

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



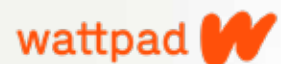
The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association is grateful for the work and support of its member organisations, staff, interns and board members.

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 in 2018:



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade







**I LOVE  
YOU THIS  
MUCH**

**“Our pride and love  
are greater than  
our grief and fear”**

Justice Edwin Cameron,  
Pan Africa  
ILGA conference,  
June 2018





**D**ear friends,  
2018: what a bittersweet year!

We have significant reasons to rejoice. In 2018, California became the first state in the USA to condemn unnecessary surgeries on intersex children. Shameful parts of an enduring colonial legacy are finally tumbling down, as India and Trinidad and Tobago decriminalised same-sex relations, and the World Health Organization finally ruled that being a trans or gender diverse person does not mean you have a mental disorder. An historic decision by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights recognised the right to legal gender recognition and same-sex couples' right to marriage, creating legal precedent for all those countries that recognise its jurisdiction. These are just a few examples of the progress that we have seen happen!

At the same time, our communities continued to witness horrific hostility, marginalisation and persecution. LGBTI persons in Tanzania were singled-out in an already hate-fuelled rhetoric; there were threats to negate protections for trans persons in the USA, and divisive referenda rolled back promises of equality in Taiwan; the World Health Organization once again missed the opportunity to stop pathologising people with variations of sex characteristics when it released the ICD-11, and successive elections in Europe and Latin America saw populist leaders take power with an unleashing of anti-LGBTI intolerance in

the public domain. As the year closed, reports arrived that women and men in Chechnya were targeted again in a resurgence of 'purges'.

For every inch of protection and recognition that our communities gained, hate, disrespect and violence keep rearing their ugly heads. Political and other leaders continue to demonise and scapegoat vulnerable minorities.

It's happening around the world: LGBTI people, women, migrants, sex workers and indigenous persons are painted as the great subverters of our supposedly well-balanced societies - subverters who, no less, still can't access basic rights, freedoms and opportunities. Concerted and deliberate efforts to divide our communities and pit one against each other are constant, sometimes so successful that they usurp the struggles that united us.

The fight continues. Resisting hatred - and slowly gaining wins - is part of our deep history as a community. LGBTI groups from every corner of the earth are collectively finding new, innovative and creative ways to counter narratives of hate, shame, violence and oppression.

In 2018, ILGA celebrated its first 40 years of service and commitment to our global family. When we look back, it is truly remarkable to see the number of political, legal and social changes have occurred globally since those early days in August 1978, when a group of visionaries founded the

(then named) International Gay Association.

Today, we are more than 1,500 organisations from over 150 countries and territories, queerer and more diverse than ever.



We have history. We have victories. We have a global family to stand with.

The 2019 World Conference in Aotearoa New Zealand will be a powerful occasion to celebrate our past and pave the way to liberate our future. We look forward to welcoming you in Wellington.

Sadly, and with mixed emotions, it will also be the final days of our mandate as Co-Secretaries General as we are not seeking re-election.

A huge thank you for having trusted us during these past four amazing years. It has been an absolute privilege to work with all of you as we charted a course to strengthen the organisation. We will leave ILGA as a strong, inclusive and respected leader for the LGBTI movement on the global stage, and we look forward to seeing it growing even more in the years to come.

In solidarity,

   
Ruth Baldacchino - Helen Kennedy  
Co-Secretaries General



In the face of so many challenges, LGBTI activism continued to grow worldwide during 2018.

At ILGA, we saw 176 organisations joining our network, the latest marker of the diversity, range, creativity and resilience of this truly global movement. ILGA members are now from 152 countries and territories worldwide, and the six ILGA regions – four with established offices in Bangkok, Brussels, Buenos Aires and Johannesburg – support the membership in their regional context. Both ILGA Asia and ILGALAC saw their non-profit status legally recognised in 2018, allowing them to operate with greater stability, and ILGA Oceania, ILGA-Europe and Pan Africa ILGA each held regional conferences in 2018.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat of ILGA World continued to provide assistance to our members and the broader LGBTI community at the international level. Through the year, we supported more than 400 defenders in engaging with the human rights mechanisms at the United Nations, and we also helped bring our communities together to learn, strategise and grow at conferences, advocacy weeks, trainings and national consultations.

Our staff increasingly connect with grassroots communities around the world, providing advice, support and technical resources to decide first if, and then how, to engage at the

international level, and how to help bring results back home.

Alongside factsheets, toolkits and reports, we continued providing constant input to media and numerous publications, while using our website and social media to amplify voices from the community. Exposing millions of potential readerships to ILGA data, information and insights: this is one part of how we do our part to change people's hearts and minds!

As our activities kept growing, so did our team of staff. In early 2018, ILGA concluded its search for a new Executive Director, and it's been a wonderful exciting first year in post. Later in the year we welcomed a new Director of Programmes, Senior Research Officer and an Administrative Support Officer.

Eleven full-time staff are now at ILGA World, supported in 2018 by eight amazing interns across five continents. Together, we remain strongly committed to bring visibility to groups often seen as at the margins even within our communities.

An exciting 2019 awaits us all. Our global family will meet at the ILGA World Conference in Aotearoa New Zealand, where new leadership will be elected and our next five year strategic plan will be approved: our entire membership was engaged in shaping it, and we look forward to taking the direction they have indicated.

With the renewal of the UN SOGI Independent Expert mandate, ILGA will also be working with partners to ensure that the rights of LGBT persons are protected at the highest levels.

From the most remote areas to international fora, we know that the struggle towards equality is far from over. And yet, we are ready to face the challenges that this new year will bring. Together, as one family: one beautiful, diverse global movement.

