



2019

ANNUAL REPORT



ILGA World - the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association is grateful for the support of its member organisations, staff, interns and Board and Committee members who work tirelessly to make everything we do possible.

A heartfelt shout-out and thank you goes to all the human rights defenders around the world for the time and energy they commit to advancing the cause of equality for persons with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, and sex characteristics everywhere.

Our deepest thanks to those who have financially made our work - including the World Conference - possible in 2019:



and many individuals who have made donations.

2019

AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

ILGA World launches [its new logo and visual identity](#) in the run up to the World Conference.

FEBRUARY

The first session of the Human Rights Council begins. Throughout the year ILGA World and our allies made sure to keep raising queer voices [at the United Nations!](#)

MARCH

Nearly 600 human rights defenders from 93 countries and territories gather in Aotearoa New Zealand for [the 29th ILGA World Conference](#). Activists from around the globe pass a resolution calling for a worldwide [decriminalisation of sex work](#).

The UN passes a resolution calling for an end to discrimination of women and girls in sports - including women born with variations of sex characteristics. This represents the first UN resolution on [the rights of intersex persons!](#)

APRIL

An historic meeting takes place [in the Vatican City](#): we join other LGBTI organisations in calling on the Roman Catholic Church to take action against the violence, discrimination and criminalisation faced by our communities.

MAY

We rejoice with trans communities worldwide, as the World Health Organisation [adopts the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases \(ICD-11\)](#) that formally de-psycho-pathologises most trans identities. Now it's time to engage in the review process to finally reach full depathologisation!

JUNE

The world celebrates [the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising](#). "Because of Stonewall, we have now brought our activism to the world stage - we are no longer in the closet in terms of fighting for our rights and we will no longer be silenced."

JULY

The Human Rights Council [renews the mandate of the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#). Together with others, ILGA World mobilised 1,312 organisations from 174 countries to reach this result.

AUGUST

ILGA World hosts [an holistic security workshop](#) in South Korea in the wake of the ILGA Asia conference for LGBTI defenders from across Asia - an initiative falling under our involvement with the ProtectDefenders.eu mechanism.

SEPTEMBER

[Our board meets in Geneva](#). The World Conference gave us a new strategic plan and governance structure: now it's time to put plans for the years ahead into action!

OCTOBER

"We are stronger together!" Our Co-Secretaries General address the ILGA-Europe conference in Prague, calling for unity in our movement. Throughout the year, more than 1,200 LGBTI human rights defenders gathered together for our three regional conferences of 2019 in [Seoul](#), [Prague](#) and [Bogotá](#).

NOVEMBER

ILGA World raises [LGBTI youth voices](#) at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, and takes part in the [Sporting Chance Forum](#) to raise awareness about the barriers to fully participate in sports that our communities keep facing. In Bogotá, Colombia, ILGA World supports the 2019 ILGALAC conference.

DECEMBER

We launch the second update of the year to the [State-Sponsored Homophobia report](#). In 2019 we released ground-breaking new research, including the first [Treaty Bodies Strategic Litigation Toolkit](#) focusing on SOGIESC issues, and contributed to analyses of how trans persons are criminalised across the world.

Dear friends,
in this 2019 Annual Report we are happy to report about the initiatives of international significance that ILGA World has continued to undertake to put the spotlight on current and emerging LGBTIQ human rights intersectionalities, and in effecting real change in our communities across the globe.

2019 proved to be a great year for ILGA World and many of our members, allies and communities – despite the daily, ongoing struggle against LGBTI-phobia, racism, nationalism and intersecting forms of discrimination that our communities are forced to endure.

We saw real progress throughout the year, including a defining vote by the United Nations to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert on SOGI. This was a historic victory made possible by the extraordinary work of hundreds of human rights



We stand with you in our endless fight for love
in the face of hate, unity in the face of division,
peace in the face of violence, and diversity in the face
of lesbophobia, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia,
interphobia, ageism, racism, sexism, ableism,
hostility against indigenous communities,
and all other forms of discrimination

and non-governmental organisations from across the world, including many of our members. Your advocacy prompted over half of the States who were able to vote to support the renewal: a tremendous increase in commitment in only three years, since the mandate was first created!

And we had even more successes to celebrate.

Angola and Botswana decriminalised consensual same-sex sexual relationships. A number of historic rulings also saw Zimbabwe, Kosovo and Sweden acknowledge and affirm the rights of trans persons. Taiwan became the first territory in Asia to adopt marriage equality, which became a reality also in Austria and Ecuador during the year. The Tamil Nadu

state in India implemented a ban on non-consensual surgeries on intersex infants. In Brazil, the Federal Supreme Court voted in favour of making homophobia and transphobia crimes similar to racism.

2019 also brought more focus on the realities of existing harmful medical practices, not only in terms of

the violent erasure of intersex bodies. Trans and gender diverse identities were declassified as a mental illness in the latest version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), and our communities kept speaking up against the harmful and discredited practice of 'conversion' therapy, resulting in positive legislation in a number of cities and states. Moreover, at least 10 countries and counting are backing calls for a potential ban in the coming months!

Unfortunately, with light comes darkness and some losses. In Africa, Gabon formally criminalised same-sex sexual activity (in what luckily became a short-lived provision), and all over the world more and more countries are showing worrying signs of backsliding on their human rights obligations, or are culpably stalling progress to a truly free and equal society.

Despite our advancements, our people are still at disproportionate risk of violence, poverty, homelessness and illness in every single region. As much as the past year gave us reasons to rejoice, the work is not yet done, and we will continue to support LGBTI communities on the ground who keep pushing for change.

In 2019, we continued creating communications to win over hearts and minds, spaces for defenders to come together and strategise, and opportunities to advocate our rights in international fora.

