



ILGA World - the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association is grateful for the support of its member organisations, staff, interns, 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, despite the unforeseen economic hardship bestowed upon everyone by the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, have committed to financially make our work possible in 2020.



We also thank one significant anonymous donor and many other companies and individuals who have made donations.

2020 AT A GLANCE

We kick off the year with new activities to support local organisations as they follow-up on LGBTI recommendations from the Treaty Bodies. Throughout 2020 ILGA World and our allies made sure to keep raising queer voices at the [United Nations!](#)

JANUARY

We launch an extensive global research into laws banning '[conversion therapies](#)'. Protection from similar ineffective and cruel treatment is as urgent as ever!

FEBRUARY

MARCH

As everything turns virtual, our communities remain connected: ILGA World holds its first-ever online Board meeting, and hosts roundtables discussing the impact and response to the Covid-19 pandemic among LGBTI organisations.

APRIL

The world comes to a grinding halt as the Covid-19 pandemic erupts. Even during these difficult days, we have continued to support our global family with our [#inthisogether campaign](#), offering wellbeing and practical resources, stories of LGBTI organisations at the frontlines of providing support to our communities on the ground, a series of advocacy webinars, and a postcard initiative to raise the spirits of our LGBTI communities in this tough time.

MAY

We celebrate an important anniversary: 30 years ago, the World Health Organization finally decided to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. We bring our global family together with a campaign to break the silence on LGBTI-phobia, and say loud and clear: "[We are here!](#)".

JUNE

We take part in [Global Pride](#), an unprecedented event reaching more than 57 million viewers over 24 hours. To celebrate this historic happening, we launch our [World Map on Sexual Orientation laws](#) in 20 languages.

JULY

We rejoice with our global community, as [Sudan](#) abolishes the death penalty for consensual same-sex relations, and [Gabon](#) decriminalises them.

As many interactions moved into the virtual world, many LGBTI persons have experienced particular isolation and vulnerability due to the [digital divide](#). We addressed this during RightsCon 2020, the leading conference on human rights in the digital age.

AUGUST

We celebrate International Youth Day, and we continue to remind the world that LGBTI youth voices need to be heard. During the year, we collaborated with the UN Envoy on Youth, and saw [LGBTI youth appointed in two key initiatives](#) by the United Nations.

SEPTEMBER

Amidst backlash and attacks on trans communities worldwide, we release our latest [Trans Legal Mapping Report](#), detailing the impact of laws and policies on trans persons in 143 UN member States across the globe.

OCTOBER

In a historic step forward, 36 States from all regions of the world [call on the UN Human Rights Council to urgently protect intersex persons](#) in their bodily autonomy and right to health.

Meanwhile, our communities come together for the [International Intersex Virtual Forum](#), and for two online ILGA regional conferences for [Oceania](#) and [Europe & Central Asia](#).

NOVEMBER

Time to announce the theme of our next World Conference: we'll convene in May 2022 in LA Long Beach, United States, under the banner [LGBTIQ youth: future present change!](#)

Joining LGBTI, feminist and disability organisations, we co-organise a [historic event](#) during the Conference of State Parties on the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

DECEMBER

As 2020 comes to an end, [our latest State-Sponsored Homophobia report](#) paints a vivid picture of the progress and setbacks that happened across the world during the year.

Dear friends,
On behalf of the ILGA World Board, we are honoured to share the 2020 Annual Report with you, which details one year in our work to bring our global LGBTIQ family together during one of the most trying times in our recent history.

The past year has challenged us like never before, to show what we really mean when we talk about “community”. 2020 has been a time of adapting to an uncertain “new normal”, of solidarity, of shaping the future that we want to see for ourselves and our communities. *“We made it through these difficult times”* even when everything around us seemed to crumble as Covid-19 added to the systemic violence and discrimination that LGBTIQ people worldwide continue to face every day.

We know that this year has been a heavy blow for many LGBTIQ persons. People have lost jobs, income, businesses, homes, support groups, family and loved ones. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected our communities and our organising capacity deeply. Human rights groups found themselves struggling to survive. Standing at the frontlines, activists had to contend with burnout and isolation, as mandatory border closures and lockdowns ensue. Major events and Pride celebrations around the world were suspended. Safe spaces dramatically shrunk overnight. Youth were forced back into the homes they had left, at times being confronted with the same hostility they had escaped from. And Governments used this pandemic state of emergency to further scapegoat our commu-

nities, and enforce state-sanctioned human rights violations to continue to oppress and discriminate against our communities.

At times, it felt like we had nothing but ourselves to rely on - our global solidarity, the alliances we have woven, our resilience, the support we’ve gone the extra mile to give to those around us. 2020 may have been a year we’ll never forget, but it has also reminded us of what a real community is made of:

the power of being there for each other when we need it the most, and of bringing others close even when physically forced apart!

To all in our LGBTIQ community, thank you for turning up, for standing side by side, for being a passionate leader that continues to push for change. You make our global family better.

Amidst all this, in 2020 ILGA World rose to the occasion and adapted its work to continue supporting our global community. We helped them raise LGBTIQ voices in international fora. We released and updated ground-breaking research on laws that affect us and on how human rights bodies are looking into our lived realities. We brought people together virtually, to build their capacity and strategise together. We continued to create communications to win over hearts and minds.

When we work together, we bring about change, and even 2020 gave us reasons to celebrate! Sudan abolished the death penalty for consensual same-sex relations, and



ph. ILGALAC

Gabon decriminalised them. Similar provisions were voted in Bhutan and came into force in Angola. For the first time, 36 States called on the UN



Despite these victories, we know that our work towards equality is not done yet, and we will keep being there for each other in many resilient and creative ways. We can't wait to be physically reunited, and we are working hard for this to happen at the 2022 ILGA World Conference in LA Long Beach, California, United States!

Finally, we want to thank André du Plessis over the years, for he has taken ILGA World to unprecedented heights in its work for our communities everywhere. As he will step down from his role as Executive Director later in 2021, we know that he will leave ILGA World in a very strong position to continue growing in our capacity to represent our global movements.

In solidarity,

Luz Elena Aranda and Tuisina Ymania Brown
Co-Secretaries General

Human Rights Council to urgently protect intersex persons' bodily autonomy and right to health. The Netherlands' government announced it

would apologise and provide compensation to people who were required to undergo forced medical interventions to access legal gender recognition.

2020 has been a year like no other: the Covid-19 pandemic has affected life everywhere, and ILGA World was no exception. When the emergency clearly became global, we quickly moved to adapt our work to continue supporting our communities worldwide.

At a time of forced distancing, “we are #InThisTogether” became more than just a public campaign: it solidified as the guiding principle to all our work. Our staff made sure to remain closely connected from their home desks, supporting each other’s wellbeing through virtual coffee breaks and periodic check-ins. Our Board continued to lead our global family, at times connecting over 20 different time zones!