André du Plessis  
Executive Director

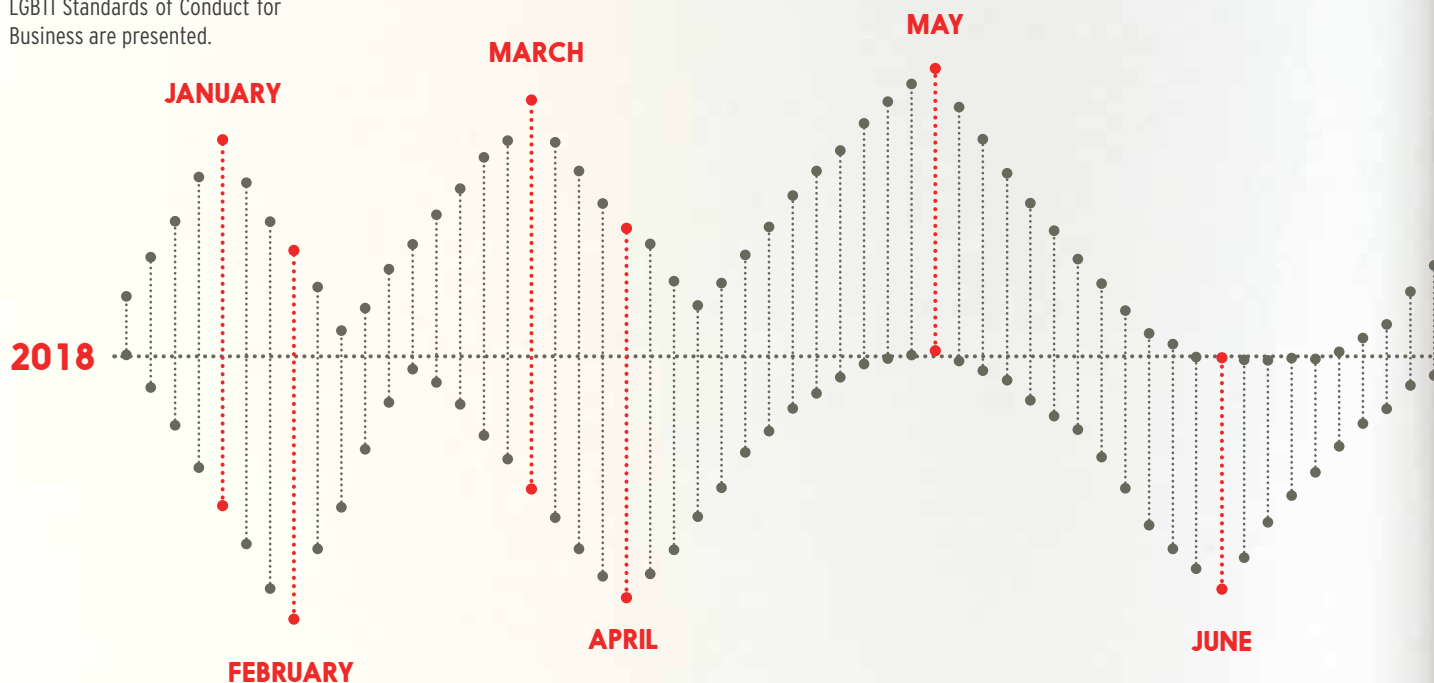
# A YEAR IN ADVANCING EQUALITY WORLDWIDE

ILGA data and information are featured in the public discourse on advancing LGBTI equality during the [2018 World Economic Forum](#), where also the Global LGBTI Standards of Conduct for Business are presented.

We join the LGBTI and Women's Rights Caucuses at the [62<sup>nd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York](#), focused on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.

Concluding a 4-month search for a [new ILGA Executive Director](#), the Board appoints André du Plessis to the role.

For IDAHOBIT, we launch the [#TurnItOff campaign](#) to cast a light on how LGBTI-phobia impacts on people's lives, and to share practical tips for allies to support our communities.



The first [Human Rights Council](#) session of the year begins. With 34 statements and 8 LGBTI events throughout 2018 - including [the first ever dedicated to bisexual persons' rights](#) - we made sure to keep raising queer voices from across the world at the United Nations.

To better support our members, we continue collecting information on good practices for follow-up and implementation activities of civil society organisations engaging with the [Universal Periodic Review](#) and [Treaty Bodies](#).

We kick off the year-long process to engage the entire ILGA membership to [help build our new strategic plan](#) that will be adopted at the World Conference.

[Pan Africa ILGA](#) hosts its largest conference to date, welcoming more than 300 defenders to Gaborone, Botswana.

23 trans and gender diverse human rights defenders from 19 countries join the [second UN Trans Advocacy Week that we co-organise](#) in Geneva together with APTN, GATE, RFSL and TGEU, and have their say in a ground-breaking [consultation by the UN Independent Expert on SOGI](#) on legal recognition of gender identity and depathologisation.

Organisations working on SOGIESC issues from across Latin America and the Caribbean participate in [our training on digital security](#), supported by ProtectDefenders.eu.

## JULY

In a historic joint statement at the United Nations, we cast a light on the negative impact of colonisation on the ancestral sexualities, gender identities, expressions, and spiritualities of [indigenous peoples](#).

We work with Akahatà, GATE and TGEU to ensure the presence of intersex, trans and gender diverse activists at the [WPATH Symposium](#) in Buenos Aires.

We head to Jamaica to organise the first national consultation for [follow-up and implementation of UN human rights mechanisms' recommendations](#), together with ISHR and CCPR.

We also look back at [the Human Rights Defenders World Summit](#) in Paris, where we helped raising LGBTI voices, and we look forward to an action plan shaping the protection of human rights defenders for the years to come.

## SEPTEMBER

## NOVEMBER

## AUGUST

[ILGA turns 40](#), and launches a celebratory campaign ([have you joined it yet?](#)) that will culminate at the [2019 World Conference](#) in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For the first time, an ILGA gathering is held in the Pacific islands, as ILGA Oceania holds its regional conference [in Samoa](#).

During the final ILGA Board meeting of the year, our representatives [meet the President of Costa Rica](#), who confirms his strong commitment to LGBTI rights and delivers a message of hope to our communities: "Stay strong, move forward, be courageous".

Brussels, Belgium hosts [the ILGA-Europe regional conference](#), gathering together more than 500 activists from across the continent.

## OCTOBER

## DECEMBER

We join the Advisory Council of the [Centre for Sport and Human Rights](#), an unprecedented alliance to fully align the world of sports with the fundamental principles of human dignity, human rights, and labour rights.







# THE FIRST 40 YEARS OF ILGA

ILGA, the oldest global organisation dedicated to achieving equal rights for LGBTI persons worldwide, has turned 40!

Time has flown by since those early days in August 1978, when a group of visionaries founded the (then named) IGA in Coventry, UK during the annual conference of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. Since then, our global family has grown to represent over 1,500 member organisations from 152 countries and territories across the globe!

Many of the social, legal and political advances that have happened in the past 40 years seemed unthinkable in those early days, when activists started co-ordinating action at the international level, realising the power of cross-border collaboration and solidarity.

Over the last four decades, ILGA's story has been entwined in the multiple battles for equality across this planet. We have seen countries getting rid of unjust colonial laws that criminalised same-sex activity. Our relationships and families have started to be recognised. Activists have campaigned in the face of the often-hidden violations faced by intersex persons. Same-sex attraction stopped being considered as a mental illness or a problem to be fixed, and the same is happening for trans identities and, increasingly, intersex bodies.

These changes have happened because of the tireless work of LGBTI organisations everywhere who have constantly pushed to advance equal rights for all. These are the members of ILGA, and ILGA is in fact their organisation. We have been there alongside our members through all this, working with them and for them, for the dignity of the wider community of people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics worldwide.

**The world has changed because we have been there, working to change it. Together.**

**Happy birthday, ILGA. And happy birthday to YOU!**



## Snapshots of our first 40 years:

- 1 1978: writing about the yearly Campaign for Homosexual Equality conference, *Broadsheet* announces the birth of IGA (ph.: collezione Luca Locati Luciani)
- 2 *El Correo Catalàn* reports from the 1980 IGA conference in Barcelona, Spain: "Gays declare they are not mentally ill"
- 3 A group photo from an IGA meeting in Bologna, Italy, December 1984
- 4 An early ILGA logo
- 5 The three ILGA *Pink Books*, published in 1985, 1988 and 1993
- 6 The first Pride parade organised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the occasion of the 1995 ILGA World Conference
- 7 Staff and volunteers who organised the 1997 World Conference in Cologne, Germany
- 8 Simon Nkoli (1957-1998) at the 1997 World Conference. Simon has been a leader of the LGBT movement in South Africa and an ILGA representative of this country on several occasions. At the 1999 ILGA World Conference in Johannesburg, the Pride march stopped in front of where he had lived to honour his memory.
- 9 An ILGA publication collecting experiences from individuals worldwide involved in lesbian movements, civil society and human rights organisations
- 10 An image from the 2001 ILGA World Conference in Oakland, CA, United States
- 11 ILGA Co-Secretaries Generals Kürşad Kahramanoğlu and Jordi Petit by the Spanish Parliament with local activists, waiting for the session where lawmakers passed marriage equality to begin
- 12 Participants in the 2006 ILGA World Conference in Geneva, Switzerland
- 13 Hundreds take part in the 2012 ILGA World Conference in Stockholm, Sweden (ph. Orlando G Boström)
- 14 ILGA marches in the 2012 World Pride in London (ph. Jaromir Kr)
- 15 Group photo at the Third Intersex Forum, organised with the support of ILGA in Malta in 2013
- 16 The ILGA World Board by the Stonewall Inn, marking the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the riots
- 17 Co-Secretary General Gloria Careaga Pérez honours United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay with the 'LGBTI Friend of the Year' Award, May 2014
- 18 ILGA World Board representatives mark Trans Day of Visibility, March 2017 (ph. Mitchel Raphael)
- 19 Group picture outside Room XX at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, where: the Human Rights Council has just passed the resolution establishing the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on SOGI, June 2016
- 20 More than 700 persons take part in the 2016 ILGA World Conference in Bangkok, Thailand
- 21 ILGA co-organises the first-ever side event at the United Nations addressing bisexual persons' human rights, March 2018
- 22 The Oceania regional conference is the first ILGA event to ever take place in a Pacific islands country, August 2018
- 23 The new ILGA World logo, launched in the run-up to the ILGA World Conference 2019 in Aotearoa New Zealand.





15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22



23



**RAISING LGBTI  
VOICES AT THE  
UNITED NATIONS**





Civil society has a crucial role in bringing about change. All over the world, activists prompt those in positions of power – including governments, international bodies and human rights institutions – to be vigilant and ensure the rights of LGBTI communities are actually protected and advanced. Authorities cannot simply pay lip service to the promise of equal rights for all.

We at ILGA are a proud part of this. Throughout the year, we continued mobilising support for SOGIESC issues globally, and assisted dozens of grassroots activists as they raised their voice [at the United Nations](#).

## “The UN needs to hear your stories: there is no human rights mechanism without stories from the ground”

Minhee Ryu, Rainbow Action  
(Republic of Korea)

In 2018, ILGA continued to mainstream discussions around sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics at the [Human Rights Council](#). We cast a light on those situations that required urgent attention, but also organised awareness-raising events, and called for strategies to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in a way that truly *leaves no one behind*.

Most of all, we have been supporting human rights defenders who came to Geneva to speak up for themselves and their communities. The outcomes from these international spaces feed into their local work, and are powerful tools to bring about change there.

We welcomed dozens of activists for [three advocacy weeks](#) around the [Universal Periodic Review](#), facilitating access to the 30 diplomatic missions that our United Nations programme worked with in 2018. Almost 300 SOGIESC recommendations were made to States under review, and a vast majority of them reflected language and priorities that human rights defenders helped bring to the forefront. This is what hearing directly from people on the ground can do!

For the second year running, ILGA also worked with APTN, GATE, RFSL and TGEU to host [a week of advocacy on trans-specific issues](#), gathering together 23 trans and gender-diverse activists. While in Geneva, they spoke at the Human Rights Council, and took part in a ground-breaking [consultation on legal recognition of gender identity and depathologisation of identities](#) convened by the UN Independent Expert on SOGI.

34

Statements delivered at UN Human Rights Council sessions

47%

Countries represented at our UPR Advocacy Weeks which received SOGIESC recommendations

19

Countries represented by activists during the UN Trans Advocacy Week

That same week the World Health Organization [announced](#) it was removing all trans-related categories from the International Classifications of Diseases' chapter on mental and behavioural disorders, a change that ILGA has been supporting for years.

Throughout the year, we continued to bring visibility to communities that are too often left at the margins. [Our Treaty Bodies work](#) in 2018, for example, focused especially on lesbian, bisexual and queer women: we supported LGBTI women's human rights defenders throughout the process, and rejoiced with them as relevant recommendations were finally made for most of their countries.



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

**“ILGA did an amazing job supporting and helping me. Being my first time at the UN, at first I felt a bit overwhelmed, but ILGA’s support made my experiences extremely empowering and motivating for the future”**

Monica Panayi, ACCEPT  
(Cyprus)

HEARING  
FROM PEOPLE  
ON THE GROUND



[Our reports on the UN Treaty Bodies](#) showed that lesbian and bisexual women are outside the radar of these mechanisms, with little-to-no attention to their specific human rights situations. This had to change, and in 2018 ILGA worked to make [the voices of LBQ women](#) from around the world heard by the various Committees. As a result, relevant recommendations were made for most of the countries represented by these defenders. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) received one of its first-ever shadow reports focusing on lesbian, bisexual and queer women. Feminita, a feminist organisation from [Kazakhstan](#), submitted information and, represented by Gulzada Serzhan, participated in person in a CESCR session with the support of ILGA. This proved crucial: committee members asked the defender about the root causes of situation affecting LBQ women in the country, and a set of questions was included in the List of Issues that Kazakhstan now needs to respond to.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING-UP



Receiving recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms such as the UPR and Treaty Bodies can prompt many States to do more to protect the most vulnerable. However, they can be painfully slow in implementing these recommendations, and civil society plays a key role in pushing for change. In 2018, ILGA joined forces with both local

and global organisations to run its first national consultation for follow-up and implementation of such recommendations. The pilot project took place in Jamaica, a country that has received many UN recommendations to change laws and policies in relation to women, children, LGBT persons and on its HIV response. For two days, 20 defenders together learned more about those

recommendations, and developed strategies to turn them into actual change on the ground. Jamaica will have its next UPR in 2020, and will likely report to the Human Rights Committee in 2021. In the run-up to this, civil society will now be ready to both offer advice to the government and hold it accountable for their (in)action. The global ILGA family will be there to support their efforts.

Positive results obtained in Geneva are one part of the solution: activists are doing deep work in their own countries, and are using outcomes at the international level to support strategies for legal and policy change locally.

In 2018, ILGA increased its gathering of these good practices for [following-up](#) on and [implementing](#) the recommendations and conclusions from the [Universal Periodic Review](#) and [Treaty Bodies](#). Such collections help empower other activists as they learn from each other on how to most strategically engage with international mechanisms.

ILGA continues to support in-country work that connects with the global level. Ahead of his country visit to Georgia, for example, both ILGA and ILGA-Europe supported activists in preparation of their report to the Independent Expert on SOGI: a powerful way to [make this international mandate aware](#) of the situations on the ground.

Throughout the year, we kept global LGBTI civil society informed about the work of Victor Madrigal-Borloz and facilitated his connections with our community, particularly at two ILGA regional conferences where he delivered rousing keynote speeches. We also contributed to his latest report [focusing on depathologisation and on legal gender recognition of trans identities](#).

10

Special Procedures country visits in which ILGA supported human rights defenders' engagements



**“Trans and gender diverse people have been historically marginalised from access to key resources. We express our sincere gratitude to the Independent Expert on SOGI for his contribution to changing that historical marginalisation”**

*Excerpt from a joint statement welcoming the report of Victor Madrigal-Borloz at the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly*

The Independent Expert on SOGI is only one of dozens of mandates under the United Nations [Special Procedures](#). ILGA has continued providing input and guidance to these other experts, ensuring that LGBTI issues continue to be mainstreamed and approached in intersectional ways as they develop international guidance on issues as diverse as freedom of expression, health and sanitation, and connecting local defenders and groups with the mandates for expert and local support.

Beyond Geneva, our work at the United Nations also connects with the centre of power in New York. There, we joined the LGBTI and Women’s Caucuses at the [Commission on the Status of Women](#), participating in debates and co-hosting side events. Joining forces with other organisations provided crucial changes in the Concluding Observation of the sessions, achieving significantly improved language on gender diversity, violence and discrimination, and intersectionality.



Events that ILGA supported at the UN’s Commission on the Status of Women in New York



ILGA continues to directly connect to communities around the world in exciting ways, providing its members with key resources for their activism.

We continue to keep our global family regularly informed on the deadlines, opportunities and outcomes of the many sessions at the United Nations: [Universal Periodic Review](#), [Treaty Bodies](#) or [Special Procedures](#).

With such a complicated international system, we know how important it is for defenders to have just the key information to-hand for their advocacy. In 2018 we worked collaboratively to produce up-to-date [factsheets on the SOGIESC work done by 39 Special Procedures](#).

We also started a process to strategically rethink how our annual research publications can be most useful to the activists, researchers, media outlets and general public that are using them. Having paused publication in 2018, in 2019 you will see both the [State-Sponsored Homophobia](#) report and the [Trans Legal Mapping Report](#), as well as an activist guide to strategic litigation at the international level, especially the UN Treaty Bodies, and the French and Arabic translations of our [SOGIESC UPR Advocacy Toolkit](#). Stay tuned!

### GETTING THE RIGHT INFORMATION IN THE HANDS OF ACTIVISTS



### LOOKING AHEAD



In 2019 ILGA will be at the core of mobilising and advancing international support for LGBTI persons, and working alongside activists as they use the United Nations to advance their rights.

The mandate of the Independent Expert on SOGI will be renewed by the United Nations in June: this will be a key moment to reiterate the importance of this human rights mechanism, and to emphasise that States should continue supporting its life-saving work.

We will increasingly be connecting the international with the local, learning from activists how they use the international system on the ground and strategically equipping a new generation of activists to change the world.



**EMPOWERING  
OUR GLOBAL  
COMMUNITY**





ILGA is where all our communities come together: members of our global family support each other, taking action in solidarity and demanding respect for our bodies, identities and loves.

We are led by our member organisations, and have been proud to stand by each of them for another year as they kept pushing for positive political, social and institutional change.

[Our membership](#) continues to develop and grow in the rich diversity that is this queer planet. About 200 organisations joined us in 2018 and our network now spans 152 countries and territories worldwide. The numbers are only the outward representation of what is happening everywhere: LGBTI people are coming together and organising, embodying the simple truth - together we can change the world.

To keep pace with the ever-growing applications to join our network, we launched a streamlined membership approval procedure that also preserves the due diligence conducted on every request. Our thanks to our global Board that conducts this review! We also published the list of our members [on our website](#), allowing easier connections among organisations while safeguarding those that need to stay anonymous.

Joining ILGA opens up opportunities to access international and regional networking, trainings and capacity building opportunities, and allows grass-roots organisations to participate in decision-making processes in this global LGBTI organisation.

In 2018, our membership was consulted, - including through [a survey](#) - as part of the preparation of our [proposed strategic plan for the coming years](#). Drafted by the Executive Board of ILGA, members continue to have opportunities to guide its final form in the run-up to and during the World Conference in Wellington, where a final strategic plan will be adopted.

Indeed, our conferences are important networking and strategising platforms as well as places where members guide the future of the organisation. In 2018, ILGA's regions provided hundreds of LGBTI human rights defenders with occasions to meet in [Botswana](#), [Belgium](#) and [Samoa](#), while our regional offices in Bangkok, Brussels, Buenos Aires and Johannesburg continued supporting members in their regional contexts throughout the year. Let's have a closer look at their work!

For ILGA **Oceania**, 2018 was a year of work leading up to its [third regional conference](#), hosted in the Samoan capital of Apia. This was a truly historic event: not only was it the first-ever ILGA gathering to take place in a Pacific island nation,

but it also marked the official start of the celebrations for the [40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our global family](#).

Delegates from around the world joined human rights defenders from 13 countries in the Pacific, learning about the intersectionalities that exist in regional social justice movements, discussing with embassies on how Pacific LGBTIQ citizens can make their voices heard in the international arena and, most of all, witnessing the reality on the ground. A visit to the region of Aleipata was an eye-opening experience for many, where conference participants could hear the stories of fa'aafafine who provided front-line support to coastal village communities when everything was lost in the 2009 Samoa tsunami.

**“We gathered as a diverse rainbow: remembering, honoring that there have been cultural ways of holding a diversity that was stable, understood and precious”**

*Mani Bruce Mitchell,  
Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand*

Such an important and enriching conference gave [our Oceania region](#) a new Board, and further established it as a hub for regional discussion and international advocacy for LGBTI and Indigenous communities. The whole ILGA family will soon return to the region for the [2019 World Conference](#), raising even more awareness of the lived realities on the ground.







The human rights situations of our communities are slowly, yet unstoppably emerging in the public discourse in **Africa**, where human rights defenders are tirelessly advocating for change. In 2018, the continent witnessed its largest-ever gathering of LGBTI human rights defenders, as more than 300 persons came together in Gaborone, Botswana for the [Pan Africa ILGA regional conference](#).

Focused on the empowerment of LGBTI youth, the next generation who is already carrying the torch of advocacy and change, the conference was a deep dive into the many issues that affect our communities in the region – from access to education to media advocacy, from barriers to healthcare to discussions on how visibility impacts our relations with society. The importance of advocacy was also a key focus of the event, as participants received training on how to engage with relevant regional and international bodies - including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the United Nations. Participants met with Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the UN Independent Expert on SOGI: these meetings were a fundamental moment to inform the work of the mandate holder, as he heard of human rights situations directly from people on the ground.

**“The heart of Africa is beating. There is pain, but there is also joy and courage”**

Victor Madrigal-Borloz,  
UN Independent Expert on SOGI

Emerging from the conference with a new Board, and with growth in staff through the year, [Pan Africa ILGA](#) has now an improved capacity to assist grassroots organisations, with a special focus on French-speaking countries and places that traditionally have been harder to reach.

2019 could mark a turning point for our communities in the region. As we write, Angola has just become the latest country to decriminalise same-sex activity, and both Kenya and Botswana are waiting the results of court cases on the issue that could prove to be real game-changers.



2018 was a vibrant year for [ILGALAC](#). The region saw its [non-profit status legally recognised](#) on November 20<sup>th</sup> in Argentina: this was an historic step to strengthen the institutional and organisational work in the promotion and protection of LGBTI rights in **Latin America and the Caribbean**. The strengthening of structures and alliances is crucial at this time, when the struggle for equality and inclusion faces a strong increase in anti-rights movements, as well as in ‘pro-life’, political and religious fundamentalisms.

Significant progress is being made in the region despite the worrying context. New laws are protecting trans communities in [Chile](#) and [Uruguay](#), same-sex relations are now decriminalised in [Trinidad and Tobago](#), and a landmark [decision](#) was made by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, amongst others. But we must mobilise and be on the alert for hate speech, a dangerous rhetoric about ‘gender ideology’, terrible outbursts of institutional violence, elected officials who [openly voice their opposition](#) to the rights of the LGBTI community, and states that fail to implement public policies or to promote egalitarian legislation.

Therefore, some of ILGALAC’s priorities in 2018 were alliances and coordination with different social movements and organisations, as well as monitoring the political situation. The region works in close collaboration with the LGBTI Rapporteurship of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the LGBTTTI Coalition of the Organization of American States, ERC, SAGE, CLADE, INADI, and PGA among others. ILGALAC also created an Observatory on elections in the region, which has already monitored votes in Brazil, Colombia and El Salvador, and launched the Regional Alert “No more fundamentalism and violence” on the occasion of May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Together with ILGA World, ILGALAC organised a training for 19 human rights defenders from all over the region on [ways to protect their digital security](#). It also organised the second presential meeting of the Regional Council with the regional office in Mexico, announcing that the next Regional Conference ILGALAC 2019 will take place [in Colombia](#). ILGALAC’s Executive Director signed framework agreements with SAGE in New York and with COPRED in Mexico City, while the region also participated in the VI Regular Meeting of the RIO-OD in Colombia and the preparatory meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> regional conference on Population and Development.



Challenging political times have also been witnessed across **Europe**, where populism, political complacency, attacks on democratic institutions, and rising extremists have sadly become part of daily conversations.

With our communities celebrating victories, and yet having to face a growing impunity for human rights violations, together with an ongoing hysteria around 'gender ideology' and the principles of the Istanbul convention, ILGA-Europe worked to mobilise resources and strengthened the movement's capacity with a renewed sense of urgency.

**“Now is the time to invest in transforming the legal and political wins of the past decade into long-lasting, profound change in the lived experience of LGBTI people across the region”**

*Joyce Hamilton and Brian Sheehan, former ILGA-Europe Co-Chairs, and Evelyne Paradis, ILGA-Europe Executive Director*

#### MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD



In the current populist, LGBTI-phobic frenzy taking place in many places around the world, we also increased efforts to make sure that the thoughtful, grounded and inclusive LGBTI voices of our communities are amplified across media platforms.

During the year, we connected with journalists from leading media outlets, as well as contributed to numerous publications, exposing a potential readership of hundreds of millions to LGBTI perspectives, stories and data. As our followers grew by a resounding 24% during the year, we made sure that social media played a central role in the way we are communicating.



ph. Laurent Achedjian (Out of the Blue) / ILGA-Europe

In 2018, ILGA-Europe awarded 86 grants to LGBTI groups across Europe and Central Asia, and supported dozens of in-country campaigns through its Creating Opportunities programme. A first meeting of European networks working on LGBTI rights was convened to discuss organisational development, governance and fundraising. Over 200 activists participated in study visits and trainings, and more than 500 human rights defenders joined webinars on strategic communications, fine-tuning their skills to frame messages that can change hearts and minds.

Work on strategic litigation went hand in hand with a review of the region's strategic plan, always with an ongoing effort to highlight those in our communities who are still at times left invisible. Intersectionality was once more at the core of the [annual regional conference](#), where 550 human rights defenders came together to issue a strong call for change – right at the heart of the European political system.

Both fundamental victories and alarming setbacks have also taken place in **Asia**: while 2018 was the year when India made history by decriminalising consensual same-sex activity, and Pakistan passed a progressive law to support trans persons, those claiming to defend 'family values' led Taiwan to a halt in the road towards marriage equality.

Amidst this complicated political and social climate, ILGA Asia continued to support activists across the region, providing them with opportunities to share best practices on policy advocacy and social campaigning, and also provide them with skills and knowledge to work with various [UN bodies and mechanisms](#).



The region also began focusing its work on the health and well-being of LGBTI human rights defenders, providing the space for self-care during all trainings and events it organised during the year. Among these were the first-ever [Asia Intersex Forum](#), and another primer: a regional meeting dedicated to empowering parents of LGBTI persons, which was [held in Viet Nam in August](#).

All across Asia, activists are challenging the false narrative that parents who love their children must protect them from a supposed problematic 'LGBTI lifestyle', even if it means disowning them. Parents who have overcome their own stigma become some of the most powerful allies for our communities, and have a huge impact on society. This meeting allowed parents to exchange their stories, learn from each other and become even more aware that they are not alone in the battle to support their children.

The Asian region is growing in its capacity to support grassroots organisations. In 2018, ILGA Asia finally obtained registration as a non-profit foundation in Thailand, and welcomed a new Communications officer to the team.

Meanwhile, the Board strengthened its governance structures, developing its standing orders, reviewing the implementation of a new strategic plan, and starting work towards the region's next conference [in Seoul, South Korea in August 2019](#).



2018 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 LGBTI communities. Although the United States still showed signs of progress (particularly in terms of banning ‘conversion’ therapy in several States, or with California becoming the first State to pass a resolution supporting the autonomy of intersex people), signs of backlash and of scapegoating trans persons became more and more evident in a national climate of unleashed populism. In Canada, on the other hand, the battle seems to have shifted into the education field and the protection of LGBTI students, although thankfully the federal government keeps showing support towards our communities, especially in its role as co-chair of the [Equal Rights Coalition](#).

Against this political climate, ILGA North America has retooled its leadership, going through profound discussions on its strategy and goals, building an advisory board and identifying the key issues that our membership believes the region should tackle.

Engaging at the United Nations in New York, in September [we attended the event hosted at the UN General Assembly by the LGBTI Core Group](#) to address violence against our communities worldwide.

It was [an historic moment](#),



when both the UN Secretary General António Guterres and the High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet unequivocally reiterated their support for our communities.

Beyond regions, ILGA also has a constitutional structure that supports specific LGBTI communities in intersectional ways: the Secretariats. In 2018, our four Secretariats continued their work to raise awareness of the specific human rights situations of women, and bisexual, trans, and intersex persons.

The **Women’s Secretariat** engaged in international advocacy, joining more than 30 human rights defenders in the LGBTI Coalition that participated in the 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

The session sought to approve a resolution that encouraged member states to consider “adopting public policies against discrimination by reason of sexual orientation and gender identity”, and the Secretariat worked collaboratively to ensure that the document contained inclusive and respectful language.



More work was done also in New York, as the Secretariat joined an advocacy week to meet with representatives of UN Women, the LGBTI Core Group, members of the Equal Rights Coalition and representatives of several permanent missions.

Knowing the importance of serving communities on the ground, the week also built the Secretariat's capacity in terms of digital security and burnout preventions – skills that will now be shared with grassroots activists.

International advocacy was also an important part of the work of our **Trans Secretariat** in 2018. During the UN Trans Advocacy Week that ILGA organised in Geneva with APTN, GATE, RFSL and TGEU, the Secretariat [delivered a statement at the Human Rights Council](#), addressing the situation for trans people across the world and calling on States to activate

protections and mechanisms to end violence against the community. [A forum on indigenous persons and cultural identities](#) also provided the occasion to raise awareness of gender identities and expressions that have always been present in the Asia-Pacific region, and yet risk being erased as a result of colonialism and its remnants.

The effort of adding trans voices to the international human rights debate continued throughout the year, as the Secretariat spoke at [forums](#) discussing challenges that trans persons face while travelling, and at [events](#) showing how progressive laws can prevent the rise of violence against trans and non-binary persons.



ph. UN Web TV



In March 2018, the **Bisexual Secretariat** joined forces with ILGA World for [an historic first](#): an event to specifically address the human rights situation of bisexual persons. Activists from Mexico, the United States, Bolivia, Iran and Serbia joined a panel discussing how a climate of biphobia and invisibility faced by bisexual persons across the globe hinders their enjoyment of fundamental human rights.

The event was also the occasion to launch [a report](#) by the Secretariat addressing both global and regional situations for the bisexual community, and to meet with staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Those meetings further consolidated partnerships with the UN Free & Equal programme, which released [its first-ever initiative dedicated to bisexual persons' human rights](#) on the occasion of 2018's Bi Visibility Day. Our Secretariat provided them with input both for an [awareness campaign](#) and [a factsheet](#) that circulated worldwide.

2018 proved to be a year of significant advances for the intersex community, in spite of some setbacks in the development of protection of their human rights. UN bodies regularly questioned and issued recommendations to States regarding human rights violations against intersex people, especially about intersex genital mutilation. [California](#) became the first state in the United States to condemn non-consensual surgeries. However, the World Health Organization [missed yet another chance](#) to end the pathologisation of people with diverse sex characteristics, and even progressive laws [left many questions open](#).

Amidst all this, our **Intersex Secretariat** continued to mobilise both in-country and at the international level, facilitating dialogue among organisations from across the world. It also made sure that the community stood beside the wider rainbow family in moments of pride, joining the first intersex float to ever participate at the Utrecht Canal Pride in the Netherlands.



Intersex defenders from across the world are raising their voices more and more, and the similarities among the [many recent regional statements](#) setting out the priorities for the movement are indeed striking.

ILGA will continue supporting the community in their demand to see their human rights respected!

[The future will bring an important shift in the governance of ILGA](#): the four Secretariats will evolve into Steering Committees, and a fifth one will be created to tackle youth issues.

From one single member organisation coordinating with the ILGA headquarters and regions regarding specific thematic concerns, to a group of persons where all our regions will be represented: this is how we will speak with just one voice and yet represent all of us in our diversity!

An exciting 2019 awaits us all: we will meet soon at the [ILGA World Conference](#) in Aotearoa New Zealand, and we are looking forward to reuniting our global family! In Wellington, our membership will vote on our [new strategic plan](#), elect the new ILGA World board, [celebrate our first 40 years](#) and discuss strategies for change.

An important evolution in our governance is about to come into force: [our Secretariats will evolve into Steering Committees](#), which will ensure regional diversity and representation in international Bisexual, Intersex, Trans, Women and Youth discussions.

ILGA will also be working with partners towards the renewal of the SOGI Independent Expert mandate, and is preparing new regional conferences in South Korea, Colombia and the Czech Republic. We are sure that 2019 won't be without challenges, but we are ready to face them, supporting our global family as we push forwards. Only together, we can bring about change. We are here to do our part: will you join us?

## LOOKING AHEAD



## OUR ILGA FAMILY

The full list of ILGA member organisations is available at [ilga.org](http://ilga.org) and on the following pages of this report.





**1,495**

member organisations from

**152**

countries and territories representing

**6**

regions

**169**

ASIA

**58**

OCEANIA

# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

## CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL



**Ruth Baldacchino**  
Malta Gay Rights Movement  
Malta



**Helen Kennedy**  
Egale Canada  
Canada

## ALTERNATE CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL



**Tuisina Ymania Brown**  
Pacific Human Rights  
Initiative  
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



**Intersex Human Rights  
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



**Juliet Nnedinma Ulanmo**  
International Centre for Sexual  
and Reproductive Rights  
Nigeria



**Nao Bouzid**  
Equality Morocco  
Morocco

## PAN AFRICA ILGA ALTERNATE



**Sheba Akpokli**  
Interfaith Diversity  
Network of West Africa  
Togo



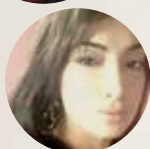
**Enama Ossomba Jean  
Paul Bienvenu**  
Humanity First Cameroon  
Cameroon



## ILGA ASIA



**Mani AQ**  
HOPE - Have Only  
Positive Expectations  
Pakistan



**Manisha Dhakal**  
Blue Diamond Society  
Nepal

## 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



**Yves Aerts Jacobs**  
Çavaria  
Belgium

## ILGA-EUROPE ALTERNATE



**Annika Ojala**  
Seta - LGBTI Rights  
in Finland

## ILGALAC



**Darío Arias**  
Conurbanxs por la  
Diversidad - Jovenes  
por la Diversidad  
Argentina

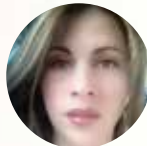


**Luz Elena Aranda**  
Teatro Cabaret Reinas Chulas AC  
Mexico

## ILGALAC ALTERNATES



**Natasha Jiménez Mata**  
MULABI  
Costa Rica



**Cristina González Hurtado**  
Corporación Femm  
Colombia

## ILGA NORTH AMERICA



**Kimberly Frost**  
OUTreach  
United States

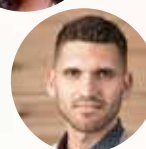


**Kimahli Powell**  
Rainbow Railroad  
Canada

## ILGA NORTH AMERICA ALTERNATES



**Marie-Pier Boisvert**  
Conseil québécois LGBT  
Canada



**Justin Tindall**  
It Gets Better  
United States

## ILGA OCEANIA



**Tuisina Ymania Brown**  
Samoa  
Pacific Human Rights  
Initiative



**Mani Bruce Mitchell**  
ITANZ - Intersex Trust  
Aotearoa New Zealand  
Aotearoa New Zealand

## ILGA OCEANIA ALTERNATES



**Bess Hepworth**  
Planet Ally  
Australia



**Kevin Haunui**  
Tiwhanawhana Trust  
Aotearoa New Zealand

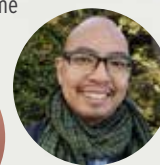


For ILGA-Europe, the co-chairs (Micah Grzywnowicz of RFSL and Darianne Flemington of UNISON) are not the same as the representatives on ILGA World's board

# STAFF MEMBERS AND INTERNS

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018

**Zhan Chiam**  
Coordinator, Gender Identity  
and Gender Expression Programme



**J. Andrew Baker**  
Senior Giving Officer



**André du Plessis**  
Executive Director



**Julia Ehrt**  
Director of Programmes\*



**Senka Juzbasic**  
Senior Officer, Projects and Support Services



**Kseniya Kirichenko**  
Senior Officer, Women  
and UN Advocacy



**Paula Klik**  
Administrative Support  
Officer



**Lucas Ramón Mendos**  
Senior Research Officer



**Daniele Paletta**  
Senior Communications  
Officer\*



**Diana Carolina  
Prado Mosquera**  
Senior Officer, UN Advocacy  
(UPR, HRC and SDGs)



**Natalia Voltchkova**  
Director of Finance and  
Support Services



**Gabriel Galil**  
United Nations Advocacy Intern



**Maria Ihler**  
United Nations Programme Intern



**Zineb Oulmakki**  
Communications Intern



**Daryl Yang**  
Legal Research Intern



\* as of 1 January 2019



## ALSO WITH US IN 2018:



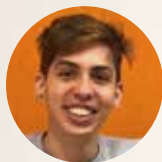
**Aengus Carroll**  
Consultant



**Callum Birch**  
UN Programme Intern



**Nachale Boonyapisomparn (Hua)**  
Gender Identity and Gender Expression  
Programme Intern



**Bernardo Fico**  
UN Programme Intern



**Lara Goodwin**  
UN Programme Intern

During 2018, the ILGA World team grew to 11 staff. In March, André du Plessis was appointed as our new Executive Director. In September, Julia Ehrt joined us as Director of Programmes, and Lucas Ramón Mendos and Paula Klik took up the roles of Senior Research Officer and Administrative Support Officer respectively.

We also said goodbye to Aengus Carroll who consulted with us for several years, heading-up and building our research work to new levels. Thank you, Aengus!

A special thanks goes to the 8 interns that have worked with ILGA during the year. Never has our team seen such an increase in capacity to assist our global family!

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This summary is based on ILGA audited accounts for 2018 and 2017.

As of 2016 accounts are presented in Swiss francs (CHF).

The total operating expenses in 2018 was 2,099,361 CHF, while the total income in 2018 was 2,496,939 CHF. ILGA ended 2018 with results of 338,006 CHF

## Balance Sheet

For years ending December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018, CHF	2017, CHF
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets	350,196	38,993
Non-current assets	13,255	13,249
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>363,451</b>	<b>52,242</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities	203,153	229,950
Non-current liabilities	--	--
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>203,153</b>	<b>229,950</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves from operations	185,000	--
Results from previous periods	(177,708)	105,562
Results for the year	153,006	(283,270)
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>363,451</b>	<b>52,242</b>

## Statement of Revenues and Expenses

For year ending December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018, CHF	2017, CHF
<b>INCOME</b>		
Core income	1,773,278	1,355,949
Project income	723,661	144,977
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,496,939</b>	<b>1,500,926</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Operational capacity	1,217,031	989,908
Direct project costs	882,330	769,946
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2,099,361</b>	<b>1,759,854</b>
<b>Operating Results</b>	<b>397,579</b>	<b>(258,928)</b>
<b>FINANCIAL RESULTS</b>		
Financial Results	59,572	24,343
<b>Total Results</b>	<b>338,006</b>	<b>(283,270)</b>



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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 protection 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](#)**

## IN LOVING MEMORY

In early 2018, ILGA and the world of activism mourned the loss of **Kürşad Kahramanoğlu**, an LGBT human rights defender from Turkey who played a crucial role in the ILGA family for many years.

A passionate activist, trade unionist and leader of our communities, he served as Secretary General of ILGA from 1999 to 2006: one of the longest-running persons in this role.

With Kürşad's passing, ILGA lost one of its leaders: a person who worked relentlessly to fight racism and advance the rights of our communities.

In our 40<sup>th</sup> year we lost a member of our family and part of our history. We pledge to honour his legacy through our work.

Our condolences go to all who have been touched by Kürşad's presence over the years.

To Kürşad, and the many other members of the LGBTI community that we lost in 2018, we simply say: you will be remembered.





ILGA's Annual Report was coordinated and edited by  
**Daniele Paletta**

Managed by  
**André du Plessis**

Spanish translation:  
**Paul Caballero** - ILGALAC

Design and typesetting:  
**Roberta Bruno** – [roberta.comics@gmail.com](mailto:roberta.comics@gmail.com)

This annual report covers the period from **1 January to 31 December 2018**.



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

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1202 Geneva, Switzerland

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

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