We also released and updated ground-breaking research on laws that affect us and on how human rights bodies are looking into our lived realities - including our *State-Sponsored Homophobia* report, an unprecedented guide on strategic litigation with the UN Treaty Bodies, and references to SOGIESC issues made by these bodies during the past few years.

And of course, the big highlight of 2019 for ILGA World itself was when our global family gathered together

for our World Conference in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand. Despite the world reeling from the tragedy that took place in Christchurch only three days before our opening ceremony, we managed to continue developing new ways of advocating for our rights, sharing our truths and our stories, and empowering our communities. Perhaps our connections were even stronger in the immediate face of that hate - connections that cut across religion, gender identity, race, gender, gender expression, nationality, sex characteristics, and sexual orientation.

At the conference, we were elected as the new Co-Secretaries General of ILGA World ushering in a new era of visibility for bisexual and trans women leadership from the Global South among international NGOs.

In just a few months, we had multiple occasions to witness once again just how resilient, creative and passionate our communities and our fellow human rights defenders are.

We saw the incredible work that you do to advance laws to protect and recognise our communities, and to provide immediate support to the most marginalised among us.

To all our members, we congratulate you on your work, and remind you all that we stand with you in our endless fight for love in the face of hate, unity in the face of division, peace in the face of violence, and diversity in the face of lesbophobia, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, interphobia, ageism, racism, sexism, ableism, hostility against indigenous communities, and all other forms of discrimination.

We will continue to advance towards full global decriminalisation, to focus and expand our research capabilities, to find new ways to engage with you - our members and stakeholders - and expand how we can collectively drive the vision and mission of ILGA World forward, towards that time and space where we

are all treated and recognised both legally and socially as being truly free and equal citizens of our planet Earth.

Finally, we want to thank and acknowledge the work of Ruth Baldacchino and Helen Kennedy, whose work and leadership as our former Co-Secretaries General we are most grateful for. We see you, we hear you, and we acknowledge your commitment to ILGA World and your work in protecting and promoting the human rights of all our LGBTIQ communities everywhere, everyday: a mission that you have passed on to us.

In solidarity,



Luz Elena Aranda - Tuisina Ymania Brown
Co-Secretaries General, ILGA World

Another year of triumph and adversity has passed, but through every challenge thrown at us in 2019, ILGA World has come out stronger. The globally coordinated campaign to have the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity renewed, our presence in international human rights bodies, the authoritativeness of our research and the reach it has on media outlets across the world are all testament to the resilience and impact of this organisation.

In the face of ongoing attacks against the human rights of those with diverse SOGIESC, our relationship with our membership has deepened as well as grown by 127 over the past year, reaching 1,622 organisations.

These members, supported by our six regions, are the true foundation of our movement. Through their activism, the global ILGA family is able to advance LGBTI human rights from the grassroots level all the way through to the United Nations and back again as we use multiple tools, fora and strategies to truly make the world a better place for LGBTI persons everywhere.



ph. Ben Buckland

I know that our family will prevail through the hardships and expand on the immense progress we have made in 2019

Throughout 2019, ILGA World has continued to offer institutional, strategic, and - where possible - financial support to our regional chapters to ensure we maintain impact on a global level and speak with a united voice in advancement of our rights.

ILGA-Europe, ILGA Asia and ILGALAC hosted their regional conferences, bringing together over a thousand human rights defenders of diverse backgrounds to share knowledge and strategise a way forward for these regional movements.

The global LGBTI family came together, too, as the celebrations for our 40th anniversary culminated in our World Conference in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand.

We spent an important week together, taking the opportunity to

sincerely listen to groups too often left invisible - even within a movement like ours, which must be built on inclusion. We were particularly struck by the unified call of the membership to support decriminalisation of sex work. Our members also voted-in candidates to a new part of our governance structures: five committees of activists from every region, helping ensure ILGA World's work on Bisexual, Intersex, Trans, Women and Youth issues are informed and led by these communities. Truly Queer Democracy in Action. Already in 2019 these committees started their work and the Chairs met together in Geneva in June 2019 to plan for the future.

Of course, writing from 2020 I would be hard-pressed to not mention the global Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected life in every country and severely impacted the advocacy work of our members. While many of the gatherings we had planned have had to be cancelled or postponed, we have worked on exciting ways for our global family to come together - including a series of roundtables and advocacy webinars, and a collection of resources for your remote working and well-being. We have been a platform for you to share positive messages for our communities, continued to conduct research and advocacy work in international fora, and to raise your voices on media worldwide. And we are at the frontlines reminding governments why Covid-19 relief efforts must be LGBTI-inclusive, and that any efforts to shape the world for the better after this crisis must not leave us behind.

We are still here. And we remind all of you that we are indeed in this together, and that we all should be operating in that spirit. That we need to keep looking out for each other, our communities, our neighbours and our planet.

Having been privileged enough to have met hundreds of our members in my time so far as Executive Director, I know that our family will prevail through

the hardships and expand on the immense progress we have made in 2019.

My personal thanks to ILGA World's staff, interns and to the ILGA World board and committee members, and to each and every member organisation and person who has helped contribute to a fairer, safer world.

In solidarity,

André'

André du Plessis
Executive Director, ILGA World



OUR 2019 WORLD CONFERENCE

Our global family never ceases to inspire us. Hundreds of LGBTI activists gathered in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand in March 2019 for our World Conference. We heard stories, crafted strategies, developed campaigns, and connected across our identities, regions, class, colours, abilities and age. It was a powerful moment of global movement-building!

Held under the theme of **Celebrate our past to liberate our future**, the [2019 ILGA World Conference](#) saw a number of historic moments for our organisation. Our global ILGA family had never gathered together in Oceania before, and our conference incorporated a strong Pacific indigenous influence in many of its

moments. For the first time, an ILGA World event hosted pre-conferences for LGBTI youth, indigenous peoples, and sex workers. The latter in particular prompted our movement to pass an historic resolution opposing all forms of criminalisation and legal oppression of sex work – an absolute first for us. This World Conference has really opened up spaces for the most marginalised and least visible communities in our global movement!

In Wellington we also celebrated the first 40 years of ILGA, allowing us to reflect on our journey thus far and on the road ahead. We thank Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand, Tiwhanawhana Trust

and RainbowYOUTH (our gracious host rōpū), and all our members for coming together and forging a path forward!

Sadly, the conference was also marked by the tragic attacks in Christchurch: the incidents took place just three days before we were bound to start, and shook us all to the core. We stand in solidarity and sorrow with the victims and their families, and we continue to commit ourselves to a world where all people can live free of the fear of violence and hate.

[Read more](#) about the 2019 ILGA World conference in our dedicated report!

A NEW NAME AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The 2019 ILGA World Conference has been a transformative experience for our members, and presented them a unique opportunity to participate in a global democratic process by voting to elect a new Board, amend existing policies, and update ILGA World's mandate.

In Wellington, our members voted to change our name from "ILGA" to "ILGA World": a small yet fundamental move to point out that our organisation is made by, and working for, our communities from all over the globe. It also helps distinguish the global federation from our six regions.

During the conference, a new strategic plan to guide our work until 2023 was adopted, and our new governance started to really come to life. The Steering Committees - continuing the work of our Secretariats - saw their first Chairs elected. Since then, each of them has joined the Executive Board, while coordinating a group of six more activists from ILGA members coming from every region. As a result, the beautiful diversity of our global family is represented when ILGA World discusses bisexual, intersex, trans, women, and youth issues!

"This is an enriching space, thanks to all the identities and dimensions that intersect in members of our community. ILGA has shaped my vision of the world"

Gloria Careaga Pérez



AT A GLANCE

120

sessions held

93

countries and territories represented

594

registered participants
(including 108 scholars)
from:

ASIA	13,1%
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	20,6%
AFRICA	11,8%
NORTH AMERICA	15,3%
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	7,7%
OCEANIA	31,5%

14%

of participants of indigenous/traditional identities

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL



Tuisina Ymania Brown
Pacific Human Rights Initiative
Samoa



Luz Elena Aranda
Teatro Cabaret Reinas Chulas AC
Mexico

BISEXUAL COMMITTEE CHAIR



Rāwā Karetai
Rainbow Lifestyle Protection
Aotearoa New Zealand

INTERSEX COMMITTEE CHAIR



Tony Briffa
Intersex Human
Rights Australia
Australia

TRANS COMMITTEE CHAIR



Jabulani Pereira
Irantl
South Africa

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CHAIR



Cristina González Hurtado
Corporación Femm
Colombia

YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIR



Martin Karadzhev
Metro Centre Ltd and LGBT
Consortium
United Kingdom

ILGA ASIA



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



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

ILGA NORTH AMERICA



Kimberly Frost
OUTreach
United States



Kimahli Powell
Rainbow Railroad
Canada

PAN AFRICA ILGA



Nnedinma Ulanmo
International Centre for Sexual
and Reproductive Rights
Nigeria



Nao Bouzid
Equality Morocco
Morocco

ILGALAC



Ari Vera Morales
Almas Cautivas
Mexico



Darío Arias
Conurbanes por la Diversidad
Argentina

ILGA OCEANIA



Phylesha Brown-Acton
Family, Identity, Navigate,
Equality (F'INE)
Niue

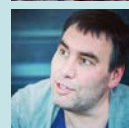


Mani Bruce Mitchell
ITANZ Intersex Trust
Aotearoa New Zealand

ILGA-EUROPE



Anastasia Danilova
Information Center
GENDERDOC-M
Moldova



Yves Aerts Jacobs
Çavaria
Belgium

ALTERNATE CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL



Barbra Wangare Muruga
EATHAN
Kenya



Nao Bouzid
Equality Morocco
Morocco

ILGA ASIA ALTERNATES



Ngo Le Phuong Linh
ICS Center
Viet Nam



Charbel Maydaa
Mosaic
Lebanon

ILGA NORTH AMERICA ALTERNATES



Marie-Pier Boisvert
Conseil québécois LGBT
Canada



Justin Tindall
It Gets Better
United States

PAN AFRICA ILGA ALTERNATE



Sheba Akpokli
Interfaith Diversity
Network of West Africa
Togo

ILGALAC ALTERNATES



Marlin González
Hombres y Mujeres Nuevos
de Panama
Panama

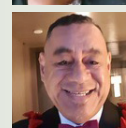


David Aruquipa - Danna Galán
CIADEC - Warmiruna
Bolivia

ILGA OCEANIA ALTERNATES



Bess Hepworth
Planet Ally
Australia



Ken Moala
Pacific Sexual & Gender
Diversity Network
Samoa

ILGA-EUROPE ALTERNATE



Annika Ojala
Seta - LGBTI Rights in Finland
Finland

* Board members and alternates as of 31 December 2019.
The latest members of the Board can be found [here](#).

In 2019, ILGA World said goodbye to various of its Board members and alternates. A big word of thanks to the following:

Board Members

Helen Kennedy (Co-Secretary General), Ruth Baldacchino (Co-Secretary General), Frank Arteaga (Manodiversa, Bisexual Secretariat), Miriam van der Have (NNID, Intersex Secretariat), Brenda Alegre, Mikee Inton, Charlese Saballe (STRAP, Trans Secretariat), Jessica St. Rose (United & Strong, Women's Secretariat), Mani AQ (ILGA Asia), Manisha Dhakal (ILGA Asia), Natasha Jiménez Mata (ILGALAC)

Board Alternates

Yahia Zaidi (Alternate Co-Secretary General), Hilde Vossen (LNB, Alternate Bisexual Secretariat), Morgan Carpenter (Intersex Human Rights Australia, Alternate Intersex Secretariat), Jay Mulucha (Fem Alliance Uganda, Alternate Trans Secretariat), Ana Francis Mor (Teatro Cabaret Reinas Chulas, Alternate Women's Secretariat)

Core to ILGA World's mandate is our advocacy work: throughout 2019, we continued mobilising support for SOGIESC issues globally, and assisted dozens of grassroots activists as they raised their voice at the United Nations to help bring change in their local communities.

We mainstreamed sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics concerns into many discussions at the Human Rights Council and stood in solidarity with other groups and movements, engaging directly with government representatives from around the world. We joined advocates worldwide to support a call to end to discrimination of women and girls in sports. With its reference to women born with variations of sex characteristics, the resulting resolution became an absolute first for the UN to address the rights of intersex people!

We organised three Advocacy Weeks around the Universal Periodic

Review, facilitating meetings between grassroots activists and representatives of 35 diplomatic missions, working collaboratively with COC Netherlands. In 2019, 324 SOGIESC recommendations were made to States under review, many of them reflecting language and priorities that human rights defenders helped bring to the forefront!

For the third year running, ILGA World also worked with APTN, GATE, RFSL and TGEU to host a week of advocacy on trans-specific issues. While in Geneva, they spoke at the Human Rights Council, and played a key role in the work that led to the renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert on SOGI.

Throughout the year, we continued to support human rights defenders as they advocated for SOGIESC issues at the UN Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures

– by providing ground-breaking tools for their advocacy, timely alerting them about engagement opportunities, or training them on how these mechanisms can be used to bring about change. We helped them draft their shadow reports and join thematic submissions to UN bodies, supported their engagement in Special Procedures' country visits and their travels to Geneva to attend UN sessions, and delivered statements on their behalf during interactive dialogues at the Human Rights Council.

Our advocacy work, however, does not stop in Geneva! During a historic meeting in Vatican City, we joined the call on the Roman Catholic Church to take action against the human rights violations faced by our communities. Throughout the year, we strengthened our work with the Sports and Rights Alliance to raise awareness about the barriers that keep our communities from fully participating on the field. We kept weaving networks to make sure that our communities are included in the global human rights discourse, making sure that even the most marginalised amongst us are heard. This is not merely about advocating for our communities – but *with* them.

ADVOCACY:

GRASSROOTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND BACK AGAIN



VICTORY AT THE UN WITH THE #RENEWIESOGI CAMPAIGN

In July 2019, States voted to renew the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on SOGI (IESOGI) for a further three years. This was a historic victory for our communities – one that could have not been reached without the work of 1,312 civil society organisations from 174 countries and territories who coordinated their advocacy and called on States to renew the mandate.

ILGA World played a key role in the global multilateral #RenewIESOGI campaign. Human rights defenders around the world advocated for the adoption of the resolution introduced by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay. A global media campaign was organised to show what the mandate can do for our communities, and what it has meant for the first three years of its existence. During the process, we witnessed States across the globe coming together to reject ten hostile amendments brought by a small group of countries: all ten voted down, one by one.

In the end, 27 States voted in favour of the renewal of the mandate, with 52 States from every region of the world co-sponsoring the resolution; 12 voted in opposition, and 7 abstained.

This represents an increase of 4 ‘yes votes’ and decrease of 6 ‘no votes’ since 2016, showing a clear trend of progress and impactful advocacy work. It is reassuring to witness that the international community is becoming both more aware and less tolerant of violence and discrimination on the basis of SOGI!

Notably, advocacy brought about significant regional change. In the UN African bloc, where there had been no votes in favour of the mandate in 2016, South Africa, Rwanda and Tunisia now voted ‘yes’, and Angola, Cameroon, Senegal, Togo and the Democratic Republic of Congo either abstained or

did not vote. In Asia and Oceania votes also shifted positively - with Fiji, Nepal, Japan and the Philippines supporting the renewal. In the Americas, we gladly noted the continued support of many Latin American countries, while the Bahamas became the first Anglophone Caribbean country to vote ‘yes’. In Europe, too, all but Hungary - which abstained - voted in favour. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation tried to continue a unified stance against the IESOGI, but with Tunisia and Albania openly breaking ranks significant inroads have been made in once-hostile regions.

The UN SOGI Expert is tasked with assessing the implementation of existing international human rights law, by talking to states, and working collaboratively with other UN and regional mechanisms to address violence and discrimination. Through the work of this mandate since 2016, the impact of criminalisation of same-sex relations and lack of legal gender recognition, the importance of data-collection specific to SOGI communities, and examples of good practices to prevent discrimination have been highlighted globally.

Since the mandate was created, its holders have formally visited Ukraine, Mozambique, Georgia and Argentina and worked to assess information received from at least 19 other countries. Ten reports, both on countries visited and a range of other intersecting topics, have been released. The work of the mandate has proven to be crucial, and ILGA World continues to actively engage with it: supporting civil society and the mandate itself in the preparation for country and other visits, providing inputs to reports, and using the recommendations made by the mandate in our own advocacy – contributing toward the expansion of human rights for persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

AT A GLANCE

70

countries in which we supported CSOs and human rights defenders to conduct advocacy work

26

statements delivered at the UN Human Rights Council

65

country missions engaged during the #RenewIESOGI campaign

100%

of countries represented at our UPR Advocacy Weeks received SOGIESC recommendations

75

consultations provided to human rights defenders on engaging with the UN Treaty Bodies

34

factsheets co-produced on UN Special Procedures and their work on SOGIESC issues

70

trans-led organisations engaged in various projects worldwide



This work has often paved the way towards change: countries have listened, made recommendations on issues that human rights defenders felt most pressing, and the follow-up work on the ground has made sure that those recommendations were implemented.

