

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association is grateful for the work and support of its member organisations, staff, interns and board members. A heartfelt shout-out and thank you goes to all the LGBTI activists around the world for the time and energy they commit to advancing LGBTI equality everywhere.

Last but not least, our thanks to the following organisations who in particular have made our work financially possible:




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This annual report covers the period from **1 January to 31 December 2017**.



“All persons have dignity and rights. We are all equal members of the human family. Let us end discrimination and violence in all forms.”

*Excerpt from our statement
at the 36th UN Human Rights
Council - General Debate on
Item 4*

Dear friends,
we know all too well that our communities' struggle to be recognised and accepted has never come without challenges. As if we needed more proof, 2017 served us constant, sobering reminders of the hurdles that we yet have to overcome. For every hard-won battle, we had to experience the bitter fruits of a rising politics of hate, with the fingers of ruthless scaremongers pointed at our bodies and/or identities in an irresponsible hope to gain social and political consensus.

And yet, resilient as our communities are, we refused to give in to hatred and intolerance. We continued to push for change and demand our rights be recognised and respected. We stood together. We rejoiced whenever the advances that we had long fought for became a reality. And we hearteningly saw millions of other people joining us in defending the rights of all targeted groups in the face of a scary, populist wave of hate.

Women marched all around the world to demand equal rights. People called out the most egregious persecutions against our communities – such as the ones happening in Chechnya, Azerbaijan, and Egypt, just to name a few. Indifference was not the only response we saw to injustices perpetrated against LGBTI human rights defenders, LBQ women, trans people, intersex people, migrants, people of colour, ethnic communities, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and more minorities: slowly, yet irreversibly, people are refusing to be silent.

Hopelessness is something that we cannot afford, and we must remind ourselves that we are not alone whenever the burden seems too hard to carry. We are in this together, and ILGA is proud to have been by your side through all of these times filled with both challenges and hope. We are more determined than ever to support LGBTI communities and movements through our worldwide structure, advocacy and resources for activism, and our family continues to grow in numbers, capacity and strength.

ILGA is built on the energy and resourcefulness of its global membership, whose passionate and tireless work continues to push for social, political and economic change and justice. It has always been like this, and now we are getting ready to celebrate 40 years of profound impact on the many LGBTI lives around the world.

This is a perfect time to look back at what we have achieved and look forward to continue growing in our capacity to represent our global movements. Our strength lies in our commitment to making sure that all of our voices are heard, because the only way forward is with one voice towards social justice for all.



In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth".

Ruth Baldacchino

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen".

Helen Kennedy

Co-Secretaries General

In 2017, our membership continued to grow: more than 1,300 organisations worldwide now form the ever-diverse ILGA mosaic, and our offices in Bangkok, Brussels, Buenos Aires and Johannesburg continue to serve as regional hubs for defenders working on the ground.

Meanwhile, in its Geneva headquarters, ILGA continued increasing capacity to assist LGBTI communities at the local level using the international framework.

Throughout 2017, we trained more than 300 human rights defenders on issues as diverse as their digital security, advocacy skills and international human rights law.

We released seven reports, surveys or toolkits, and made them more easily accessible thanks to a fully-renewed website. Picked up by media outlets worldwide, and widely shared among activists and partners, these publications have proved to be essential tools in the hands of human rights defenders, as well as a powerful resource to help millions of general readers know our communities better.

Meanwhile, we kept raising our movements' voices at the United Nations, and we honoured High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein with the 'LGBTI Friend of the Year' award during our first-ever World Gala, thanking him for his efforts in addressing issues affecting our communities on the global stage.

As our activities kept growing, so did our team. In 2017, we welcomed J. Andrew Baker as Senior Development Officer, while Callum Birch and Lara Goodwin joined as interns to assist our UN work. We also said an important goodbye, as Renato Sabbadini left ILGA to commence the next chapter of his career. Under his leadership in over four years as Executive Director, he has been fundamental in having ILGA grow stronger in its structures and capacity, especially after our arrival in Geneva. We sincerely want to thank him for his work: he leaves ILGA in a very strong position for future growth.

And the future looks indeed exciting: the celebrations for our 40th anniversary will soon begin, culminating in March 2019 at the first ILGA World Conference to ever be hosted in Oceania. That will also be where our new strategic plan will be adopted. We are inviting ILGA members and partners during 2018 to have a say in this: you can help us shape our future direction, and serve our communities even better, especially those most underrepresented.

Your voice matters!



André du Plessis
Executive Director *

** as of 28 March 2018*



A YEAR IN ADVANCING EQUALITY WORLDWIDE

We join the first-ever public consultation convened by the UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and **reiterate** our commitment to support this ground-breaking mandate.

During the first ILGA board meeting of the year, our representatives **meet** **Canadian PM's Special Advisor on LGBTQ2S issues**, urging Canada to take a more prominent role in advancing LGBTI rights globally.

We release **the 12th edition of our State-Sponsored Homophobia report**, as the world lights up in rainbow colours to mark the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. Miami, USA hosts our North America regional conference.

MARCH

MAY

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

The first **Human Rights Council** session of the year begins. We raised LGBTI voices from across the world on this important international stage throughout 2017, with 29 statements and three co-organised side events.