We had to make difficult decisions: many of the gatherings we had planned have had to be cancelled or postponed, including our next World Conference – now scheduled for May 2022 in LA Long Beach, California, United States. ILGA World is a global family, and our family needed – and will continue to need – each other’s support as we navigate this global struggle.

Knowing that the pandemic would have impacted the work of our members, we worked on new ways for them to come together – including a series of roundtables and advocacy webinars, and a collection of resources for their remote working and wellbeing. We were a platform for the world to share positive messages



ph. Ben Buckland

for our communities, and continued to engage with international fora and media to make sure LGBTI voices were represented amid the global crisis.

This solidarity and support strengthened the relationship within the ILGA World membership, and we saw it grow to 1,682 organisations and counting, from more than 160 countries and territories worldwide.

These members, supported by our six regions, are the true foundation of our movement. Through their activism, the global ILGA family advances LGBTI human rights from the grassroots level to the United Nations and back.

Throughout 2020, ILGA World offered institutional, strategic, and financial support to our regions and together have ensured that regional and international levels have impact on, and are informed by, communities on the ground. Despite the challenging year, ILGA-Europe and ILGA Oceania held virtual conferences to share knowledge, strategise a way forward for the region, and elect their representatives.

At the ILGA World office, we streamlined our internal processes to liaise with our membership, and established new procedures on procurement and travel, with whistleblowing and anti-corruption policies to follow. And we created a new Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sex Characteristics (GIESC) programme

to streamline all the work that ILGA World does on these issues.

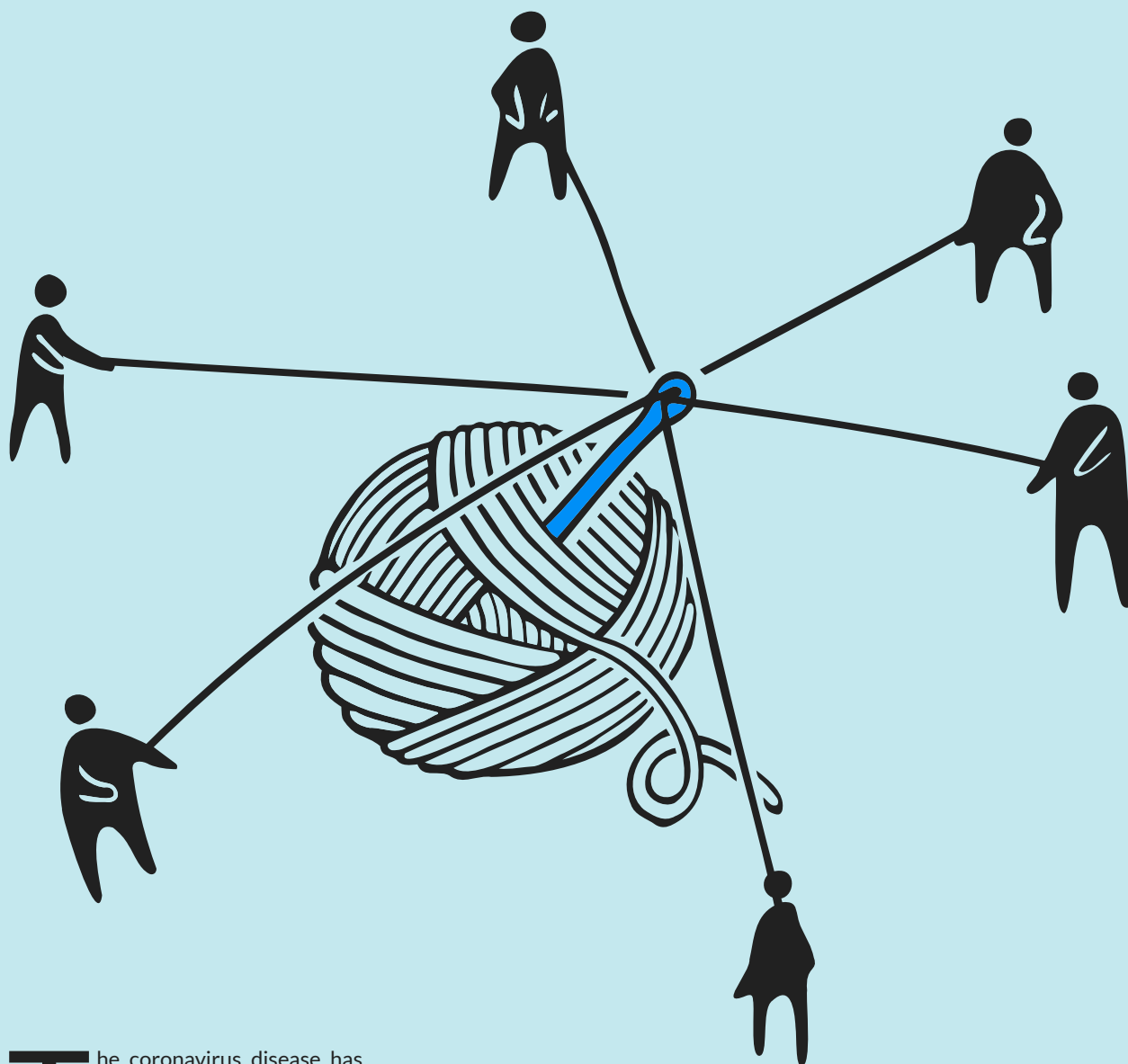
This is the last time I am prefacing this kind of report. After eight years in this organisation, I have made the decision to move on to a new chapter in my life in 2021. I have had the privilege to at first lead our United Nations programme, and then to serve as the Executive Director of this diverse organisation, one that is truly making an impact. The people I've met, the triumphs we shared, the losses we mourned, and the hope that carries us all forward will be with me forever. My personal thanks to all ILGA World people past and present – my fellow staff members, Board and Committee members, interns, consultants – and to each and every member organisation and person who has left a mark in our collective struggle. I can't wait to see what the future has in store for this organisation, our communities and the world. I know we will prevail.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "André".

André du Plessis
Executive Director

FACING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN GLOBAL SOLIDARITY



The coronavirus disease has created seismic shifts in the world. The everyday lives of billions of people were transformed overnight, and concerns were raised since day one on the gaps in mechanisms to protect vulnerable groups. LGBTI communities quickly began to experience how new dis-

ruptions were going to intersect with all-too-familiar discrimination and social exclusion. And while individuals started to struggle to survive in a world that rapidly became more unequal and violent, human rights

organisations, such as ILGA and our members, continued to go the extra mile to be there for LGBTI people everywhere.

As international human rights bodies saw their usual course of work disrupted, we found new ways to engage with them. As activist training at conferences was no longer an option, ILGA World quickly organised a series of advocacy webinars. We continued to convene our global family, in a series of roundtables to discuss the impact on Covid-19 on our communities, and to start imagining the change we will want to see in the world once the pandemic will be over at last.

As Covid-19 rightly dominated every conversation, we ensured the voices of our communities were heard. We told the stories of activists from China, Spain and the United States, each of them trying to support LGBTI people on the ground at the best of their capacity. We mobilised the world to bring words of hope, made digital postcards out of them, and created an outpour of positive messages for our communities on social media in the darkest days of the pandemic. We also provided lists of resources that could be accessed: not only tools for remote working, but also lists of queer-themed books, podcasts, shows, movies and music for people to combat isolation. Even small gestures can make the difference!

Throughout the pandemic, ILGA World has been called to make difficult choices, postponing occasions for our communities to come together – including our World Conference, which had to be moved from November 2021 to May 2022. And yet, we

have remained at the frontlines helping governments ensure Covid-19 relief efforts are LGBTI-inclusive: ILGA World coordinated 187 organisations from across the world to draw the attention of the Human Rights Council to the situation of our communities.

The pandemic is still not over, but one thing is clear: any efforts to shape the world for the better after this crisis must take stock of what our communities are going through, and not leave us behind. To this end, ILGA World is coordinating a collective of global LGBTI organisations to develop a global research documenting the longer-term effects of the pandemic upon people of diverse SOGIESC and their organisations. An important undertaking, whose results will be released over the next months.



1
global #InThisTogether campaign

10
virtual events for the #InThisTogether, connected series

187
organisations coordinated at the Human Rights Council over LGBTI people and Covid-19 response

WE ARE HERE: ADVOCACY IN A TIME OF DISRUPTION



Compared to forty years ago when ILGA was created, LGBTI activists are now present in nearly every human rights forum. Hearing their experiences has helped UN agencies, regional bodies and governments recognise the duty to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of our communities.

The Covid-19 pandemic, however, disrupted the usual course of advocacy, and forced human rights mechanisms to rethink how they operate. In 2020, the United Nations suspended the 64th Commission of the Status of Women; several sessions

of Treaty Bodies were postponed, and others were held online; country visits by Special Procedures were rescheduled. Inevitably, this had an impact on NGOs. ILGA World however managed to rapidly adapt its work, and found ways to support our global LGBTI family in this uncertain time.

We kept being there for grassroots human rights defenders in new digital ways, building their capacity through webinars and roundtables. Meanwhile, we raised queer voices at the United Nations to help bring change on the ground.

At the Human Rights Council, we led a coalition of 187 organisations

who showed how the pandemic has impacted LGBTI communities. ILGA World also continued to carve out spaces for those who face multiple hurdles of discrimination: we remembered the experiences of LGBTI people of colour during an urgent debate on racial discrimination and police brutality in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd in the USA; we raised the voices of trans indigenous women from Latin America, as they called on States to eradicate violence and discrimination faced by them. Joining LGBTI, feminist and disability organisations, we co-organised a historic event during the Conference of State Parties on the CRPD, where LGBTI people with disabilities raised awareness about their lived realities.

With no travel, we continued to work with partner organisations for our advocacy weeks – only, in different formats than the usual. We organised two Advocacy Weeks around the [Universal Periodic Review](#), facilitating meetings between grassroots activists and representatives of more than 30 diplomatic missions. In 2020, 313 SOGIESC recommendations were made to States under review, many of them reflecting language and priorities that human rights defenders had helped bring to the forefront. Similarly, we also co-hosted the fourth [Trans Advocacy Week](#), which in 2020 became a series of online events to connect trans activists with diplomatic missions and UN bodies in Geneva.

Using the UN Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, we fine-tuned our publications to better support future advocacy, trained activists on how these mechanisms can be used to bring about change, and continued to alert LGBTI defenders about international engagement opportunities.

We helped them draft their reports and submissions to UN bodies, and then supported them as they delivered statements during dialogues at the Human Rights Council. ILGA World also provided technical and financial support to organisations from six countries working on [follow-up recommendations made by the UN Human Rights Committee](#).

During the year, we also participated in several consultations and provided inputs for the guidelines on comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation by the OHCHR and Equal Rights Trust.

Our advocacy work goes beyond the United Nations. In 2020 we scaled-up our efforts to accelerate LGBTI equality and inclusion in the workplace, and joined corporations, civil society, and human rights bodies in the [Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality](#).

Sports and LGBTI persons is also an area where we work amid a new stream of regulations excluding trans and intersex athletes. We also started to work with human rights groups from the Gulf and FIFA in the run-up to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Our membership in the [Sports and Rights Alliance](#) and the [Centre for Sport and Human Rights](#) helps us raise awareness at the highest levels on the challenges for LGBTI persons in the world of sports.

The pandemic presented – and continues to present – huge challenges and opportunities for human rights. It has shown that our world needs change now more than ever. LGBTIQ youth are key to this.

In 2020, the Chair of ILGA World's Youth Committee was appointed to represent young LGBTIQ voices in [two landmark UN initiatives](#). ILGA World has also joined efforts to create a unique global platform for queer youth activists to be connected – the [Global Queer Youth Network](#) – that has been launched in 2021, leading up to a series of online dialogues and a forum that we'll co-organise with the UN Secretary-General Envoy on Youth. LGBTIQ youth are our future. They are also our present. And together we can change the world.

AT A GLANCE



22

statements at the UN Human Rights Council

30

permanent missions to the UN that activists could connect with during UPR Advocacy Weeks

45

trans- and intersex-led organisations engaged in various projects worldwide

82

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

40

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

Raising intersex voices at the United Nations

MAKING AN IMPACT

Civil society has worked for years to help create a society where intersex people's rights are recognised. Activists continue to highlight how being denied their bodily autonomy has deep impacts on intersex people's health outcomes, education and employment opportunities, as well as their possibility to compete in sports - often without even being able to access remedies and justice. Slowly but surely, the world has begun to listen.

ILGA World has long stood by intersex communities worldwide, and our support helped the movement reach new, historic moments in 2020. A ground-breaking report of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights on discrimination on the grounds of gender and race in sports opened further possibilities to highlight human rights violations against intersex people.

Together with intersex-led groups, we hosted a discussion at the United Nations on how the international human rights framework can better support persons with diverse sex characteristics. The coordinated inputs and advocacy efforts resulted in a landmark governmental statement: in October 2020, Austria and 35 more States from all regions of the world called on the UN Human Rights Council to urgently protect intersex

persons in their bodily autonomy and right to health.

For the first time, a group of States joined forces to speak up: "Governments should investigate human rights violations and abuses against intersex people, ensure accountability, reverse discriminatory laws and provide victims with access to remedy."

Civil society also spoke up: on that occasion, we coordinated 34 organisations to welcome this States' initiative, and encouraged them to "take further action in protecting intersex persons' autonomy and rights to health".

In December 2020, we supported VIMÖ, and intersex organisation from Austria, in their first engagement with the Universal Periodic Review, resulting in 6 intersex-specific recommendations to their country, which we expect will turn into actual change in Austria.

Building on the ever-growing engagement with intersex communities, and expanding on our commitment to trans people's rights, in 2020 we also created the Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sex Characteristics (GIESC) programme to streamline all the work that ILGA World does on these issues. We know that violence,

discrimination, and prejudice against persons of diverse SOGIESC have a common cause: the cis-endosex-heteronormative, ableist, cultural, medical, and social model in which gender and sex are perceived as binary, mutually exclusive, medically normative, or a consequence of a person's particular body.

We look forward to further expanding our work in the field, and dismantle prejudice.



Looking ahead:

We are all wondering what the new normal will be like once the Covid-19 pandemic will ease its grip. But one thing is for certain: ILGA World will 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.

We have many things in store for our global family in 2021: we will continue to lift the voices of queer youth

and other populations who remain at the margins, expanding our work at the intersections of LGBTI, disability, and racial discrimination. ILGA World's programmes team will grow to better support people with diverse sex characteristics in their advocacy efforts. We'll develop an online academy for human rights defenders wishing to engage with UN mechanisms, building capacity even if Covid-19 should continue to physically force us apart. Because we are, and will be, in this together, pushing for a better future for all.



CONNECTED AND READY TO ENGAGE: EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES



Our heart, our backbone, our collective wisdom, and more: this is what our member organisations are. Keeping our global family connected during a pandemic was a challenge that 2020 imposed on us: how does a community that has already historically struggled with isolation come together in global shutdown?

We responded in solidarity and creativity, inviting our member organisations into newly created online spaces: throughout 2020, [ILGA World's advocacy webinars and virtual roundtables](#) brought together LGBTI human rights defenders and allies from across the globe, knowing all too well that our collective struggle towards equality cannot stop.

Advocacy weeks and trainings resumed online: ILGA World organised more than 20, bringing togeth-

er 600 human rights defenders. The 5th International Intersex Forum – originally scheduled for March 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand and then [postponed](#) – became a virtual event with six regional gatherings, and four global events.

ILGA World was also there in [Global Pride](#), an unprecedented celebration of our communities that reached more than 57 million viewers from across the world over 24 hours: a beautiful way to gather our collective strength and take it with us during these unprecedented times.

Meanwhile, our [Steering Committees](#) continued to connect bisexual, intersex, trans, women and youth populations, strengthening communities and making sure their voices reach decision-makers globally.

In [Oceania](#), as well as in [Europe and Central Asia](#), ILGA regions brought together hundreds of human rights defenders for their online conferences. These were powerful moments to explore what is at stake for our movement in diverse parts of the world, and identify ways forward.

Beyond rainbows: getting business to promote inclusion and respect

Over the years, the United Nations has made clear that the private sector has a duty to respect all internationally recognised human rights, and developed standards of conduct for it to tackle discrimination against LGBTI people. But are things really improving? And how can business truly promote inclusion and respect - not only with its Pride month rainbows and support, but throughout the year?

We know how our communities are deeply entrenched in social and economic exclusion: the impact of the pandemic has only made the situation worse, and it is as urgent as ever to address what the private sector can do to support LGBTI human rights.

Looking ahead:

Supporting our global movement and bringing it together has always been what ILGA is about. In 2021 we will continue to empower our communities through training and mentoring, and we are working to develop new, exciting digital tools for this to happen.

Meanwhile, we can't wait to meet you in person again: the journey towards the next ILGA World Conference has begun! From 2 to 6 May 2022, our global family will gather in LA Long Beach, California,

MAKING AN IMPACT

In 2020, ILGA World joined forces with Stonewall and Human Rights Campaign, and brought together civil society, corporations, trade unions and international organisations to address LGBTI equality in the workplace and with business. In an online event attended by over 700 persons, stakeholders shared best practices and discussed the legal framework established by international human rights law.

A much-needed conversation, showing once more that attitudes towards LGBTI people and regulations impacting on their lives cannot be changed by governments alone. Be it through funding, advocacy in the public sphere, or by adopting inclusive policies, businesses can foster diversity and help advance equality, both in the workplace and in the communities where they operate.

United States, for an event hosted by the It Gets Better Project under the theme **LGBTIQ Youth: Future Present Change**.

We are taking every health precaution in the preparation of the conference, and have contingency measures in place should travel remain unsafe or impossible, but after an incredibly difficult 2020, it will be a joy to be reunited at last, rekindle our spirit, and highlight queer youth voices as a part of leading the change we want to see in the world!



AT A GLANCE

600

LGBTI human rights defenders
trained in virtual workshops

12

training sessions led by, or directed
towards, marginalised groups

1,600+

organisations receiving notifications
on deadlines to engage in UN fora

95%

of attendees found our trainings
beneficial to build their advocacy
capacity on Treaty Bodies and
Special Procedures

16

organisations engaged in UPR
advocacy weeks

RESEARCH: WORKING TOGETHER TO LET THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT US



In an era of fake news, or alleged fake news, meaningful progress on LGBTI human rights can only happen when accurate and reliable information – combined with the voices of our communities – casts a light on the inequalities that we keep facing.

ILGA World continues to publish landmark reports to let the world get the facts about us: year after year, our publications have proven to be reliable sources used by mainstream media, international human rights bodies and local governments in their own reporting.

In 2020 we developed new tools to monitor situations on the ground and how criminalising laws are enforced. This new flow of data allowed

us to significantly expand the content of our research. For the first time, the update to the Global Legislation Overview section of our [*State-Sponsored Homophobia report*](#) also included an analysis of the legal frameworks of all non-independent territories. It also included a special focus on UN member States that have the death penalty as the legally prescribed punishment for consensual same-sex sexual acts.

The scope of our [*Trans Legal Mapping Report*](#) was also expanded, tracking not only provisions around legal gender recognition, but also those that criminalise trans identities – revealing that so-called ‘cross dressing’ regulations are only a small part of a much

wider range of laws used to target them. A ground-breaking [*report on laws that ban ‘conversion therapy’*](#) – our first on the topic – ended up being widely cited, including in the thematic report on the issue presented by the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

More research was also produced in relation to UN mechanisms. We worked with ISHR to examine the work of [*40 UN Special Procedures on SOGIESC issues*](#) over the last nine years, and published the reviews of Treaty Bodies’ activities for [*2017*](#), [*2018*](#) and [*2019*](#): this is a wealth of information that activists use in their international work.

Providing tools to combat 'conversion therapy'

MAKING AN IMPACT

For centuries, many in our communities have been told that we need to be changed. Attempts to turn us into people we are not are still being imposed onto us. Thankfully, more voices are speaking up against so-called 'conversion therapy'.

In 2020, ILGA World released an extensive global research into laws, rules and regulations to ban attempts to alter a person's gender expression, gender identity or sexual orientation.

The publication showed that despite national bans on these therapies being enacted in only four UN member States so far, the situation is rapidly evolving: more restrictions are now on the books at the subnational level, and similar bills have recently been introduced in national legislative bodies in at least 10 countries.

The report - aptly titled *Curbing Deception* - ended up being widely cited by media and in more publications across the world, including in the the-

matic report by the UN Independent Expert on SOGI calling for a global ban on the practice.

Protection from these ineffective and cruel 'treatments' is as urgent as ever: to help turn analysis into advocacy, the report also included a summary of key allies, as well as of legal and public policy tools available to combat these harmful practices: a practical toolbox that activists, survivors, and grassroots organisations can use to continue pushing for change.

Looking ahead:

We know how important it is for human rights defenders to have the key information to-hand for their advocacy, and for the world to get the facts right about how laws and attitudes impact the daily lives of LGBTI people.

After months of rethinking, ILGA World developed innovative tools to obtain daily updates on legal developments and human rights situations from across the world. These proactive methods will bring new energy into our research work, which will continue looking into the intersectional realities of our communities. We will also continue to report on how UN bodies are considering SOGI-ESC issues.

Making information easily available to our communities worldwide is crucial for their advocacy work: we'll continue our work on establishing a digital database that will be launched in 2022, allowing users to access immense amounts of relevant data in an interactive way.

Moreover, we launched the translations to Russian and French of our Treaty Bodies Strategic Litigation toolkit, which is now available in four languages!

During the year, we also updated our practical guide for human rights defenders advocating for gender identity and gender expression issues with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), and engaged with communities on the ground to inform thematic reports by Special Procedures - for example, collecting data and reports on how rape and sexual violence are used to violate the rights of lesbian and bisexual women, as well as of trans and intersex persons.

All this work cannot be done in isolation: dozens of human rights defenders worldwide provided input to our investigations. *Nothing about us without us* is a guiding principle of our credible, collaborative research.

AT A GLANCE

75

publications released

45

new jurisdictions mapped in the *State-Sponsored Homophobia* report, in addition to 193 UN member States

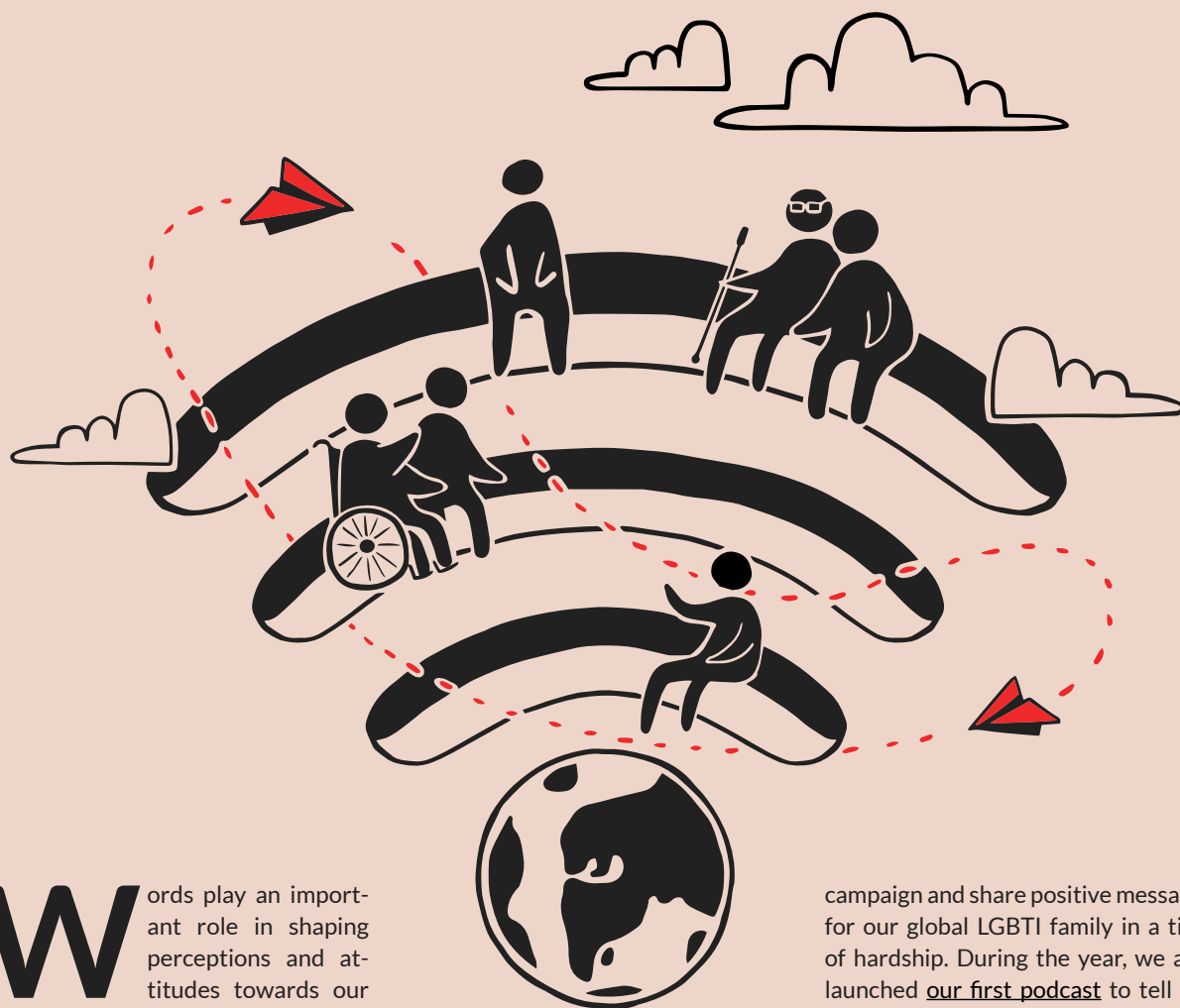
20

languages the Sexual orientation laws map in the world was translated in

35

researchers and human rights defenders consulted for our publications

COMMUNICATIONS: MAKING WORDS MATTER



Words play an important role in shaping perceptions and attitudes towards our communities, and ILGA World continues to make sure that thoughtful, grounded, and inclusive LGBTI voices are heard as they speak their truth. Now more than ever, communications are key for our global movement to disprove the narratives of anti-rights forces, who often rely on misinformation to perpetuate stereotypes and spread moral panic.

During the year, we connected with journalists from leading media outlets worldwide, as well as contributed to numerous publications,

exposing a potential readership of hundreds of millions to LGBTI-respectful perspectives, stories, and data.

Knowing the concrete risk of further marginalisation for our communities amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, we made sure to share their stories of resilience, but also to provide them with resources and words of relief, inviting people to take part in a postcard

campaign and share positive messages for our global LGBTI family in a time of hardship. During the year, we also launched our first podcast to tell the stories of LGBTI human rights defenders worldwide, and produced a short movie to mark the 75th anniversary of the UN and show how it has contributed to advancing the rights of our communities over the years.

We also conducted multiple awareness-raising campaigns that made waves on social media, working collaboratively with our bisexual, intersex, trans, women and youth Steering Committees, and in consultation with activists from our member organisations.

MAKING AN IMPACT

How LGBTI people are overcoming the digital divide

In a year where so much turned digital, the fact that many people around the world simply cannot access information online became a glaring reality. This digital divide is a truly intersectional issue linked with poverty, literacy, telecommunications infrastructure in rural or island areas, and much more. In 2020, as almost all queer community interactions moved into the virtual world, many LGBTI persons who cannot access the internet experienced isolation and vulnerability. In non-pandemic times, when access is theoretically available, State-censorship, surveillance, repressive so-called “anti-pornography laws”, and a unique exposure to hate speech and threats can drive our communities away from virtual spaces.

Research on the topic is still largely missing, and in 2020 ILGA World began to investigate the unique ways in which these barriers are affecting LGBTI persons - and what grassroots communities are already doing to reach the least connected.

Bringing together activists from China, Uganda, Samoa, and South Africa, we addressed this issue during RightsCon 2020, the leading conference on human rights in the digital age: the session was listed among the event's highlights, and it has also marked the starting point of a dedicated project at ILGA World – including research and support to those with digital-access challenges that will be rolled out over the coming years.

Looking ahead:

We know how important it is for human rights defenders to use the resources that we offer, and that we do not create barriers because of how we communicate about them.

In 2021, we will focus on the access to information. We will raise awareness of digital divide issues and LGBTI persons with our first publication on the matter, and work with people with disabilities and consultants for a long-term plan to remove accessibility barriers to our website, social media, and audio-visual materials. We will also survey our members to understand how to make our communications more effective, and to identify aspects that are particularly relevant for them, so that we can provide hands-on guidance on these issues.

AT A GLANCE



481,556

visits to the ilga.org website

62,258

downloads of reports and publications from our website

3,378

articles in media worldwide mentioning our work

50%

of media coverage from Global South countries

+24%

follower increase across all social media

OUR ILGA FAMILY

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

After consultations held with Caribbean-based member organisations that joined the region, ILGANAC began developing a new governance structure, and welcomed two new members of its regional Board following online elections. Meanwhile, it started a new project to build capacity of members based in Canada, and strengthened its communications to better inform organisations about engagement opportunities and other activities.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In 2020, ILGALAC focused on supporting the grassroots work of member organisations with #AyúdanosAyudar - a regional programme that included weekly webinars and initiatives to help them navigate confinement measures. It also published an exclusive compilation of documents called *Coronapapers* - articles written by LGBTI activists from all over Latin America covering issues related to the impact of the pandemic. In addition, it also launched *Crímenes de Odio* - the first major output of its Observatory on Violence against LGBTI people: its launch was one of the most important LGBTI events in the region, bringing together the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, and more international human rights experts.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

As the Covid-19 pandemic broke, ILGA-Europe launched its 'Protect, Adapt and Rally' plan to support LGBTI organisations in the region, continued facilitating exchange of learning among activists, and created the "No One Left Behind" fund to support the movement's capacity building. Moreover, it moved its annual conference online, and continued to engage with institutions across the European Union and beyond - making the case for the adoption of the LGBTI Equality Strategy to remain on the 2020 EU work programme.

AFRICA

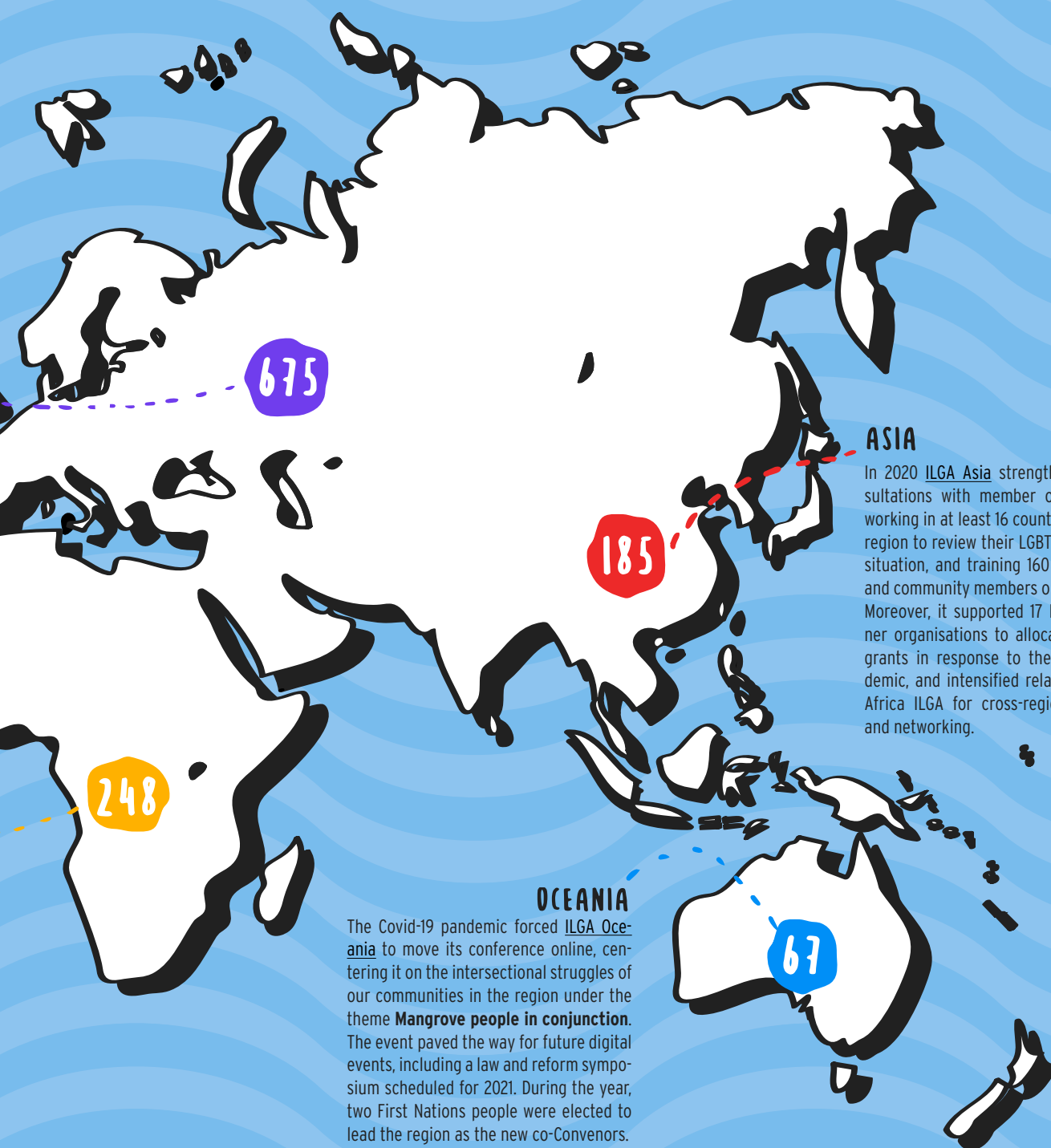
Throughout the year, Pan Africa ILGA worked together with member organisations to build strong and unified responses to backlash, weaving cross-movement alliances and bringing the movement together through different communications channels. The 5th regional conference was postponed due to concerns around Covid-19, and the region has started its work to hold it online in 2021.

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 2020

1,682
member
organisations from

164
countries and territories
representing

6
regions



ASIA

In 2020 ILGA Asia strengthened its consultations with member organisations - working in at least 16 countries across the region to review their LGBTI human rights situation, and training 160 local activists and community members on UN advocacy. Moreover, it supported 17 LGBTI-led partner organisations to allocate emergency grants in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and intensified relations with Pan Africa ILGA for cross-regional advocacy and networking.

OCEANIA

The Covid-19 pandemic forced ILGA Oceania to move its conference online, centering it on the intersectional struggles of our communities in the region under the theme **Mangrove people in conjunction**. The event paved the way for future digital events, including a law and reform symposium scheduled for 2021. During the year, two First Nations people were elected to lead the region as the new co-Convenors.

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

PAN AFRICA ILGA



Nnedinma Ulanmo
International Centre for Sexual
and Reproductive Rights
Nigeria



Sheba Akpokli
Interfaith Diversity Network
of West Africa
Togo

ILGA ASIA



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



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

ILGA OCEANIA



Vanessa Lee-Ah Mat
Australian Greens LGBTI
members
Australia



Ken Moala
BIMBA
Kiribati

ILGA NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



Kimberly Frost
OUTreach
United States



Stephen Seaborn
Pink Triangle Committee
Canada

ILGALAC



Ari Vera Morales
Almas Cautivas
Mexico



Darío Arias
Conurbanes por la Diversidad
Argentina

ILGA-EUROPE



Olena Shevchenko
Insight Public Organization
Ukraine



Yuri Guaiana
Associazione Radicale
Certi Diritti
Italy

ALTERNATE CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL



Barbra Wangare Muruga
EATHAN
Kenya

PAN AFRICA ILGA ALTERNATE



Jennifer Henshaw
Lesbian and Gay Association
of Liberia
Liberia

ILGA ASIA ALTERNATES



Ngo Le Phuong Linh
ICS Center
Viet Nam



Charbel Maydaa
Mosaic MENA
Lebanon

ILGA OCEANIA ALTERNATES



Miki Wali
Australian GLBTIQ
Multicultural Council
Australia



Iru Tau
Kapul Champions
Papua New Guinea

ILGA NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN ALTERNATES



Winnie Luk
Rainbow Railroad
Canada



Justin Tindall
It Gets Better Project
United States

ILGALAC ALTERNATES



Marlin González
Hombres y Mujeres Nuevos
de Panama
Panama



David Aruquipa - Danna Galán
Comunidad Diversidad
Bolivia

ILGA-EUROPE ALTERNATES



Annika Ojala
Seta - LGBTI Rights in Finland
Finland



Yves Aerts Jacobs
Çavaria
Belgium

* Board members and alternates as of 31 December 2020.
The latest members of the Board can be found [here](#).

In 2020, ILGA World said goodbye to some Board members and alternates.
A big word of thanks to:

Board members

Anastasia Danilova (ILGA-Europe), Kimahli Powell (ILGA North America & Caribbean), Bess Hepworth (ILGA Oceania), Mani Mitchell (ILGA Oceania)

Board Alternates

Muzuwandile Henry Sakala (Pan Africa ILGA), Marie-Pier Boisvert (ILGA North America & Caribbean)

OUR STAFF

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020

Julia Ehrt
Director of Programmes



Kseniya Kirichenko
Programmes Coordinator
(UN Advocacy, Women and Training)



J. Andrew Baker
Coordinator - Donor relations



Paula Klik
Membership and Events Officer



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



André du Plessis
Executive Director



Natalia Voltchkova
Director of Finance and Support Services



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



Lucas Ramón Mendos
Research Coordinator



Daniele Paletta
Communications Coordinator



Polyxeni Kallini
Senior Finance Officer, Grants and Reporting



In 2020, ILGA World said goodbye to **Zhan Chiam**, who started our Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme over five years ago. His contributions have been invaluable, and we are truly grateful for the work he's done in advancing our work in this area!

We also welcomed two new persons to the team: **Polyxeni Kallini** – supporting our work on finance, grants and reportings – and **Chamindra Weerawardhana**, as a consultant to our Gender Identity & Expression and Sex Characteristics Programme.

A special shout-out and thank

you goes also to the 8 interns that have worked with us during the year, and to all the consultants and volunteers who have made our work possible!

In 2021 our team will keep on growing, and together we will continue to assist our global communities as they conduct crucial work.

ALSO WITH US IN 2020

Zhan Chiam



PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
(GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION, SPORT AND HUMAN RIGHTS)

Andrea Ayala



Alma Aguilar Betancurt

INTERNS - UN TREATY BODIES AND SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Kellyn Botha



Maddalena Tomassini

INTERN - COMMUNICATIONS

Oscar Noel Fitzpatrick



Mphatso Sakala

INTERNS - INTERSEX PEOPLE AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS

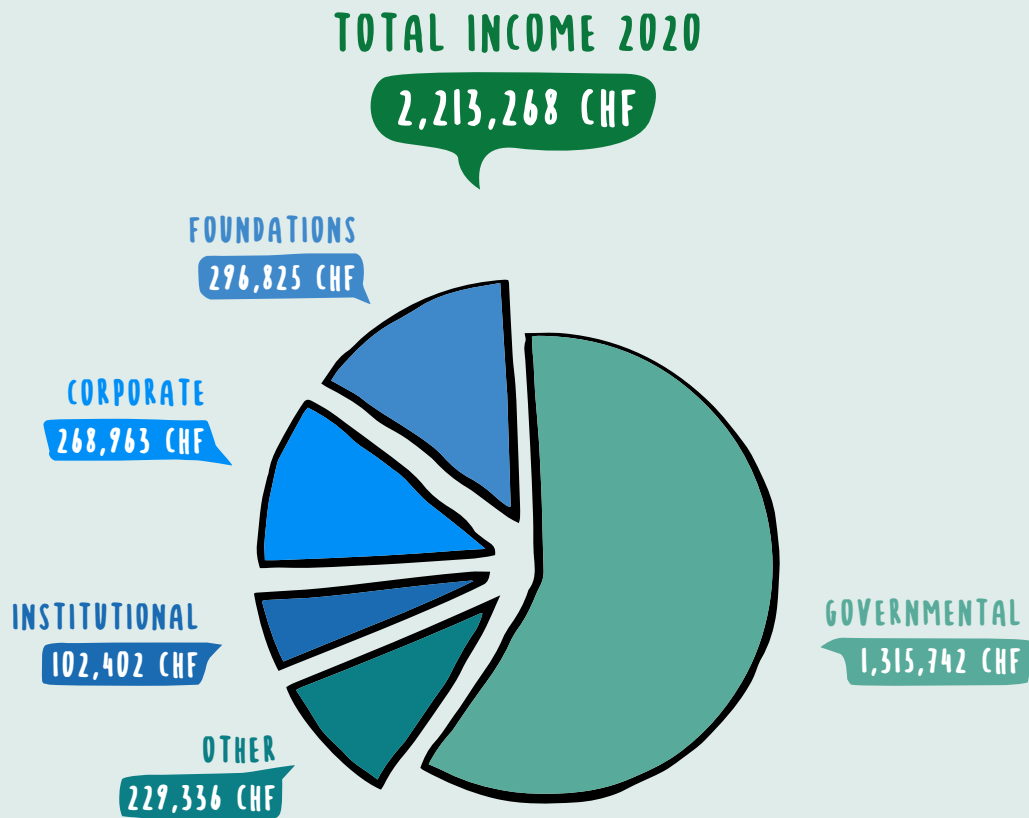
Enrique López de la Peña



(name withheld)

INTERNS - RESEARCH

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

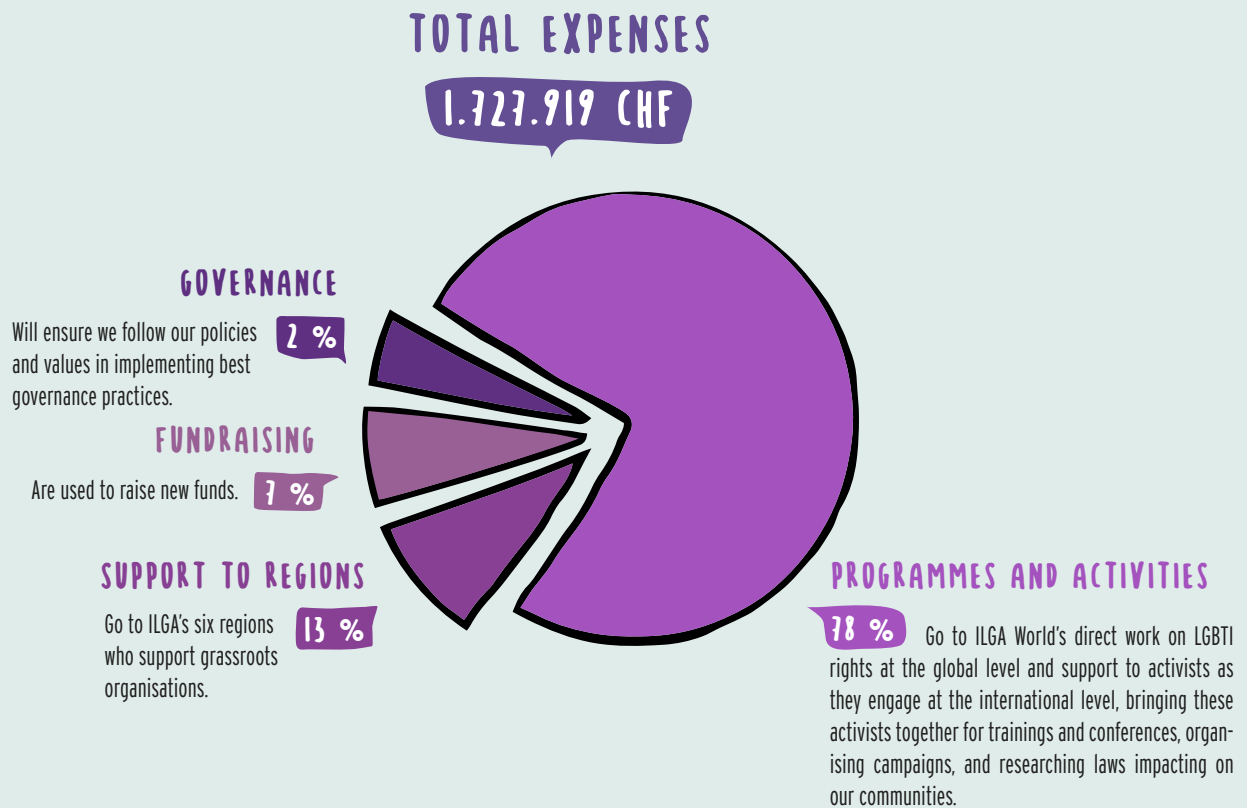


ILGA World is led by – and works with – its member organisations from across the world to advance LGBTI human rights.

This work would not be possible without the support of our donors: individuals, foundations, governments, member organisations, and

other institutional funders. We are grateful to everyone who made generous contributions to our work throughout 2020!

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



ARE YOU READY TO GIVE?

DONATE!

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

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

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



HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

DOES YOUR ORGANISATION WANT TO BECOME AN ILGA WORLD MEMBER?

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

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

Members also have the opportunity to participate to ILGA regional and world conferences, run for election in our various boards and committees, and enjoy priority access to scholarships, reduced conference fees, capacity building trainings and networking opportunities. Most of all, you will be part of a big global family of organisations working every day to advance equality for LGBTI persons. [Join us](#): there's strength in numbers!



ILGA World's 2020 *Annual Report*
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Managed by **André du Plessis**

Spanish translation:
Cris Montgomery

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

Illustrations:
Stefano Casolari – [Linkedin profile](#) – stefano.casolari95@gmail.com

This annual report covers the period from **1 January to 31 December 2020**,
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**ILGA World - The International Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association**

20 Rue Rothschild, 5th floor
1202 Geneva, Switzerland

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

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