Through 2019, momentum around the decriminalisation of consensual same-sex relations had been building up in Bhutan. The country was also up for its Universal Periodic Review, and ILGA World supported human rights defenders coming to Geneva to raise the issue at the global level. Activists wanted international support to help Bhutan realise how criminalising provisions affect our communities in the country, and to push their many years of work over the finishing line.

This advocacy work resulted in 16 recommendations by UN member States to decriminalise and to take anti-discrimination provisions. All of these were accepted by Bhutan, and one month after the UPR, the country's National Assembly repealed two articles of the Penal code that criminalised same-sex relationships. Further developments on the issue are awaited soon.

REAL-WORLD RESULTS IN BHUTAN THANKS TO ACTIVISTS WHO USED THE UN UPR SESSIONS

Making
an impact

The Universal Periodic Review is a process allowing for member States to see their human rights record reviewed by fellow States on a cyclical basis, and for each of them to declare what actions they have taken to improve the situation in their countries.

Since 2015, with the support of different partners, ILGA World has organised advocacy weeks around this human rights mechanism: activists from countries up for review are given trainings and special access to diplomats from more than 20 supportive governments, who then make formal recommendations to the activists' home countries, helping local advocacy efforts.





LOOKING AHEAD:

2020 will see ILGA World continue to work alongside activists at the United Nations to advance their rights, and engage in international spaces to keep mobilising and advancing support for our communities.

As the Covid-19 pandemic hit, we started shifting our trainings towards online spaces, through a series of webinars and roundtables to help our members engage more effectively within the UN system. We also have worked with other NGOs to ensure that the UN and governments remain open to civil society in digital ways as we see physical shutdowns.

We will increasingly be connecting the global with the local, making sure that also the most marginalised communities amongst us – especially LBTIQ women – have the opportunities and the necessary tools to engage in international fora, mobilize global support and follow-up to make change happen on the ground.

“If the world is truly committed to leaving no one behind, it can’t shy away from addressing the violence and discrimination that we face. Laws criminalising our identities and actions are unjust and should no longer be tolerated”

Ryan Silverio, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

THROUGH TRAINING AND MENTORING

Our communities are our foundation: they are whom we work for, in global solidarity. We have been proud to stand by our member organisations for another year as they kept pushing for positive political, social and institutional change.

Speaking with just one voice that is able to reflect the beautiful diversity within our movement has always been a priority for ILGA World. Continuing on the work of our Secretariats, but aiming for have a larger and more geographically diverse representation, our Steering Committees took shape in 2019. Drawing on our democratic principles and a passion to combat the many issues facing our communities, they make sure that our whole global family is represented when ILGA World discusses bisexual, intersex, trans, women, and youth issues!

To better focus on the needs and experiences of marginalised parts of our community, in 2019 we also established programmatic work on intersex issues, supported by our first internship position focusing on sex characteristics.

Throughout the year, we also worked behind the scenes to keep the large ILGA family connected, ensuring the regional offices, regional boards

and World Steering Committees, Board and office are engaged with each other, and that ILGA elections at the world and regional level are run fairly, democratically and safely. All this is essential to ensure that the ILGA collective work can continue to change lives in ways that are fair, representative, and yet also specifically tailored to regional and population group realities.

**“Our diversity
is our strength!”**

*Luz Elena Aranda and
Tuisina Ymania Brown,
ILGA World*



REGIONAL CONFERENCES DEMONSTRATE STRONG GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

Beyond Wellington, our membership had more occasions to come together in 2019: three of our regions hosted their own conferences, each of them providing powerful moments to look into the most pressing issues facing communities on the ground, and to chart ways forward together.

For each of these, ILGA World has offered support, knowledge and presence by running workshops, ensuring members could vote, and connecting with grassroots human rights defenders, offering our support for their international advocacy work.

Over 300 human rights defenders from across Asia gathered in August

Making an impact

2019 in Seoul, South Korea. This was the largest ILGA Asia event so far, and an important one for many: “Sometimes I was overwhelmed by the feeling that I was working alone,” one participant told us. “But when I turned to Asia, I was able to learn first-hand that there could be any number of other possibilities. It helped me realise the importance of broader solidarity and networking”.

Two months later, over 600 defenders from Europe and Central Asia came together in Prague, Czech Republic. It was a large event under the theme “stronger together”, showing movement solidarity that respects our complex and diverse issues!

In November, almost 400 human rights defenders from Latin America and the Caribbean met in Bogotá, Colombia: this was the first ILGALAC conference to be hosted by a lesbian feminist organisation, and an occasion to reflect on the needs of a community who is battling every day against patriarchy, religious fundamentalism and a worrying rise in populist politics.



LOOKING AHEAD:

Supporting our global movement and bringing it together has always been what ILGA is about. Our work in 2020 had just begun, when the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to adapt to a new reality. Now more than ever, we are aware that our beautiful, diverse family needs each other's support in these challenging times. And while many of our events – including regional conferences – have had to be cancelled or postponed, our work continues: we have new ways for our global family to come together – from our series of roundtables and advoca-

cy webinars, to a collection of [remote working and well-being resources](#) and positive messages to raise the spirits of our LGBTI communities in this tough time ([have you already shared yours?](#)). We will conduct research to investigate how this pandemic is impacting our communities in the long run, and we will continue to support our member organisations as they keep conducting their advocacy work – for example, in their activities to [follow up on recommendations by the Human Rights Committee](#). Even in these unprecedented, challenging times, we are in this together!

AT A GLANCE

17

workshops and trainings held for human rights defenders worldwide

170

human rights defenders attended trainings around the world

3

regional conferences

1,200+

attendees at regional conferences

RESEARCH:

THE FOUNDATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED ACTIVISM

Research is a vital tool for the global movement's ongoing advocacy work. Our [State-Sponsored Homophobia report](#) remains one of our most cited publications, and is heavily utilised by mainstream media, international human rights bodies and local governments in their own reporting. In 2019 the report was expanded to include sections on international human rights law and more diverse voices offering their perspectives on their different regions.

A radical shift was marked also in [the way we map countries worldwide](#). Instead of looking at laws as a continuum from death penalty to marriage equality as we did in the past, we placed at the top those countries whose Constitutions include sexual orientation as a protected ground from discrimination.

More ground-breaking research was also produced in relation to UN

mechanisms: our new [Treaty Bodies Strategic Litigation Toolkit](#) offers readers unprecedented insight into engaging on SOGIESC issues with a UN mechanism that can be vital for human rights defenders to obtain justice after the exhaustion of domestic remedies. In the beginning of 2020, we also published the [review of Treaty Bodies' activities for 2017 and 2018](#) - showing how crucial they are to maintain focus on SOGIESC issues at the United Nations - and conducted research to inform thematic reports by Special Procedures - for example, looking into violence and discrimination faced by lesbian and bisexual women.

Research is a collaborative work, too: dozens of human rights defenders worldwide provided input to our work, and we did the same with other organisations as well, most notably for an important analysis of laws and practices that criminalise trans people worldwide.



“The decade indeed ends with mixed signals: while more countries are enacting robust protections for our communities, others are passing and enforcing laws that further restrict our human rights”

RAISING INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS IN WEST AFRICA THROUGH DEDICATED RESEARCH

Making an impact

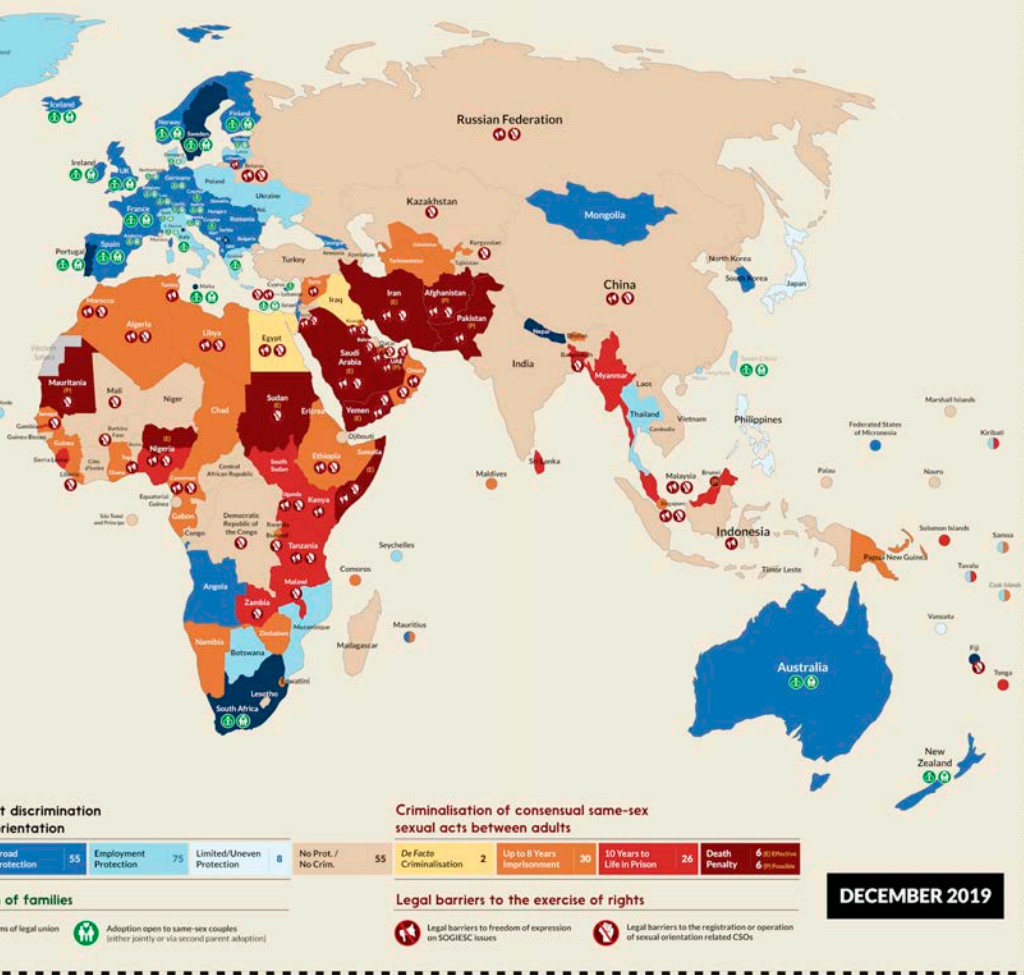
Research can unearth crucial news, travel miles, and have real impact. ILGA World witnessed it this year, as it highlighted how Gabon had criminalised same-sex sexual activity in July 2019. The West African nation had quietly passed regressive new legislation, until

the news was documented in ILGA World's update of the *State-Sponsored Homophobia* report in December. Within a ten-day period after the release, dozens of international news agency and media outlets covered the news, decrying the move and citing

ILGA World's research. As this report is published in 2020, Gabon has already decriminalised consensual same-sex sexual activity, probably making Gabon's criminalising provision the shortest lived law of its kind in modern history.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS IN THE WORLD - 2019

Anti-discrimination laws in the world to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation



AT A GLANCE

68

publications published in 4 languages

193

UN member States reviewed in two *State-Sponsored Homophobia* report updates

1st

first-ever *Strategic Litigation Toolkit* on SOGIESC issues at the UN Treaty Bodies produced!

LOOKING AHEAD:

No meaningful progress can happen without being backed up by credible data, and the voices of the communities it would affect: this is why ILGA World will continue producing research that will look into the multi-faceted realities of our communities. While a new report on laws worldwide banning 'conversion therapy' has been released in the first quarter

of 2020, garnering widespread media and political attention, the year will see also see a new edition of the *Trans Legal Mapping Report* – expanded to consider not only legal gender recognition processes, but also laws that criminalise trans identities – and more reports on how UN bodies are considering SOGIESC issues.