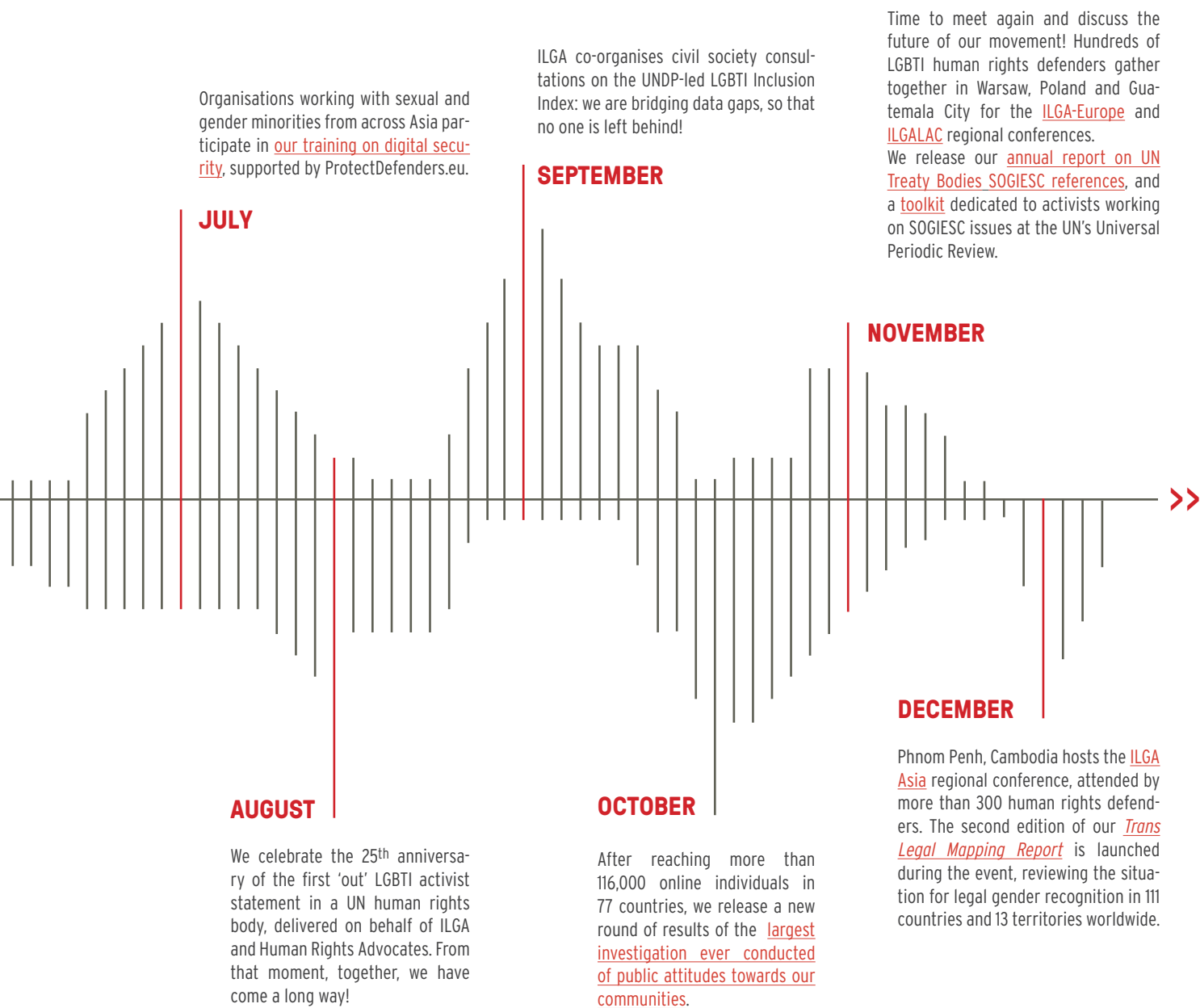
APRIL

We support the largest intersex human rights forum to date, as activists gather together in Amsterdam, The Netherlands to take part in the **Fourth International Intersex Forum**.

JUNE

We hold our first **ILGA World Gala**, where UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein is honoured with the 'LGBTI Friend of the Year' award. ILGA is also among the organisers of the **first-ever UN Trans Advocacy Week**, gathering together sixteen trans and gender-diverse activists from fifteen countries across the world.

2017



**RAISING LGBTI
VOICES AT THE
UNITED NATIONS**



Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics are increasingly on the radar of international human rights bodies, thanks to the unstoppable work of hundreds of grassroots activists who keep demanding that our rights be recognised and respected.

We at ILGA are a proud part of all this. Throughout the year, we continued mobilising support for SOGIESC issues globally, and assisted dozens of activists as they raised their voice in the United Nations, in a constant push for change.

“Even as we do not choose to get drawn into geopolitics, we are resilient and engage in these discussions because we are, quite literally, fighting for our lives and our dignity.”

*Excerpt from our statement
at the public consultation with
the UN Independent Expert on
SOGI, January 2017*

During the year, ILGA kept providing input and guidance on the work of many [Special Procedures](#), bringing gender identity and expression to the forefront and raising awareness about the lived realities of our communities.

Following up on ten different regional and identity consultation meetings at our 2016 World Conference, we continued to engage with [the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#) during the first year of the mandate.

We kept the global LGBTI civil society informed about the work of Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, arranged meetings with human rights defenders alongside his first public consultation in Geneva, and [partnered with trans organisations worldwide](#) to make sure that specific concerns regarding gender identity and expression would be addressed properly.

[With deep gratitude we bid Professor Muntarbhorn goodbye](#) as he moved on, and guided civil society through the process for the appointment of his successor, [Victor Madrigal-Borloz](#).

In June, we co-organised the [first-ever advocacy week on trans-specific issues at the UN Human Rights Council](#), joined by sixteen trans and gender-diverse activists from across the globe. During the week, a [joint submission](#) on language related to gender identity and expression was made to the UN Independent Expert on SOGI.

80

Activists trained on
Special Procedures

30

Trans specific
recommendations/concluding
observations made at the UN

29

Statements delivered at the
Human Rights Council

“Trans activists and trans issues have never been so visible at the Human Rights Council and UN spaces at large. This has been a truly historic week and a start of a larger and sustained engagement with the UN.”

*Micah Grzywnowicz,
International Advocacy
Advisor at RFSL*

And this is just an example of the work that we conducted to build capacities of activists engaging with the United Nations.

ILGA also welcomed dozens of human rights defenders for [three advocacy weeks](#) around the [Universal Periodic Review](#), facilitating access to the 32 diplomatic missions that our United Nations programme worked with in 2017.

We had more attendees at advocacy weeks and trainings than ever before: this resulted not only in many SOGIESC recommendations, but particularly in recommendations that reflected the language that the defenders were hoping to see used.

256

SOGIESC UPR
recommendations
made by States in 2017

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY...



The harmful practice of using forced anal examinations to 'prove' same-sex sexual conduct was addressed during a UPR Working Group session for the first time in May 2017. A few weeks earlier, ILGA and COC Nederland organised [a week of advocacy around the Universal Periodic Review](#) for eleven human rights defenders from across the world. Two were from Tunisia, seeking to get recommendations made to their country, including to ban forced anal examinations. [At the 27th UPR Working Group session](#), Tunisia received a lot of attention on the issue, including five recommendations, and it formally accepted one to “immediately cease the practice of forced anal examinations of LGBTI persons.”

We are in contact with groups in Tunisia to now use that public willingness to actually end the practice.

“Participating and engaging with the UN Treaty Body was capacitating. It enabled [us] to use an international mechanism to advance LGBT rights locally, and it enabled young leaders to emerge from the process.”

Jürgen Lasavanne, Young Queer Alliance, Mauritius

Throughout the year, ILGA also assisted 45 LGBTI organisations as they engaged with nine different **Treaty Bodies**, supporting them at all stages, including when they came to Geneva to conduct advocacy.

Assisting human rights defenders as they follow-up on work in Geneva is a crucial part of the process. Our publications increasingly highlight ways that these international processes can be used to help change the reality on the ground.

35

Treaty Bodies concluding observations featuring language provided by human rights defenders

...LEADS TO
CHANGE ON THE
GROUND



This year, a trans human rights defender from Russia came to Geneva with the support of ILGA, and engaged with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) to raise awareness of the challenges faced by trans persons in Russia. Her important advocacy work on behalf of the Transgender Legal Defense Project contributed to have Russia receiving **its first recommendation on legal gender recognition**. Such an important result at the international level also helped bring change back in Russia: a political party included the issue in its agenda, and more importantly the Russian Ministry of Health published a draft order on legal gender recognition which was later approved. Change does happen!

The work of ILGA at the United Nations also connects with what is happening in New York.

There, our Women's Secretariat and Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme strengthened our work at the [Commission on the Status of Women](#), where they participated in debates and organised side events. It was an important occasion to address the economic empowerment of LGBTI women, and to explore if - and how - specific gender identity and expression issues should be amplified in this forum.

4

public events and bilateral meetings featuring ILGA at the Commission on the Status of Women



ILGA also supported work around [an historic event at the United Nations](#), where LGBTI religious leaders from around the world engaged with other people of faith and member states on ending violence and discrimination of LGBTI people, highlighting that no religious tradition supports oppression.

LOOKING AHEAD

2018 will see ILGA continue mobilising support for rainbow communities globally, and working side by side with activists as they use the United Nations to advance their human rights.

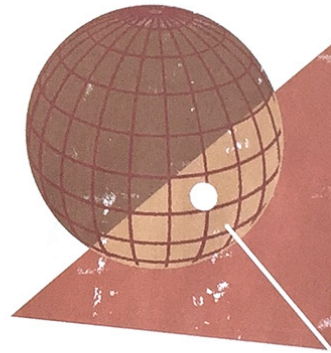
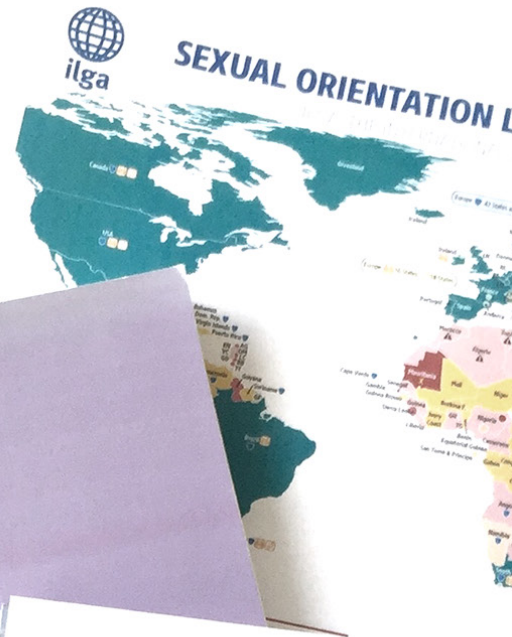
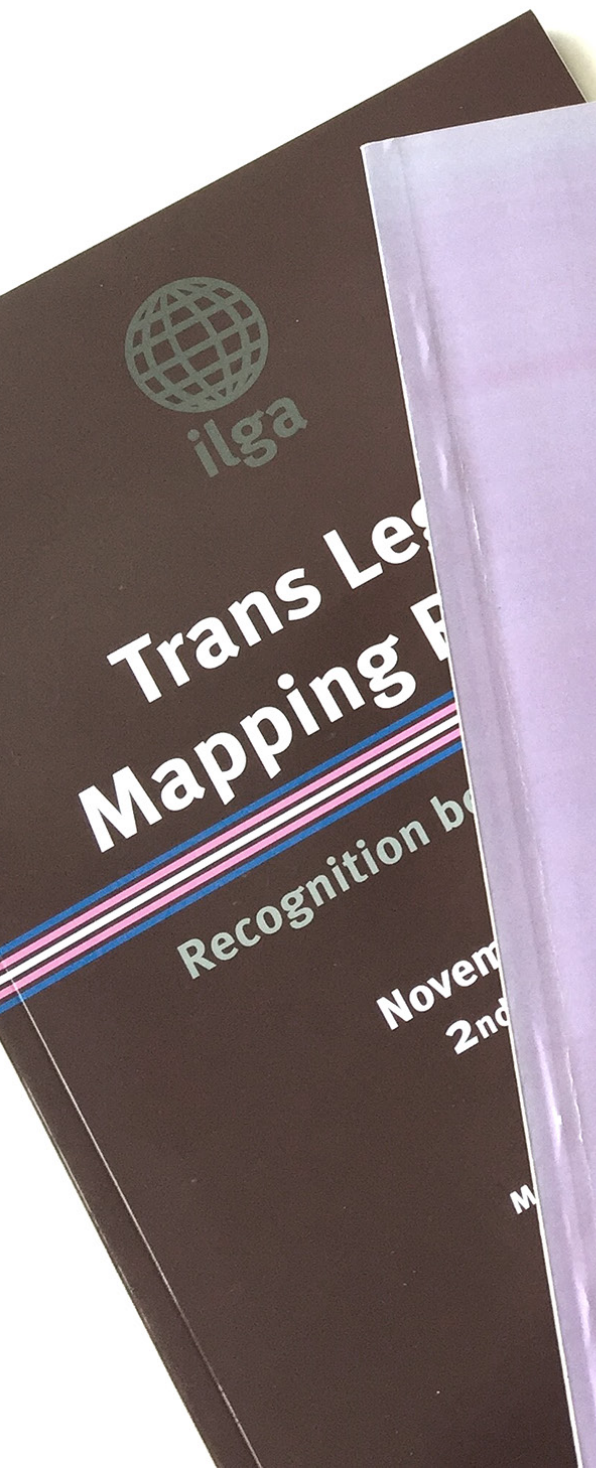
We will [let defenders know](#) wherever there will be engagement opportunities with the various UN mechanisms. We will support them both as they will raise their voices in Geneva, and when they follow-up in-country. We will draft legal strategies and amicus briefs, continue building the capacity of dozens of human rights defenders, and [focus our Treaty Bodies work on lesbian and bisexual women's issues](#), raising awareness of stories and experiences that remain largely invisible, and bringing about change.

As an activist recently told us, "the UN needs our voices even more than we need the UN": together, we will make sure that the lived realities of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people worldwide are heard.

** One of the defenders in this picture, Abubakar Sadiq Yussif, is no longer with us. To Abubakar, and to the many members of the LGBTI community that 2017 left us to mourn, we say: you will be remembered.*



OFFERING
KNOWLEDGE
TO CHALLENGE
OPPRESSION



Minorities Report
attitudes to sexual and
minorities around the

Even as our communities have never enjoyed as much media visibility as in recent times, we are all aware of how important it is to see LGBTI issues being reported accurately.

At ILGA we also know that our members can do their work better if equipped with cutting-edge, accurate advocacy [resources](#).

This is why we continued expanding these resources throughout 2017, and released several reports, surveys and toolkits that cast an accurate light on our lived realities.

ILGA's [State-Sponsored Homophobia report](#) reached its 12th edition in 2017, further establishing itself as the authoritative source worldwide when it comes to laws that affect people on the grounds of their sexual orientation.

Researched and written by Aengus Carroll and Lucas Ramón Mendos - and featuring a unique set of [maps and charts](#) illustrating where criminalisation, protection and recognition laws exist – the report was translated into all six official languages of the United Nations, aiming to deliver its information to a wider readership.

The theme of protection of our communities underpinned the whole 2017 edition, featuring new sections that looked at which countries had banned 'conversion' therapy, or still have barriers to establishing and registering sexual orientation-related NGOs.

467

media outlets quoting the *State-Sponsored Homophobia* report

150

academic references to information included in the report

“Although law that criminalises same-sex sexual practice is slowly annually decreasing, persecution and deep stigmatisation persist in many States. On the other hand, enactment of specific legislation that protects us from discrimination and violence has significantly expanded in recent years.”

Aengus Carroll, co-author of
the 2017 State-Sponsored
Homophobia report

“Every region in the world has restrictive processes, including surgical and other unreasonable requirements, for trans people just to be who they are. At the same time, there have been amazing developments in 2017 that should be celebrated.”

Zhan Chiam,
Senior Programme Officer, Gender
Identity and Gender Expression at ILGA,
coordinator and co-author of the
2017 Trans Legal Mapping Report

Another ILGA report pointed out that many people worldwide still face barriers to fully enjoy their rights, especially when it comes to the area of legal gender recognition. Researched and written by Zhan Chiam, Sandra Duffy and Matilda González Gil, the second edition of our [*Trans Legal Mapping Report*](#) went into this topic in depth, detailing laws and processes for trans and gender-diverse people to change their sex/gender markers and names on official identity documents.

New features enriched the 2017 edition of the report, including a chapter on the Inter-American human rights system and a section on international law. Trans activists from six different countries were also interviewed to explain how these provisions impact their everyday realities.

Laws also have a severe impact on public attitudes towards our communities. These findings were among the 2017 round of results of the [*ILGA-RIWI Global Attitudes Survey on sexual, gender and sex minorities, in partnership with Viacom, Logo and SAGE*](#), which further established itself as the largest investigation about attitudes towards our communities ever conducted. The anonymous digital data-collection mechanism used allowed us to reach into remote or hostile environments.

Findings in this publication focused on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and seemed to reflect what many of us already know: personally knowing someone belonging to a sexual or gender minority has a significant positive effect on that person's attitudes towards that minority group in general.

111 + 13

COUNTRIES + TERRITORIES
worldwide analysed in the
Trans Legal Mapping Report

116,000

online individuals surveyed
in 77 countries

Findings also demonstrate that most people feel they can respect their religion or culture and at the same time be accepting of sexual and gender diversity – evidence that strongly counters the often dangerous messages delivered by some religious or political leaders.

To those who use ideology to justify discrimination, we respond with evidence and data that can contribute to changing the lived realities of many people worldwide.

The findings of these reports increasingly put ILGA in the public eye as a reliable and authoritative source of evidence-based data and information about our communities. During 2017, almost 3,000 articles referenced our work in more than 1,700 media outlets worldwide, exposing an estimated 1.6 billion online or print readership to LGBTI lived realities.

Here are a few media outlets that quoted ILGA during 2017:



Out of mainstream media attention, we also released a handful of publications that were more directly aimed to support the work of LGBTI human rights defenders, researchers, civil society organisations and governments.

“Over the first two UPR cycles and beyond, defenders have developed insider knowledge on how to maximise their impact in the mechanism, and on how to advocate LGBTI human rights on such a universal stage.”

*Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera,
UN Programme and Advocacy Officer at ILGA*

We partnered with LGBTI human rights defenders from every region of the world and every ILGA region to publish our [SOGIESC UPR Advocacy Toolkit](#), share good practices and answer questions regarding how to best-use the Universal Periodic Review.

The toolkit is designed as a step-by-step guide to help LGBTI defenders build an effective engagement strategy in all stages of the UPR process.

In 2017, ILGA also advised States that deliver SOGIESC recommendations at the UPR. A guide for them was developed, tailored to their needs as missions in Geneva as well as central government.

The human rights of rainbow communities are increasingly on the human rights agenda of the United Nations. As shown in [our report on references to SOGIESC made by the Treaty Bodies in 2016](#), the number of such concluding observations has almost doubled in only three years.

1,375

SOGIESC recommendations to
158 countries over the first two
UPR cycles (2008 - 2016)

41 → **77**
2014 2016

Treaty Bodies concluding
observations including references
to sexual orientation,
gender identity and expression,
and sex characteristics

“The Committees have showed promising progress especially in how they addressed ‘conversion’ therapy, family diversity, hate speech and hate crimes, as well as sex characteristics, gender identity, and intersections between SOGIESC and disability.”

*Kseniya Kirichenko,
UN Programme Officer at ILGA*

We have analysed these references and highlighted where the remaining challenges lie: only a small part of these 2016 references addressed the specific needs of intersex populations, and references to issues other than legal gender recognition and violence against trans communities were also sorely lacking.

We also observed that the situations facing lesbian and bisexual women remain largely invisible in human rights mechanisms: this is why ILGA's Treaty Bodies Programme pledged to [focus its 2018 work](#) on the strategic promotion of advocacy lead by these often-overlooked communities.

In late October 2017, when the General Assembly heard its first report from the Independent Expert on SOGI, ILGA partnered with other organisations to release [a joint report](#) detailing the powerful advocacy that occurred in 2016 as that expert's mandate was defended at the UN General Assembly.

The publication is a testament to what our communities achieve when we work together: civil society from every region of the world joined forces to defend the mandate.

WHERE CAN I FIND ALL THIS?

Our publications are powerful tools for change in the hands of human rights defenders, as well as hugely informative for all those interested in a snapshot of laws, jurisprudence and public attitudes affecting rainbow communities worldwide. They can all be downloaded for free from [our fully-renewed website](#).

A lot has changed at ilga.org since November 2017: a completely refreshed and responsive look, and a streamlined structure, have turned our website into an appealing one-stop library for all our reports.

In the interest of documenting the history of our movement, many older editions of our publications were also retrieved.

The news section was also improved, and our readers now have the possibility to subscribe for newsletters delivered directly to their mailboxes.



**EMPOWERING
OUR GLOBAL
COMMUNITY**





LGBTI people are everywhere. And so are our member organisations and the people working in them. ILGA is proud to stand by its global family, empowering LGBTI communities worldwide as they push for political, social and institutional change.

In 2017, [our membership](#) continued to grow: 290 groups joined the ever-diverse ILGA-mosaic, which as of December 2017 is formed by 1,322 organisations in 141 countries. A new internal database was established to better-communicate with them, and we got ready to launch a streamlined membership-approval process in 2018 that will significantly improve the efficiency of the process from application to full membership.

Joining the ILGA family also opens up opportunities to receive support for advocacy work. Our various programmes continued to liaise with members and ILGA regions during 2017: they sent notifications about engagement opportunities, constantly monitored sessions of international human rights fora and reported on their outcomes.

<div>over 300 human rights defenders trained</div>	<div>47 support sessions provided to staff at regional chapters of ILGA</div>
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They also led trainings specifically aimed at human rights defenders, either in Geneva or at conferences organised by our regional chapters.

2017, in fact, has been a year when much of the ILGA membership had opportunities to gather together: hundreds of human rights defenders met in Miami, [Warsaw](#), [Guatemala City](#) and [Phnom Penh](#) to take stock of the many ground-breaking moments recently celebrated by our communities and to strategise about the future of our movement.

The ILGA family is always growing: in numbers, in capacity and strength. Our regions and offices in Bangkok, Brussels, Buenos Aires and Johannesburg are hubs of excellence and collaboration where members are supported in their regional context, while always linking to the rest of the world in truly-global solidarity. Let's have a closer look at their work in the past months!

For [ILGALAC](#), 2017 has been the year of alliances. Our Latin American and Caribbean region partnered with SAGE to analyse how organisations work with LGBTI elders, in what will be the largest survey ever conducted on this issue in the region. ILGALAC also strengthened its partnership with the Campaign for the Right to Education - CLADE, and co-organised [a short movies festival](#) to raise awareness of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in education settings.

During the year, ILGALAC also strengthened cooperation with international organisations, and supported Vitit Muntarbhorn as he conducted [his first official visit to Argentina](#) in his capacity as the UN Independent Expert on SOGI.

ILGALAC also conducted its [first-ever regional conference in Central America](#), hosted by Red Nacional de Diversidad Sexual de Guatemala.

Hundreds of human rights defenders gathered together in Guatemala City to discuss one of the most important issues for the region: the rise of fundamentalisms, and how to respond to conservative groups seeking to curb the gains that the rainbow community has achieved in the last decade. At the end of four intense days, marked with five pre-conferences and 19 workshops, the region also elected its new co-secretaries and regional council, and voted for the next ILGALAC conference to take place in Bogotá, Colombia in 2019.





A new board emerged from the regional conference also for [ILGA Asia](#). The event was held under the theme 'United for love': a statement of regional solidarity at a time when rainbow communities seem particularly targeted across Asia – from the murder of gay activists in Bangladesh to violence against trans people in Malaysia and the Philippines, police raids of community gatherings in Iran and Indonesia, and government's inaction in Singapore.

The conference saw its first ever interfaith and bisexual pre-conferences amongst others, and brought up important and emerging issues in the region, such as marriage equality, or the rise of religious fundamentalism and its links with state-sponsored homophobia and transphobia.

The event proved crucial also for the host organisation, Rainbow Community of Kampuchea: their work helped them raise awareness of LGBTI human rights in the country, reach out to their government and assess opportunities for future partnerships and collaborations.

Knowing that it is defenders on the frontline who do the work, in 2017 ILGA strengthened the protection of those fighting for LGBTI rights through its role within [ProtectDefenders.eu](#), the European Union Human Rights Defenders mechanism, providing access to emergency support and trainings.

We focused our work on online security, a crucial battlefield: a dramatic growth in the use of online spaces has resulted in more visibility for rainbow communities, but has also left them more vulnerable and exposed to threats. In July 2017, we conducted such a training for Asian LGBTI human rights defenders with the support of ILGA Asia and ProtectDefenders.eu.

For three days, 25 participants from nine countries across Asia gathered together in Bangkok to improve their digital security practices, learn how to make informed decisions when communicating online, and safely exercise their rights without falling prey to preventable digital threats. It was an important occasion to support human rights defenders as they developed their organisations' digital security policies. At the end of the training, 88% of participants said they have been able to introduce the learned tools and softwares in their workplaces, and all of them have either conducted a training for their colleagues already, or plan to do so in the near future.

TRAINING LGBTI HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ON DIGITAL SECURITY

“Lots of new faces! ILGA made great efforts to bring diverse people to the conference.”

One year after moving its offices from Hong Kong to Bangkok, the region continued to work with the Thai government to register itself as a non-for-profit foundation, and the process is expected to be completed in 2018. ILGA Asia also saw its first strategic plan come into force: together with a new governance manual, it helped streamline decision-making processes, and make its work more efficient.

All around the world, thousands of LGBTI organisations are working to advance the human rights of our communities, and many of them operate in extremely hostile contexts, where they are unable to be visible and included in the human rights frameworks of their countries without facing a harsh backlash.

In Africa, which can be a challenging place for LGBTI rights advocacy initiatives, it is particularly important for the most isolated areas to be reached: and so throughout 2017, [Pan Africa ILGA](#) strengthened its efforts to reach out to and support those communities that are most at risk of being left behind, empowering activists to take up issues that affect policy changes and reforms.

In July 2017, our African region partnered with COC Nederland, ARC International and Solace B Foundation for a training on human rights mechanisms. More than twenty activists from 14 countries across the continent gathered together in Accra, Ghana to learn more on how to engage with the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review, as well as with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Specific attention was given to supporting NGOs as they developed shadow reports regarding their government's compliance with human rights obligations, and to building capacities for effective advocacy in international fora.

Raising awareness of LGBTI human rights, and engaging with our communities in ways that do not put them at risk of reprisals, is crucial. This is why Pan Africa ILGA spent part of 2017 reviewing its strategic plan, identifying target groups for its work and developing a new communications strategy, while also trying to secure a more stable funding base for its activities. All these efforts will lead the organisation to its 4th regional conference, set to take place in Botswana in May/June 2018: its staff is already working with host organisation LeGaBiBo around the theme '[Empowering LGBTI youth](#)'.

Themes of our regional conferences are often an occasion to reflect on everyday realities facing our communities. It should come as no surprise, then, that the focus of [ILGA-Europe](#)'s conference in 2017 was '[Change](#)': a series of develop-



ments - sometimes positive, sometimes devastating in their impact - have occurred throughout the year in Europe and Central Asia. Particularly shocking situations – namely Chechnya and Azerbaijan – rang an alarm in our communities, showing that unprovoked attacks can happen at any time, and rights once conquered are still at risk to be taken away.

A [statement in solidarity](#) with civil society and LGBTI people living in Poland was signed at the end of the conference that took place in Warsaw, hosted by Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH): more than 500 persons gathered together to discuss ways to respond to the turmoil that the region is witnessing, but also to question how our movement is faring in terms of addressing intersectionality and leaving no one behind.

“Change is a constant. Change is with us always. But our collective strength, that is what is truly permanent.”

*Joyce Hamilton and Brian Sheehan,
Co-Chairs of ILGA-Europe's
Executive Board; Evelyne Paradis,
ILGA-Europe Executive Director*

Also, ILGA-Europe as an organisation went through an intense period of change in 2017, with the staff team growing in numbers and new posts being created.

What did not change was the continued work of the region to empower LGBTI communities in Europe and Central Asia. In 2017, ILGA-Europe organised conferences and training sessions; they met with several national governments and discussed LGBTI human rights with the European Commission, the European Parliament and Council of Europe bodies amongst others. They submitted policy papers to European public consultations, and 11 third-party interventions to the European Court of Human Rights; they supported national campaigns dedicated to LGBTI equality and supported partner organisations with grants; they created social media campaigns to start conversations around [mental health](#), put [Pride marches](#) in the spotlight and brought to the forefront the [experiences of members of the community from ethnic minority backgrounds](#). Crucially in the public eye, they also set up two emergency fundraising drives to respond to serious violations of the rights of LGBTI people in Chechnya and Azerbaijan.

2017 proved to be a time of transition for [ILGA North America](#), as Canada and the United States charted divergent courses in response to the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons. Although the United States made significant gains in respect to the human rights of LGBTQI+ people over the past several years - including achieving marriage equality - there were also signs

of potential backlash, particularly towards trans persons. The surprise election of Donald Trump has put many hard-fought human rights gains at risk – and ILGA North America reached out to its membership in response to the proposed policy that would ban trans people from serving in the military.

In Canada, the situation is quite different: the government publicly vocalised a commitment to the protection of its LGBTQI+ community and took specific steps to demonstrate that commitment. Some examples of Canada's leadership during the year include its intervention about Chechnya, and the apology by Justin Trudeau for the Canadian government's historic persecution of its gay citizens.

Against this political climate, ILGA North America has retooled its leadership, electing new Chairs and Alternates in the United States who are equipped to reach out to membership during this time of change. Also, in 2017 the region engaged more with its membership, conducting a survey on how it can best serve the many organisations engaged in LGBTQI+ advocacy during these complicated times.



While host organisations are working to prepare [the next ILGA World Conference](#), the first to ever be hosted in [Oceania](#), the region witnessed significant advances in the rights of our communities in 2017. ILGA Oceania and its organisations were among the driving forces that brought about change.

After a postal plebiscite and the hurtful debate that surrounded it, Australia joined the list of countries worldwide where [marriage equality](#) has become a reality. Intersex human rights defenders from Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand issued the historic [Darlington statement](#), addressing key priorities for the community and creating the basis of much of its work over the coming years. Aotearoa/New Zealand issued [an apology to those convicted for historic same-sex sexual offences](#), and the issue of [decriminalisation of same-sex activity](#) has been raised in the Cook Islands: “What people tend to forget is that there is a very real personal aspect to this argument,” Valentino Wichman of ILGA member organisation Te Tiare Association said while presenting their submission to Parliament. “Everyone has a family member or friend that is lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, or intersex. There are real people affected behind this debate”.



Every discussion on policies that affect us has to start from our lived realities, and they will also be at the forefront in the next ILGA Oceania regional conference - happening in Samoa in August 2018 under the banner 'Our land, our ocean, our islands, our rights.'

ILGA also aims to support and empower specific LGBTI population communities, and to address their intersectionalities. In 2017, our secretariats further expanded their work to raise awareness of specific human rights situations of women, and bisexual, trans, and intersex persons.

The **Women's Secretariat** actively engaged in international fora. Alongside the Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme, it joined the 61st session of the UN Commission of Women, where it organised a side event to highlight the challenges that LGBTI women still face in the ever-changing world of work. The event also provided a platform to make the case of sex workers' rights, and to highlight how religion and cultural beliefs still deter LGBTI women from expressing their full potential in society.

The Secretariat also took part in the first European Lesbian* Conference in Vienna, co-organised the 5th edition of the Caribbean Women Sexual Diversity Conference in Saint Lucia and engaged with the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, where a resolution that was developing since 2007 was finally passed to highlight human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

During its first full year of operations, the **Bisexual Secretariat** worked on a report to the UN Independent Expert on SOGI to highlight the human rights situation of bisexual persons, and engaged in the two-days public consultation that he held in Geneva. While working with media outlets to raise the community's visibility, the secretariat also organised bisexual pre-conferences at ILGALAC and ILGA Asia conferences, and it also participated in the European Lesbian* Conference in Vienna, making sure that bisexual persons' voices were heard in this forum, too.

Working to ensure more immediate connections with trans groups from across the world, the **Trans Secretariat** continued liaising constantly with ILGA's Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme, which is now represented both in the advisory boards



of the Asia Pacific Transgender Network and Transgender Europe and in the steering committee of the International Trans Fund (ITF), a participatory grantmaking fund made up of trans activists and donors. Closely aligned with one of the key objectives of ILGA's Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme, the mission of the ITF is to mobilise sustainable resources for strong, trans-led movements and collective action, and to address and eliminate funding gaps impacting trans groups across the globe. The Trans Secretariat also supported the Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme as it prepared the regional Trans pre-conferences, and helped organise and run the 7th ILGA Asia conference in Cambodia. During the event, the secretariat joined the chairing pool, moderated the whole Trans pre-conference, and hosted the launch of the second edition of ILGA's *Trans Legal Mapping Report*.

The [Intersex Secretariat](#) gathered the community together in Amsterdam for the [Fourth International Intersex Forum](#): the event - co-organised by NNID and ILGA with the assistance of Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice - has become the world's largest intersex human rights forum to date. During the forum, 42 participants from 30 countries addressed pressing global issues (amongst them a severe lack of necessary consented medical care), celebrated the support received by the international human rights system in the past few years, and reaffirmed the demands expressed in [the Declaration](#) issued at the previous International Intersex Forum in Malta in 2013. The global intersex human rights movement also committed to further increase regional representation, pledging to hold its next International Forum in a region of the Global South.

In 2017, the Secretariat also met the UN Independent Expert on SOGI and gave presentations to various organisations, further raising awareness of intersex lived realities. As the year was coming to an end, it also took part in the ILGA Asia regional conference, where it co-hosted the first-ever intersex workshop in the history of the event.

All around the world, LGBTI organisations, community members, human rights activists and allies are going the extra mile in their constant work to advance equality for our communities. All these efforts needed to be cel-



celebrated, and this is why in 2017 [ILGA held its first-ever world gala](#), in an event that gathered together representatives of several missions at the United Nations and of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as members of the Swiss Cantonal Parliament, human rights organisations, business companies and media.

During the ILGA World Gala, we honoured UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein with the 'LGBTI Friend of the Year' award, and we celebrated Geneva, the city we are headquartered in, as it joined ILGA as an Associate Member.



“We are very lucky to have political leaders who put LGBTI human rights as a priority to their agenda: to have people in positions of power having difficult conversations with those whom traditionally would not have them has a very significant impact on our lived realities.”

*Ruth Baldacchino
and Helen Kennedy,
Co-Secretaries
General*

The event also served as a fundraiser to help us support our members in their advocacy efforts, and to conduct research on laws and public attitudes impacting our global community. Among the team coordinating the event, was ILGA's Development Officer: a new position created within the organisation, tasked to implement processes and policies related to grant and funder management, to secure new funders and strengthen our relations with those who have traditionally supported our work.

Greater human and financial resources will be crucial to serve our movement even better and will be key to our growth, thus harnessing the energy of a broader community for the benefit of all.



LOOKING AHEAD

2018 looks like an exciting and promising year for ILGA: we will complete a leadership transition plan that began in late 2017. Also, we are getting ready to mark our 40th anniversary: celebrations will begin in the second half of 2018, culminating in March 2019 at [the first ILGA World Conference to ever be hosted in Oceania](#). This is where, our new strategic plan for 2019 to 2022 will be adopted by ILGA members: the trail for our future activities will be developed during 2018 through a consultation process where ILGA members and partners are invited to have a say. Your voice matters: we look forward to hearing it as we define our priorities for the years ahead. We look forward to growing even more in our capacity to support our global movement!

OUR ILGA FAMILY

115

North America

569

Europe

307

Latin America and Caribbean

132

Africa



1,322

member organisations
from

141

countries and territories
representing

6

regions

147

Asia

52

Oceania

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Co-Secretaries General



Ruth Baldacchino
Malta Gay Rights Movement
Malta



Helen Kennedy
Egale Canada
Canada

Alternate Co-Secretaries General



Tuissina Ymania Brown
Samoa Fa'afafine Association
Samoa



Yahia Zaidi
MantiQitna Network
Algeria/Belgium

Women's Secretariat



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

Alternate Women's Secretariat



Teatro Cabaret Reinas Chulas
represented by
Ana Francis Mor
Mexico

Trans Secretariat



STRAP - Society of Transsexual Women Philippines
represented by
Brenda Alegre,



Mikee Inton,



and
Charlese Saballe
Philippines

Alternate Trans Secretariat



Fem Alliance Uganda
represented by
Jay Mulucha
Uganda

Intersex Secretariat



NNID
represented by
Miriam van der Have
The Netherlands

Alternate Intersex Secretariat



OII Australia
represented by
Morgan Carpenter



and Tony Briffa
Australia

Bisexual Secretariat



Manodiversa
represented by
Frank Evelio Arteaga
Bolivia

Alternate Bisexual Secretariat



LNBi
represented by
Hilde Vossen
The Netherlands

Pan Africa ILGA



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



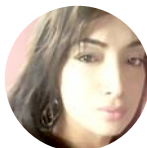
Richard Lusimbo
Sexual Minorities Uganda
Uganda

Pan Africa ILGA alternate



Star Rugori
MOLI
Burundi

ILGA Asia



Manisha Dhakal
Blue Diamond Society
Nepal



Mani AQ
NAZ Alliance
Pakistan

ILGA Asia alternates



Charbel Maydaa
Mosaic
Lebanon



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

ILGA-Europe



Anastasia Danilova
Information Center
GENDERDOC-M
Moldova



Martin Iversen Christensen
LGBT Denmark
Denmark



Simon Maljevac
Legebitra
Slovenia

ILGALAC



Dario Arias
Conurbanxs por la
Diversidad- Jóvenes por la
Diversidad
Argentina

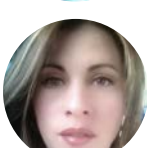


Luz Elena Aranda
Teatro Cabaret Reinas Chulas AC
Mexico

ILGALAC alternates



Natasha Jimenez Mata
MULABI
Costa Rica



Cristina Gonzalez Hurtado
Corporación Femm
Colombia

ILGA North America



Kimahli Powell
Rainbow Railroad
Canada



Kimberly Frost *
OUTreach
United States

ILGA North America alternates



Marie-Pier Boisvert *
Conseil québécois LGBT
Canada



Justin Tindall *
It Gets Better
United States

* Elected during a 2017 online election process that concluded in early 2018.

ILGA Oceania



Tuisina Ymania Brown
Samoa
Samoa Fa'afafine Association



Rawa Karetai
Wellington Pride
New Zealand

ILGA Oceania alternate



Simon Margan
LGBTI Language Exchange;
Australia Greens Members
Australia

In ILGA-Europe, the Co-Chairs (Joyce Hamilton and Brian Sheehan) are not the same as the representatives on ILGA World's board.

STAFF MEMBERS

AS PER 31 DECEMBER 2017



Andre du Plessis

Head of Operations (Executive Director ad interim)



Natalia Voltchkova

Head of Finance and Operations



Zhan Chiam

Senior Programme Officer, Gender Identity and Gender Expression



J. Andrew Baker

Senior Development Officer



Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera

UN Programme and Advocacy Officer



Kseniya Kirichenko

UN Programme Officer
(Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures)



Senka Juzbasic

Operations and Projects Officer



Daniele Paletta

Media and Communications



Aengus Carroll

Researcher on SOGIESC-related socio-legal subjects



Renato Sabbadini

outgoing Executive Director



Lara Goodwin

United Nations Programme Intern



Callum Birch

United Nations Programme Intern

2017 and early 2018 had their share of hellos and goodbyes.

We welcomed J. Andrew Baker to the team as Senior Development Officer, as well as two interns assisting us in our work at the United Nations: Lara Goodwin and Callum Birch.

In November 2017, Renato Sabbadini tendered his resignation after more than four years as Executive Director.

André du Plessis was asked by the Board to be ILGA's acting Executive Director ad interim; after a 4-months recruitment process led by an independent global recruitment firm, André was appointed as ILGA's new Executive Director in March 2018.

In January 2018, Aengus Carroll also announced that he would be moving on from ILGA as author of the *State-Sponsored Homophobia* report and coordinator of the *ILGA-RWI Global Attitudes Survey on Sexual, Gender and Sex Minorities* to return to more general human rights consultancy work.

We want to thank Aengus warmly for his deep commitment to the human rights of LGBTI persons over the past years, working tirelessly to expand the scope and quality of ILGA's research in ways that truly help to transform this world.

Renato has been involved in the LGBTI movement since 1992, and has been an important part in the history of ILGA.

He was elected Board Member of ILGA-Europe in 2007, and became Co-Secretary General of ILGA one year later. In those years, ILGA was granted back its consultative status at ECOSOC, and had its voice heard in the process that led the Human Rights Council in passing its first resolution on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In 2013, he was appointed ILGA's Executive Director, kickstarting years in which the organisation expanded its capacity to unprecedented levels. Under his direction, ILGA moved its headquarters to Geneva to better support our work at the United Nations, hired its first Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme Officer, and further strengthened the capacity of its regional offices, while establishing itself as a reliable source of data and information on our communities worldwide.

We are grateful to Renato for all his work: thanks to his efforts, ILGA is now in condition to expand even further its range of action and the quality of its work, while actively increasing the involvement of its members and making its commitment to the advancement of LGBTI rights worldwide more effective.



Renato Sabbadini
outgoing Executive Director

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This summary is based on ILGA audited accounts for 2017 and 2016. As of 2016 accounts are presented in Swiss francs (CHF).

The total operating expenses in 2017 was 1,759,854 CHF, while the total income in 2017 was 1,500,926 CHF. ILGA ended 2017 with negative results of 283,270 CHF.

Balance Sheet

For years ending December 31, 2017 and 2016.

	2017, CHF	2016, CHF
ASSETS		
Current assets	38,993	283,601
Non-current assets	13,249	43,897
Total Assets	52,242	327,498
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	229,950	153,070
Non-current liabilities	--	68,866
Total Liabilities	229,950	221,936
EQUITY		
Legal Reserves	--	--
Results from previous periods	105,562	116,331
Results for the year	(283,270)	(10,769)
Total Liabilities & Equity	52,242	327,498

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

For year ending December 31, 2017 and 2016.

	2017, CHF	2016, CHF
INCOME		
Core income	1,355,949	1,321,616
Project income	144,977	515,515
Total Income	1,500,926	1,837,131
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Operational capacity	989,908	803,837
Direct project costs	769,946	1,013,601
Amortization	--	--
Total Operating Expenses	1,759,854	1,817,438
Operating Results	(258,928)	19,693
FINANCIAL RESULTS		
Financial Results	24,343	30,462
Total Results	(283,270)	(10,769)

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Your contribution matters.

Becoming a member of ILGA 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 pro-

tection of LGBTI human rights, including at the United Nations where ILGA can support your work or speak on your behalf.

Members also have the opportunity to participate to ILGA regional and world conferences, the best LGBTI platforms of the movement where to

meet potential partners for projects, share experiences and network.

There is also another way to help us grow and empower hundreds of LGBTI human rights organisations worldwide.



With a donation, you will help ILGA to support activists from across the world as they raise awareness of LGBTI human rights violations at the United Nations.

You will help us research laws impacting our communities and investigate attitudes towards them.

You will back us as we organise trainings and conferences, where activists come together and feel they are not alone in their fight.

They are not alone: you are helping us support them.

Only together, we can bring about change.

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

[Donate now](#)



**The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)**

Rue Rothschild 20, 5th floor
1202 Geneva Switzerland

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

Join the conversation:

