week* that includes information on what to prepare and expect before coming to Geneva, and has trained defenders on the UPR in several locations.

## UN Treaty Bodies

We have seen **a strong uptake of SOGIESC issues in the Treaty Bodies (TBs)**. 53% of country reviews in 2016 resulted in concluding observations containing SOGIESC references, in comparison with 46% in 2015 and just 34% in 2014.

Throughout 2016, ILGA continued notifying its members about upcoming deadlines and sessions of the TBs, providing defenders with technical assistance online and in Geneva, and assisting them in their advocacy. **More than fifty groups and organizations from**

**all regions were supported by ILGA this way in 2016.**

Groups from Slovakia, Uruguay and Finland were able to travel to Geneva with ILGA's support to participate in briefings, approach committee members and observe the review of their State by the relevant Treaty Body. Progressive recommendations were adopted by Committees, and will now be a helpful part of in-country advocacy strategies for the defenders.

Building on experiences, a practical guide on gender identity and expression advocacy before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was published in English and Russian, and ILGA organized trainings for defenders on TBs in several locations.

## UN Special Procedures

The UN Special Procedures – 55 independent experts looking at a whole range of issues from health, housing and water rights, through to freedom of expression, women's issues and human rights defenders, to country situations such as Myanmar, Belarus and Syria – is one area that we have started to give more systematic attention to.

**Defenders are being informed about in-country visits of**

relevant Special Procedures, and **ILGA staff regularly meet with the experts or their staff** to provide input and guidance on their work.

At the ILGA World Conference in December, there was a one-day pre-conference on UN Special Procedures, at which about 100 people from all regions attended. As we look forward to 2017 we are considering strategic ways to better-engage with different experts and processes of the Special Procedures.

## Other UN Work

The ILGA UN Programme also continued to engage with other parts of the UN system.

In March 2016 we provided expert support to partner organisations engaging at the **CSW** in New York.

ILGA is a member of the **Global Platform to Fast-Track the HIV and Human Rights Responses Among Gay and Bisexual Men and Other MSM**, organized by MSMGF and advising UNAIDS. We met with the other members in January 2016 to strategise for the year ahead.

In May 2016, we provided together with Pan Africa ILGA, ARC International and COC Netherlands a **two-day advocacy training** for two dozen African defenders at the PAI conference in Johannesburg.

With faith issues continuing to be used as arguments at the UN against LGBTI-inclusion, we engaged in **dialogues related to faith, sexuality and human rights** in Utrecht in January, in the UK in September and in Lebanon in December.

# GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION PROGRAMME

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Spivak

*In 2016, our Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme continued to grow in the areas of research, community support and engagement, and multi-level advocacy.*

2016 saw **the publishing of our inaugural legal gender recognition research project**, the *Trans Legal Mapping Report*. The report joins a number of other trans-led research in this area, and covers name and gender marker change policies, laws and administrative procedures in 111 countries worldwide. With the UN Programme, we also published a trans defenders guide to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, making our Treaty Bodies work more accessible to our communities. As part of the Programme's community engagement, we continue to **provide expert input by reviewing publications**, UN policy papers and information guides, such as Transgender Europe's (TGEU) *Welcome to Stay: Building Trans Communities Inclusive of Trans Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Europe*. We are also **actively engaged in regional trans organisations** through the following positions: TGEU's Transrespect Advisory Board (Global Committee) since April 2016, and the Asia Pacific Transgender Network's Advisory Committee since December 2016.

**The Programme participated in the WPATH Symposium**, and a two-day activist centred convening on depathologisation of trans and intersex identities.

We continue to **work closely with trans organisations on the International Classification of Diseases revision process**, and speak at panels, provide input to papers and support trans communities in engagement with health policies and advocacy.

**We continued our advocacy at the UN**, including input to reports of Special Procedures, and visibility and discussion of gender identity and expression issues at Human Rights Council sessions through side events and statements. These included co-organising side events on gender mainstreaming (HRC33), and violence against LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers in detention (HRC32). We also continued to run **Trans Pre-conferences** at ILGA world and regional conferences, with an emphasis on greater trans participation at the conferences, and scholarships for defenders to take part in them.

# RAINBOW BOOKSHELF

ph. Unsplash/Pixabay

In 2016, ILGA expanded its presence on the bookshelves of human rights defenders, media organisations and partner organisations. Alongside its flagship annual publication, the State Sponsored Homophobia report, the organisation released a handful of new publications, crucial tools to assist human rights defenders in achieving their aims and to disseminate credible information to governments, institutions, media outlets and the general public.

## State Sponsored Homophobia report and Maps of sexual orientation laws in the world

ILGA's *State Sponsored Homophobia* report reached its eleventh edition in 2016, further establishing itself as a **fundamental resource** in the hands of human rights defenders, civil society organisations, governmental and UN agencies, allies and media interested in accessing the core information on legislation affecting people on the basis of their sexual orientation. Launched at the United Nations' Palais des Nations during a side event of the 32nd Human Rights Council, the report shows how the situation of LGBTI people worldwide has clearly evolved over the last decade: while the number of states criminalising same-sex activity has decreased considerably, the variety of laws relevant to sexual orientation has expanded greatly. This is why, for the first time in this edition, the report has provided a **unique set of maps that separately chart where criminalisation, protection and recognition laws are enacted**, and supplied comparative legal charts for the entire globe. This edition has continued expanding the amount of infor-

mation carried on States' engagement with international mechanisms, highlighting their responses on SOGIESC-related recommendations in those fora. Further essays enriching the document addressed the overlaps and relationship between the human rights and human development frameworks, and a section on global perspectives was written by a team of co-authors from the world's regions.

Finally, the report made sure not to underestimate the importance of data for advocacy purposes, documenting the progress in the development of a Global LGBTI Inclusion Index, and comparing country laws with non-anecdotal information on public attitudes to LGBTI persons, obtained by ILGA from one of its most impressive research efforts: the one that we are about to describe.

*"Information and knowledge can indeed contribute to changing the world and the lived realities of many people worldwide who are still facing human rights violations."*

Ruth Baldacchino and Helen Kennedy,  
co-Secretaries General at ILGA

## The ILGA-RIWI Global Attitudes Survey on LGBTI People in partnership with Logo

In 2015, ILGA embarked on building a longitudinal mechanism to gather credible data on public attitudes to SOGIESC-related issues worldwide.

The first two outputs of this massive research effort, co-authored by Aengus Carroll and George Robotham, were released in 2016: developed with the Canadian technology company RIWI Corp., and in partnership with the U.S. entertainment brand Logo, the *Global Attitudes Survey on LGBTI People* collected answers to 31 questions from 96,331 online individuals in 65 countries (including some of those usually considered hostile towards our communities), resulting in **the largest investigation of attitudes towards LGBTI people ever conducted.**

Even though they show that a wide awareness on certain issues (especially regarding intersex) still has to emerge in societies, results are not as extremely

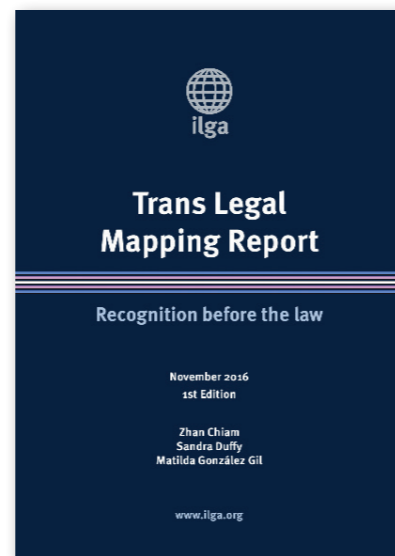


negative as one might have been feared. At a global average, for example, 67% of the world agrees that human rights should be applied to everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Such evidence-based data are powerful tools in the hands of LGBTI advocates, agencies, governments and organisations at every level: they allow to inform the public about actual prevailing attitudes, and they may guide policies to reduce violations against our communities. As an year-on-year effort, the survey will help not only to monitor changes, but also to investigate attitudes on an ever-growing range of issues affecting us.

## Trans Legal Mapping Report

While ILGA has long surveyed legislation that primarily discriminates people based on their sexual orientation, a similar ILGA survey of provisions affecting people based on gender identity had not been compiled. In 2016, this gap was filled by the first edition of the *Trans Legal Mapping Report*, developed by the Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme. This report **offers a compilation of laws, administrative procedures and processes setting out the ability and limits of trans and gender-diverse people around the world to change their sex/gender markers and names on official identity documents.**

The report also lists processes for gender marker and name change in countries across the world, and indicates whether a process is established in primary legislation, through a court application, in an administrative rule, in policy, or is simply not defined. All too often, such processes



include requirements that are blatant human rights violations: this report outlines them clearly, but shows also progressive examples from across the world. This information makes the *Trans Legal Mapping Report* an important tool that advocates can use to engage with their national governments, and target their arguments to the local contexts to bring about change. We intend for this report to be an annual publication and expand its coverage on provisions affecting trans people worldwide.

## Treaty Bodies compilation and guides

During its second year of existence, ILGA's Treaty Bodies Programme produced a number of publications to **fill a gap in resources available to civil society in its engagement with these UN mechanisms.**

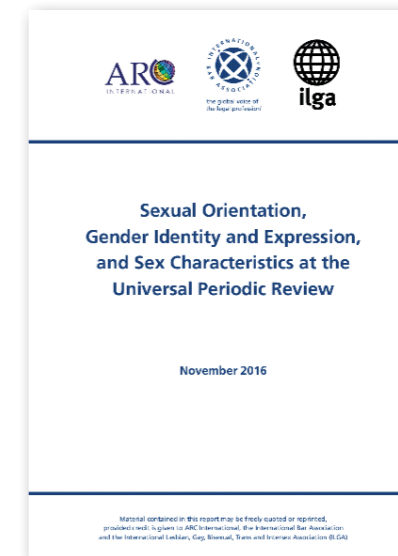
Researched and written by Helen Nolan while at ILGA as UN Programme Officer for the Treaty Bodies, the first two annual reference compilations were launched in September 2016, covering all the recommendations made to more than 100 countries on LGBTI issues when they were reviewed

by seven of the UN Treaty Bodies in 2014 and 2015.

Overall, these guides highlight the recent increase in attention to LGBTI issues in Treaty Bodies' concluding observations, and point out how these mechanisms are focusing on discrimination matters and on providing more nuance and sensitivity around SOGIESC-related language.

Beyond analyses, these publications also include practical key tips for advocates, as well as an overview of the trends, developments and opportunities for human rights defenders.

Together with the Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme, the Treaty Bodies Programme also developed a **specific guide for trans human rights defenders wishing to engage with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).** Available in English and Russian, the publication explains how and when trans human rights defenders can advocate before the Committee, identifies positive developments and opportunities for growth, highlights challenges and offers tips to overcome them, while also listing a number of additional useful resources.



## Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics at the Universal Periodic Review

As the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reached the end of its second cycle, its importance in holding states accountable for human rights violations against LGBTI persons has become more and more evident. Over eight years, as well as 158 states from all regions received 1,110 recommendations that were specific to sexual orientation, gender identity

and expression, and sex characteristics issues: 37% among them were accepted.

These and more data are included in the **first comprehensive research to analyse how the mechanism looks at SOGIESC issues.** The publication – a joint effort by ILGA, the International Bar Association and ARC International – provides an overview of the role played by the UPR in shaping the protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons, highlights achievements made possible by the continuous involvement of civil society in the process, and includes recommendations specific to stakeholders such as states under review, recommending states, civil society, lawyers and legal associations.

A panel that included human rights defenders from Malaysia and Thailand, as well as representatives of missions and of the OHCHR, first presented the publication in an event held at the United Nations in Geneva. Highlights of the research were also shared during a number of workshops, roundtables and presentations during the ILGA World Conference in Bangkok.

## Summaries on Special Procedures

The new UN Independent Expert on SOGI is just one among the 55 Special Procedures at the UN, and many of them are working on issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. Together with ISHR, ILGA prepared summaries of such work made by 12 among them: they include **information about mandate holders, their country visits, annual reports and individual communications** where LGBTI issues have been raised.

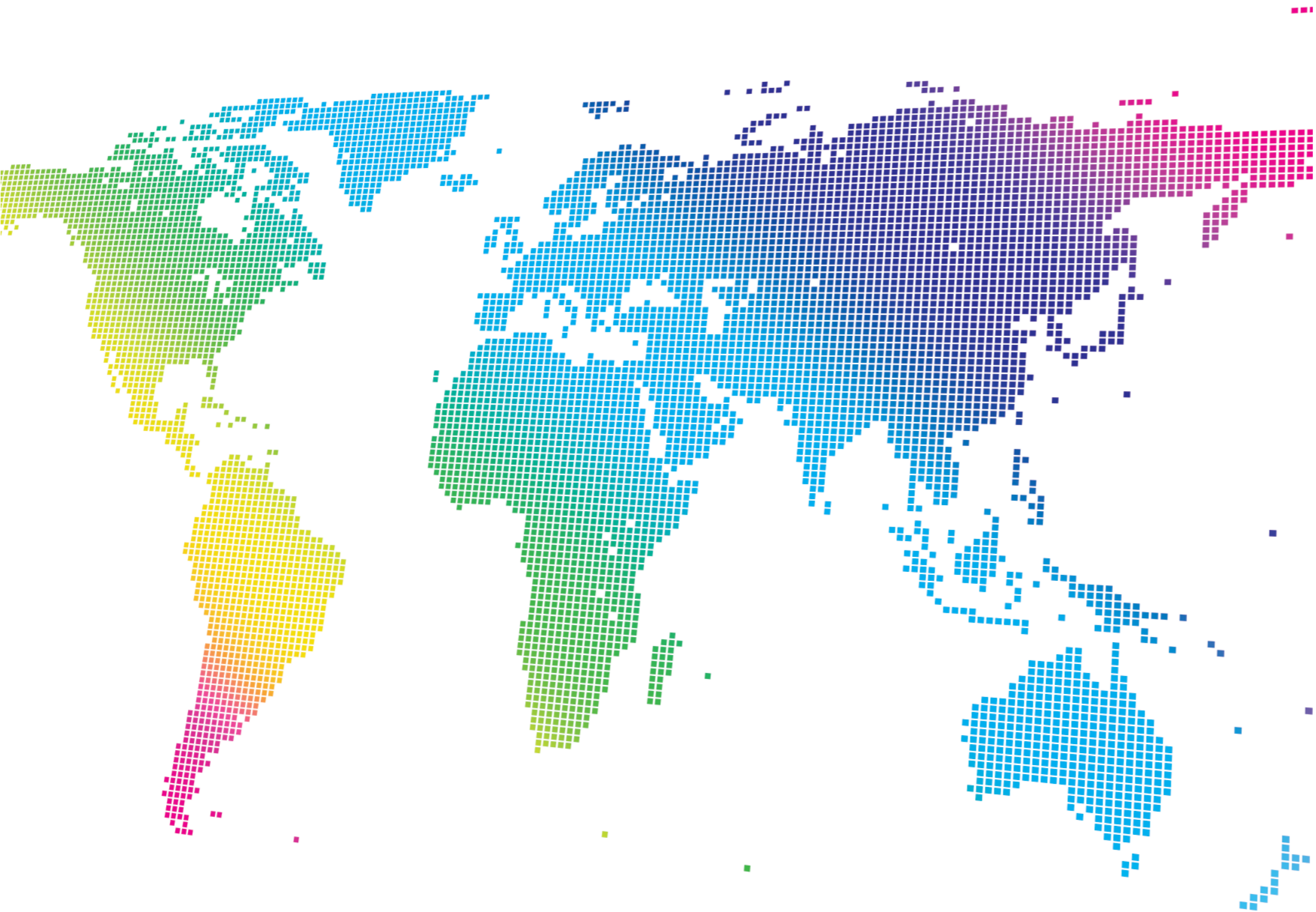
## HRD memorial

*In 2016, ILGA joined Front Line Defenders and a network of more than 20 organisations worldwide to develop an International Human Rights Defenders Memorial, to document the cases of all those human rights defenders killed since the adoption of the UN Declaration of Human Rights Defenders in 1998.*

*Since that day, when the international community agreed to make protection for rights defenders a key priority, an estimated 3,500 have been murdered.*

*The idea behind the project is to celebrate their life and work on behalf of others. We invite everyone to submit their suggestions for names to be included.*

# OUR REGIONS



## ILGA North America

2016 has been a busy time for ILGA North America: throughout the year, the region worked tirelessly on **expanding the visibility and understanding of ILGA's work on SOGIE and bodily diversity rights at international bodies**, especially by participating in advocacy at the Organisation of American States.

- The regional Board also worked on ensuring that its by-laws and constitution were up-to-date, and that the region keeps being in good standing with its own rules: to secure stability for more regional opportunities and events, ILGA North America was incorporated as a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization.

The region also continued to **advocate new ILGA World membership guidelines**, so that its members, particularly those in

marginalised communities, could find more voice and access at the World Conference: this included creating more digital and in-person opportunities for them to be involved with regional programming and strategy building.

**New representatives were also elected:** three new Board members were seated at the ILGA North America regional meeting during the World Conference in Bangkok. Additionally, members present at the event sent the new Board off with new regional priorities to consider as the region continues building out its membership body.

As the political culture for LGBTI people and SOGIESC activists is changing across North America, in fact, it is essential that new challenges are addressed timely, alongside the organisation's original regional goals.

## ILGA Asia

ILGA Asia experienced a few major changes during the course of 2016.

The newly elected Board from the Taipei conference in 2015 continued to lead ILGA Asia in setting priorities for 2017-2019 through the strategic plan, the first ever created. More efforts to strengthen the organisational capacity of the region included the development of the first governance manual and annual work programme.

A new Coordinator, Lieu Anh Vu, was recruited after the departure of the first Coordinator in the second half of the year.

During the last quarter of 2016, the office was relocated from Hong Kong to Bangkok, Thailand. ILGA Asia is in the process of being registered as a non-profit foundation in Thailand, and the application is expected to be approved by the second quarter of



2017. The new developments enabled ILGA Asia to better support LGBTI communities in the region, from both member and non member organisations.

At the 2016 ILGA World Conference in Bangkok, ILGA Asia held a regional caucus to report on current activities to its membership and receive their feedbacks on the draft strategic plan 2017-2019. ILGA Asia also joined other regional organisations working on SOGIE issues in Asia to hold a side event on the participation of LGBTI communities in the UPR and its impacts on LGBTI

human rights, which was attended by close to 50 participants. The event was a success, given the number of attendees and the level of engagement from the audience.

Represented by co-Chair Hiker Chiu, ILGA Asia also participated in the annual Pride parade in Taipei, Taiwan, which is the biggest in Asia.

The region also continued to work with host organisation in Cambodia – Rainbow Community Kampuchea – to prepare for the next ILGA Asia Conference in December 2017.



## Pan Africa ILGA

The African continent has long been a difficult platform for LGBTI human rights advocacy initiatives. And yet, now at the end of the second year of its 2015-2017 strategic plan, Pan Africa ILGA has strengthened its position as a network of groups working to advance such rights in the region.

Its new Board, elected at the regional conference in Johannesburg, now has members from all parts of Africa: this representation will help the organisation reach some of the most isolated areas within the movement in the continent, especially in francophone and northern countries.

Throughout 2016, Pan Africa ILGA strengthened its efforts to also

represent the voices of those communities that are more at risk of being left behind, and to help them get support in case of need, consolidating partnerships with several emergency funds.

Moreover, it focused even more on building the capacities of its members. The organisation started a system of notifications and support to its members regarding their participation in the Universal Periodic Reviews of their countries, worked with Irant-Org and GenderDynamix to assist human rights defenders from Tanzania and Swaziland to produce shadow reports on LGBTI issues, and made sure that voices from the continent were heard throughout the process that led to the appointment of the first UN SOGI Independent Expert. A training on the African Commission on Human

and People's Rights mechanisms was organised in Abuja, Nigeria in collaboration with Uhai-Eashri, bringing together more than 25 activists from around the continent.

As activities at Pan Africa ILGA were expanding, a new Executive Director was appointed in July 2016, along with a part-time Finance Manager.

Unfortunately, a terrible grief hit the region and the whole ILGA family: in November 2016, Jacobus Witbooi passed away after two harrowing weeks of hospitalisation due to malaria. He was serving as Pan Africa ILGA's Programme Director, and his death left a large emptiness in all those who had the privilege of meeting him.

We pledge to carry on his legacy of enthusiasm and commitment to human rights for all.



## Breaking ground / building bridges Pan Africa ILGA regional conference Johannesburg, 13-18 May 2016

In May, more than 180 human rights defenders gathered in Johannesburg from 34 different countries for the regional Pan Africa ILGA conference – the third and most successful to date. It offered an unprecedented occasion to engage on a large scale around common regional strategies to advance equality.

Co-hosted by PAI and Irant-org under the theme *Breaking ground/ building bridges*, the event was opened by the Deputy

Minister of Justice of South Africa together with the Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights: an indication that there are also some governments and human rights institutions that are not shying away from a debate on the plight of African LGBTI communities, instead of using them as scapegoats to distract public opinion from other domestic problems. During the conference, human rights defenders had the chance to attend a number of trainings

and workshops, on topics from digital security to advocacy at the United Nations.

The event also offered occasions for the community to come together and celebrate, as big news broke from Seychelles during the conference on the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia: the National Assembly voted to decriminalise same-sex sexual relations in that country. A glimmer of hope that shined on every conference participant, giving them even more energy to keep fighting for change.

We look forward to the next regional conference, co-hosted by PAI and Botswana's LEGABIBO in Gaborone in 2018.



## ILGA-Europe

How much progress can there be **in only twenty years**? If we look at the advances made by the LGBTI movement in Europe, there can only be one answer: **things can change in an almost unimaginable way**. And, indeed, there have been many profound legal, political and social changes for rainbow communities in the continent since 1996, the year that ILGA-Europe was born. Looking at the year of **the organisation's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** alone, Norway adopted a new legal gender recognition law based on self-determination, a new discrimination protection policy came into force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and civil unions for same-sex couples became a reality in Italy – and these are just a few examples of what the extraordinary resilience of thousands of human rights defenders could achieve.

Such an anniversary was a milestone that deserved to be marked for ILGA-Europe, but unfortunately the current political climate allowed little time for celebrations. With European institutions under pressure, and a rising wave of populism and xenophobia leading to growing hate incidents against so-called minority groups, ILGA-Europe have put an **ever-growing effort to keep LGBTI equality at the top of EU's agenda**, and to **raise awareness of intersecting forms of discrimination**.

In 2016, the ILGA-Europe team organised 22 trainings and 13 conferences, held meetings with various national governments, submitted 7 policy papers to different European public consultations, as well as two third-party interventions to the European Court of Human Rights, and also actively engaged with the Dutch EU Presidency towards the adoption of the first-ever LGBTI-specific

conclusions to be approved by the Council of the European Union. The European region of ILGA also re-granted 60 small grants, supported 10 national campaigns dedicated to LGBTI equality, and took to the street in 9 Pride events across Europe. And, last but not least, it also gathered more than 400 persons at the second edition of its European Equality Gala in Brussels, where the fabulous Panti Bliss stormed the stage with an historic speech.

Such a body of work required continuous efforts by a **newly expanded team**. But, despite a general atmosphere of uncertainty, a feeling of solidarity and hope continues to inspire the work of the region. As 20 years of history can teach, the community has overcome challenges that seemed impossible, and it is as determined as ever to mobilise in greater numbers and intensity.



## Power to the people ILGA-Europe's annual conference Nicosia, 19-22 October 2016

The drive to speak out against injustice is at the core of the LGBTI movement, and it is also something that it shares with all those who strive to advance human rights. **Individuals who come together to uphold equality-based values have the power to change things**, and it is this power that ILGA-Europe wanted to acknowledge and celebrate

during their largest annual event. Held under the theme **Power to the People**, the 2016 annual conference of ILGA-Europe **gathered 450 activists together in Cyprus**, a country that has seen numerous advances for the rights of LGBTI persons in recent years. **Hosted by Accept-LGBT Cyprus**, and with more than 70 programme

spaces, discussions and consultations in just four days, the conference offered the chance to have an intense debate on how to forge new alliances to respond to growing global apathy on human rights issues, and on how to keep working for more inclusive societies. Most importantly, **the conference addressed the structural causes of exclusion of some groups** within the LGBTI community itself, and **acknowledged that more inclusivity is needed** even within our movement, if we really want to push for greater change for all.



## ILGALAC

In 2016 the LGBTI movement in Latin America and the Caribbean scored **great achievements**: marriage equality was approved in Colombia, while civil unions arrived in Aruba and Bolivia enacted a gender identity law. After a long judicial battle, an historic resolution to decriminalise same-sex sexual activity was approved in Belize, while in Argentina, in a world's first, the city of Buenos Aires decided to rename an underground train station after Carlos Jáuregui, a historic LGBTI activist and first president of the Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA).

ILGALAC took part in **various activities throughout the year**, such as the fourth Extraordinary Meeting of the Red Iberoamericana de Organismos y Organizaciones contra la Discriminación (RIOOD) and the World

Conference on Human Rights of LGBTI People in Montevideo. **To strengthen cooperation with international organisations**, the Executive Director of ILGALAC Pedro Paradiso Sottile met with several of them, including Globe, World Bank, Arcus Foundation, the LGBTI Rapporteurship of the IACHR, Human Rights Campaign, Parliamentarians for Global Action, Human Rights First, Copred and Sage. An event addressing *Best practices and recent events in the region to guarantee the rights of LGBTI people* was also organised as he met the LGBTI Group of the Organisation of American States.

ILGALAC's office also coordinated **an historic meeting of the Regional Board in Mexico City**, where working guidelines were set for 2017, and its members took

part in a conference in the Senate of Mexico on the situation of LGBTI people in the region. Since October 2016, ILGALAC has added a new member to its staff, Martín De Grazia, who is responsible for the area of publications and research, as part of the framework agreement with INADI (Argentina).

**Religious and political fundamentalisms keep posing serious threats** to equality across the region, and in 2016 ILGALAC launched a regional action alert calling on States and all civil society to act up against fundamentalisms and violence. The focus on countering actions and hate speech that promote violence towards LGBTI people will also be kept during the next ILGALAC regional conference, which will be held in Guatemala in November 2017.

## ILGA Oceania

ILGA Oceania is the emperor with new clothes as it went from AN-ZAPI to a change of name to ILGA Oceania, but its resolve, its purpose and mission are the same as before – a dedication to the eradication of discriminatory legislation and practices that affect the region and its LGBTI inhabitants, and the acceptance of cultural identities that are congruent to the LGBTI movement.

Grouping together 24 countries, spread amongst a most vast body of water, the Pacific Ocean, **represents significant geographical and access challenges**, and the economic status and mix of global North OECD countries against 22 non-OECD global South countries bring more significant challenges in relation to funding.

Despite these shortcomings, **2016 was a growth spurt** for ILGA Oceania.

We hosted **our second Regional Conference in Wellington, and we engaged heavily with Pacific Island nations** promoting not only ILGA and its work, but the mechanisms ILGA works with – like the UPR process – bringing much needed attention to these cultural identities by introducing them to the LGBTI framework on an international level.

We are also actively engaging for the first time to **include Aboriginal Australian representation at ILGA Oceania**, something that has been missing in activism for a while.

As always, our local activists on the ground were loudest and proudest with their unique sto-

ries being told to the United Nations and the world, and we are slowly starting to make inroads on the main path to freedom from discriminatory legislation and a truly free and equal Oceania.

**The whole world of ILGA are coming to Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand in two years for the next ILGA World Conference.** ILGA Oceania is in preparation mode to deliver one of the most incredible experiences for LGBTIQ activists.

We have the momentum now, we hold the flame. Your canoes have been built. The sails have been let out. We are ready for you ILGA to take voyage down under.

All we need now is the wind behind your sails and a clear sky to guide your journey to ILGA Oceania!



## ILGA Oceania Rainbow Human Rights and Health Conference Wellington, 9-12 March 2016

The aim of the conference was to re-ignite the fires of the LGBTI community on issues of human rights and health in the states and territories of Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific, Melanesia and the Micronesian Islands.

A wide variety of themes were discussed during the conference, including discrimination and

equality; homophobia in sports; torture, violence and abuse; freedoms of speech, assembly and association; gender identity and expression; HIV, access to health and medical care; wellbeing; cultural identities, migration and refugees.

Participants and organisers did an amazing job to step up regional efforts and contribute to

change in advancing the rights of key populations and communities, and their access to health and social protection.

The resounding feedback from all who attended was that the conference dialogues balanced the need to identify opportunities for Oceania LGBTI people and the promotion of innovation and action.

**Natalia Voltchkova**  
Head of Finance  
and Administration

**Renato Sabbadini**  
Executive Director

**Zhan Chiam**  
Senior Gender Identity and Gender  
Expression Programme Officer

**Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera**  
UN Programme and Advocacy Officer



**André du Plessis**  
Head of UN Programme  
and Advocacy

**Senka Juzbasic**  
Events, Logistics and  
Administration Officer

**Kseniya Kirichenko**  
UN Programme Officer

**Aengus Carroll**  
Researcher on SOGIESC-related socio-legal subjects



**Daniele Paletta**  
Media and Communications



This year saw quite a few changes in our staff. After six years as a Membership and Communication Officer, **Alessia Valenza** left the team in May 2016. **Helen Nolan** resigned from her position as UN Programme Officer, focusing on Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, during the summer: in September 2016, Kseniya Kirichenko was appointed to this role. A few months earlier, two new people joined the team: Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera was appointed as the UN Programme Officer focusing on UPR, while Senka Juzbasic took on the role of Events, Logistics and Administration Officer. We would also like to thank **Cho Dixxon** who interned with us during the days of the World Conference in Bangkok.

Staff members as per 31 December 2016



In November 2016, just a few days before the World Conference, the whole ILGA family was shocked to learn about the death of **Jacobus Witbooi**, who served as a Programs Director at our African region.

Jacobus embodied the very spirit of Pan Africa ILGA: young, committed, proud and thoughtful, open and close to the hearts of many. We have lost so much more than a colleague and a comrade: we have lost a friend, a brother. We remember him with enormous gratitude.

Sadly, 2016 left us with many more persons to mourn.

Lohana Berkins, Xulhaz Mannan, Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy, Hande Kader, René Martínez, Deborah Lambillotte, Jeanine Tuivaiki, the victims of the shootings in Xalapa and in Orlando, Agniva Lahiri, Andris Sermukss, Inge-Lise Paulsen, Mohammad Wisam Sankari, Kaj Heino, Luki Massa, Maxim Gubin and Sean Meehan are only a few of those human rights defenders and members of the LGBTI community who are no longer with us.

To them all, we say: you will be remembered.



This summary is based on ILGA audited accounts for 2016 and 2015. As of 2016 accounts are presented in Swiss francs (CHF).

The total operating expenditures in 2016 were 1,817,438 CHF, while the total income was 1,837,131 CHF. ILGA ended 2016 with positive operating results of 19,693 CHF.

## Balance Sheet

For years ending December 31, 2016 and 2015

	2016, CHF	2015, CHF
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets	283,601	435,342
Non-current assets	43,897	64,190
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>327,498</b>	<b>499,532</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current liabilities	153,070	95,377
Non-current liabilities	68,866	287,824
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>221,936</b>	<b>383,201</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Legal Reserves		170,422
Results from previous periods	116,331	
Results for the year	(10,769)	(54,091)
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>327,498</b>	<b>499,532</b>

## Statement of Revenues and Expenses

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

	2016, CHF	2015, CHF
<b>Income</b>		
Core income	1,321,616	842,468
Project income	515,515	513,705
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,837,131</b>	<b>1,356,173</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Operational capacity	803,837	741'067
Direct project costs	1,013,601	599'094
Amortization	--	8,239
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,817,438</b>	<b>1,348,400</b>
<b>Operating Results</b>	<b>19,693</b>	<b>7,772</b>
<b>Financial Results</b>		
Financial Results	30,462	61,863
<b>Total Results</b>	<b>(10,769)</b>	<b>(54,091)</b>



Formally created at the end of 2015, ProtectDefenders.eu quickly established itself as **a crucial initiative to provide protection to human rights defenders worldwide**. During its first year of operation, the mechanism, funded by the European Union, provided 338 emergency grants to human rights defenders at risk, managed a temporary relocation grants programme benefitting almost 150 individuals, and strongly supported defenders worldwide with grants, trainings and capacity-building workshops.

As part of the Consortium of twelve NGOs leading the initiative, **ILGA focused especially on supporting LGBTI human rights defenders**: we organised a training on digital security at the Pan Africa ILGA regional conference, and produced more than 10,000 leaflets presenting the mechanism and targeted specifically to the LGBTI community in seven languages. These materials were distributed at world and regional conferences throughout the year, making activists aware of the existence of a platform where they can ask for temporary relocation, join trainings to meet their security needs, apply for grants, or receive support from LGBTI-friendly operators at a 24/7 emergency hotline.

**ILGA also assisted partners allocating grants** in the confirmation of HRDs status of LGBTI activists within 24 hours from their request of assistance, and also **began documenting personal stories of LGBTI people who received support from the mechanism**: the first video interviews will be released in 2017.

**Are you a human rights defender facing immediate threats? You can call the 24/7 hotline!**  
**+353 (0)1 21 00 489**

*The emergency helpline works at any hour, every day.  
LGBTI-friendly operators speak Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.  
Rapid international support will be mobilised.  
ProtectDefenders.eu can also be contacted via Skype,  
secure web form and encrypted email.  
Find out more at <https://www.protectdefenders.eu>*



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*For more information about our work, or to download our publications,  
please visit our website: <http://ilga.org>  
or contact us at [info@ilga.org](mailto:info@ilga.org)*

*Join the conversation:*