We will work to expand our media monitoring and documentations capabilities, and to better systematise our collection of socio-legal developments. This will prove invaluable to future research as well as monitoring the situations faced by our communities across the globe.

The way ILGA World communicates remains key to educating the public about our lived realities, and making our advocacy and research work accessible and useful for our communities on the ground.

2019 saw significant strides made in our capacity for public outreach and impactful campaigns. We relaunched the *LGBulleTIn*, our weekly newsletter of LGBTI news from the world – now also available in Spanish. At a time when the anti-rights rhetoric

is getting stronger and stronger, and many media outlets giving a platform to our communities are struggling to survive, we cannot give up spaces for LGBTI voices to be heard!

Working closely with our Steering Committees, we made sure to raise bisexual, intersex, trans, women and youth issues, with campaigns that involved our communities from across the world and made waves on social media.

Our communications work also played a vital role in the #RenewIESOGI process – joining forces with organisations worldwide to make sure that our multilateral campaign could respond to the questions of human rights defenders on the ground, highlight the importance of the mandate, and show the support it has from other international human rights bodies.

COMMUNICATIONS:

LETTING THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT US



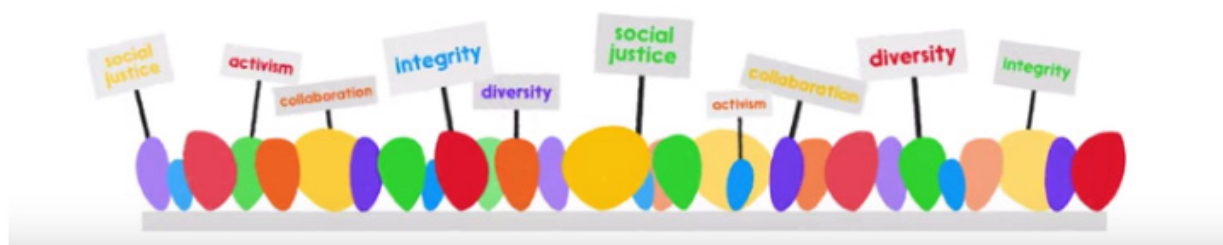
Happy International Lesbian Day!

Background vector created by freepik - www.freepik.com



We should thrive,
not just survive





A NEW VISUAL IDENTITY, IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY

A part of the celebrations for its 40th anniversary, ILGA World launched its new logo and visual identity. A new image, to better reflect what we are: a global organisation, united in our rainbow and regional diversity with true world-wide solidarity!

After the launch, work began on updating the ILGA World website to not only reflect the new look and feel, but also to ensure increased accessibility to our work. Research was initiated in 2019 into making the site more user-friendly to those living with disabilities - with particular focus on those with varying levels of visual impairment who may need audio assistance or adjustable screen contrast, font-size and colour settings to better read their device screens.

Our world map, which highlights how laws affect people on the grounds of their sexual orientation, also had its colour scheme altered to make it easier to read for persons with colour-blindness.

Making
an impact

LOOKING AHEAD

The way we communicate needs to serve our communities, first and foremost. This is why, in 2020 and for the years ahead, we look forward to putting the voices of those most marginalised amongst us front and centre, and to offering our membership more opportunities to engage with our work.

New, exciting projects await – including the launch of our first podcast, and of our toolkits to provide hands-on guidance on communications aspects that our membership will identify as most relevant to them. We also plan to improve our own digital security practices and continue making our work more accessible to people with disabilities.

Meanwhile, the work to assist our team will continue. With the Covid-19 pandemic impacting many of the in-person programmes and events on our calendar, the communications team's support is crucial in migrating our advocacy and trainings to online spaces.

AT A GLANCE

466,913

visits to the ilga.org website

4,003

articles in media worldwide mentioning our work

42%

follower increase across all social media

3,500

views of our most-viewed video on the occasion of [Trans Day of Remembrance](#)

OUR ILGA FAMILY

The full list of ILGA member organisations is available at ilga.org. The following pages of this report list member organisations and their regions as of 31 December 2019

129

NORTH AMERICA

Following a decision of the 2019 World Conference giving ILGA's Caribbean organisations the opportunity to join [ILGA North America](#), the region convened a meeting in Saint Lucia on how English- and Dutch- speaking member organisations in the Caribbean would engage more directly within ILGA.

ILGA North America convened its regional meeting at the March World Conference and held on-line Board elections in December 2019.

651

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

The new strategic plan of ILGA-Europe came into force in 2019, working [towards a strong, resourced, skilled, accountable and sustainable LGBTI movement](#). The region engaged widely with European courts and government bodies to ensure the respect of LGBTI human rights, and continued to document the legal and lived realities of our communities through its reports.

367

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In 2019, ILGALAC [strengthened both their team and key partnerships](#) - including with the Latin American Association of Criminal Law and Criminology, SAGE and Parliamentarians for Global Action amongst others. While working with the main human rights bodies in the region and providing programmatic support to 130 human rights defenders, they released key reports on LGBTI rights, focusing on older persons, access to justice and hate crimes.

227

AFRICA

[Pan Africa ILGA](#) worked throughout 2019 to build its own governance capacity and to support LGBTI human rights defenders in the continent, all the while putting its new strategic plan into action, engaging in UN spaces and working towards a more active role within the African Union. They also worked with ILGA Asia to build an unprecedented South-South initiative - a joint advocacy and security training to further develop in 2020.

1,622

member
organisations from

159

countries and territories
representing

6

regions

183
ASIA

[ILGA Asia](#) continued to support LGBTI activists in reporting human rights violations to UN mechanisms, and strengthened its communications and outreach strategy. The team also grew in numbers, allowing the region to expand its work on human rights training and advocacy support.

65

OCEANIA

The region welcomed ILGA World for the first time with the World Conference in Wellington - a historic occasion for the movement. During the year, [ILGA Oceania](#) also engaged in high-level discussions on legal reform, climate change and healthcare in the Pacific region, streamlined its communications and started preparing for its 2020 conference in New Caledonia.

OUR STAFF

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019



André du Plessis
Executive Director



Julia Ehrt
Director of Programmes



Natalia Voltchkova
Director of Finance and Support Services



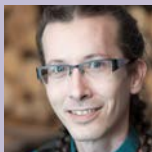
Kseniya Kirichenko
Senior Officer, Women
and UN Advocacy



Zhan Chiam
Programme Coordinator (Gender Identity
and Expression, Sport and Human Rights)



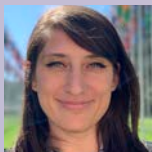
Lucas Ramón Mendos
Senior Research Officer



J. Andrew Baker
Senior Giving Officer



Daniele Paletta
Senior Communications Officer

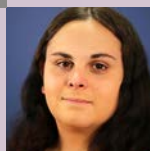


Paula Klik
Administrative Support Officer

INTERNS



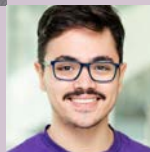
Andrea Ayala
Intern - UN Treaty Bodies and
Special Procedures



Kellyn Botha
Intern - Communications



Oscar Noel Fitzpatrick
Intern - Intersex people and
Sex Characteristics



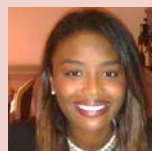
Enrique López de la Peña
Intern - Research

In 2019, ILGA World said goodbye to two persons who have been a key part of our staff for many years: **Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera**, who has led our work at the Human Rights Council and Universal Periodic Review, and **Senka Juzbasic**, who has engaged with our membership daily and provided key logistic and administrative support to our events. Their passionate work and expertise have been key to bringing ILGA World to a new level of excellence. We thank them for the years they spent with us!

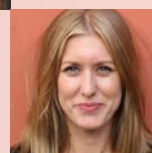
A special thanks goes to the 8 interns that have worked with us during the year.

In 2020, our team will grow again, and together we will continue to assist our global family as they conduct crucial work.

ALSO WITH US IN 2019



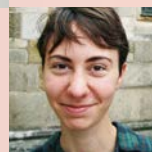
Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera
Senior UN Advocacy Officer



Senka Juzbasic
Senior Officer, Projects
and Support Services



Gabriel Galil
Intern - UN Human Rights
Council and UPR



Maria Ihler
Intern - UN Treaty Bodies
and Special Procedures



Zineb Oulmakki
Intern - Communications



Daryl Yang
Intern - Research

GET INVOLVED

DOES YOUR ORGANISATION WANT TO BECOME AN ILGA WORLD MEMBER?

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

It also gives the opportunity to advance the protection of LGBTI hu-

man rights, including at the United Nations where we can support your work or speak on your behalf. Members also have the opportunity to participate to ILGA regional and world conferences, widely recognised as the best spaces to meet potential partners for projects, share experiences and network.



DONATE!

Our communities have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in unique ways, and have become particularly vulnerable to being left behind. Every member organisation had to quickly focus on adjusting their strategies to the new realities of uncertainty and complexity. This will continue for months and possibly years to come.

Meanwhile, the work of our communities continues. It simply cannot stop. But we cannot do it without your support.

With a donation, you will help ILGA World support activists from across the world as they raise awareness of LGBTI human rights violations at the United Nations. You will back us as we keep conducting research into laws and attitudes affecting LGBTI persons around the globe, and on how international bodies consider their human rights. You will help us make our conferences, training programmes and advocacy campaigns sustainable.

**We are in this together, and only together can we bring about change.
We are here to do our part: will you chip in?**

Donate now!

BALANCE SHEET for years ending December 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019, CHF	2018, CHF
ASSETS		
Current assets	344,143	350,196
Non-current assets	13,256	13,255
Total assets	357,399	363,451
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	357,903	203,153
Non-current liabilities	--	--
Total liabilities	357,903	203,153
EQUITY		
Reserves from operations	--	185,000
Results from previous periods	(24,702)	(177,708)
Results for the year	24,198	153,006
Total liabilities & equity	357,399	363,451

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This summary is based on ILGA World's audited accounts for 2019 and 2018. The total operating expenses in 2019 was 2,829,706 CHF, while the total income in 2019 was 2,730,143 CHF. ILGA World ended 2019 with total results of 24,198 CHF after the use of free reserves accumulated in 2018.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES for year ending December 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019, CHF	2018, CHF
INCOME		
Core income	1,544,531	1,773,278
Project income	1,185,612	723,661
Total Income	2,730,143	2,496,939
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Operational capacity	1,423,891	1,217,030
Direct project costs	1,405,815	882,330
Total operating expenses	2,829,706	2,099,360
Operating results	(99,563)	397,579
FINANCIAL RESULTS		
Financial results	(61,240)	(59,572.6)
Results before allocations	(160,803)	338,006

STATEMENT OF ALLOCATIONS for year ending December 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019, CHF	2018, CHF
FREE RESERVE		
Allocation/ Use of reserve	185,000	(185,000)
Total results	24,198	153,006

ILGA World's 2019 *Annual Report*
was written by **Kellyn Botha**,
coordinated and edited by **Daniele Paletta**.
Additional edits by **Maddalena Tomassini**

Managed by **André du Plessis**

Spanish translation:
Paul Caballero - ILGALAC

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

This annual report covers the period from **1 January to 31 December 2019**

On the names of countries and territories in this publication

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



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

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

Join the conversation:

