

WOMEN'S
COMMITTEE

ilga[™]
world

Women Moving Forward Together

MAGAZINE



02 EDITION

APRIL 2021

From left to right: Raquel Disenfeld, Juli Lopinto, Alicia Caf, Nora Cortiñas and Norma Castillo (Norma Castillo and Ramona 'Cachita' Arévalo were the first older adult lesbian couple to marry in 2010 in Argentina)

SECTION 1

Highlighting

The women of ILGA World

ILGA World Co-Secretaries General

Elected at the Wellington - New Zealand World Conference in March of 2019

Luz Elena Aranda

Tuisina Ymania Brown

ILGALAC

ILGA Oceania

She/her
Organization
 Las Reinas Chulas Cabaret y Derechos Humanos AC (Las Reinas Chulas Cabaret and Human Rights)
Country: Mexico

She/her
Organization
 Pacific Human Rights Initiative
Country: Samoa



ILGA World Women's Committee

Since the 2019 ILGA World Conference in Wellington - New Zealand, the World Board includes five activists representing five new committees: bisexual, intersex, trans, youth and women. Each Committee consists of seven people: one committee coordinator and six activists from each region.

The members of ILGA World Women's Committee are:



Committee Coordination

Cristina González Hurtado
Organization
 Corporación Femm
Country: Colombia

Elected at the World Conference in Wellington, New Zealand, March, 2019.



Pan Africa ILGA

Sandra Kwikiriza
Organization
 Fem Alliance Uganda
Country: Uganda

Appointed by the Pan-Africa ILGA Regional Council in May, 2019.



ILGA Asia

Brenda Rodríguez Alegre
Organization
 Society of the Transsexual Women of the Philippines
Country: Philippines

Appointed by the ILGA Asia Regional Council in August, 2019.



Latin America and the Caribbean ILGA LAC

Teresa Fernández
Organization
 Red Mujeres LB de Cuba
Country: Cuba

Elected at the Regional Conference of ILGALAC in Bogota, in November, 2019.



ILGA North America and the Caribbean

Winnie Luk
Organization
 Rainbow Railroad
Country: Canada

Appointed by the ILGA North America Regional Council in May, 2020.



ILGA Oceania

Maria Nailevu
Organization
 Pacific Sexual & Gender Diversity Network
Country: Tonga

Elected at ILGA Oceania AGM, Online, in October of 2020.



ILGA Europe

Vacant
 Pending appointment by the >Xz - «J Council - Z .LGA (Å² - ° X

ILGA'S WOMEN REGIONAL CO-CHAIRS



Pan Africa ILGA

J. Nnedinma Ulanmo

Organisation
 INCREASE
Country: Nigeria

Elected at PAI Conference in Gaborone, June 2018.



Sheba Akpokli

Organisation
 Interfaith Diversity Network of West Africa
Country: Togo

Elected at PAI Conference in Gaborone, June 2018.



ILGA Asia

Candy Darim Yun

Organisation
 Korean Sexual-minority Culture & Rights Center
Country: Republic of Korea

Elected at the ILGA Asia Conference in Seoul, August 2019.



Shadi Amin

Organisation
 Iranian Lesbian and Transgender Network (6Rang)
Country: Irán

Elected at the ILGA Asia Conference in Seoul, August 2019.



ILGA Europa

Olena Shevchenko

Organisation
 Insight Public Organization
Country: Ukraine

Elected at ILGA Europe Conference, Online, October 2020.



ILGALAC

Ari Vera Morales

Organisation
 Captive Souls
Country: Mexico

Elected at the ILGALAC Conference, Bogota, November 2019.



ILGA Norteamérica y el Caribe

Kimberly Frost
Organisation
 OUTreach
Country: United States

Online election.



ILGA Oceania

Vanessa Lee-Ah Mat
Organisation
 Australian Greens LGBTI members
Country: Australia

Elected online at ILGA Oceania Conference, October 2020.

Who lead LGBTQI Organizations in ILGA World

Fundación Mujer & Mujer [Woman & Woman Founda ion] Ecuador - ILGALAC

Lía Burbano is the lesbian and feminist woman founder and director of Fundación Mujer & Mujer.

Mujer & Mujer promotes women and LGBTQI+ leadership towards developing a more just and equitable society. The foundation started out of a need to promote social and political visibility of lesbian women, empower them, and enhance community activism. "Be, Decide and Demand" – these are the three pillars of its mission: where they speak from, what they decide, and what changes they demand to change Ecuador's hetero-patriarchal society.



www.mujierymujer.org
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[@mujerymujerc](https://www.instagram.com/mujerymujerc)



GENDERDOC-M Centrul GDM

Anastasia Danilova is the lesbian woman running GENDERDOC-M.

GENDERDOC-M is the leading non-governmental organisation in Moldova working to protect and promote the rights of LGBTI persons. Its mission is to create a legislative, legal, and social environment supportive of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons through the development of the LGBT social sector, by raising awareness, promoting advocacy, providing services, and developing and expanding organisational capacity.



www.gdm.md
info@gdm.md
[@gdm.md](https://www.facebook.com/gdm.md)
[@centrul_gdm](https://www.instagram.com/centrul_gdm)



Society of the Transsexual Women of the Philippines Filipinas - ILGA Asia

Brenda Rodriguez Alegre is one of the women Board Members of STRAP - Society of Transsexual Women of the Philippines and current ILGA Asia representative to the World Women Committee of ILGA.

The Society of Transsexual Women of the Philippines (STRAP) is the lead organisation in the promotion and support of trans rights in the Philippines.



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[@STRAP.MANILA](https://www.facebook.com/STRAP.MANILA)
[@strapmanila](https://www.instagram.com/strapmanila)
[@strap_manila](https://www.tumblr.com/strap_manila)



SECTION 3

Advocacy for

LBTQI Women's Rights at ILGA World

ILGA Women's Committee publishes report on aging and old age in LBTQI women

"The precarious living conditions experienced by lesbians, especially older persons, the poverty, loneliness, lack of visibility and discrimination highlight the urgency and need to build our own response: a collective, democratic alternative that protects us and promotes other ways of coming together. We believe that, as lesbians, we have a political identity that challenges the heteronormative system. That is starting point to proposing collective, horizontal and sustainable strategies that can become real solutions for cis and trans lesbians in situations of economic insecurity"
Alicia Caf. Buenos Aires, Argentina. (1951-2020)

The Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Claudia Mahler, whose United Nations Human Rights Council mandate is to report on developments, challenges and protection gaps in the realisation of the rights of said population, called on civil society organisations to make contributions towards improving the human rights of older LBTQI women.

For this reason, Kseniya Kirichenko, Coordinator of the United Nations Advocacy Programme on Women and ILGA World Women's Committee in March 2021 undertook the task of collecting and systematizing information to report on the human rights situation of LBTQI older adult women.

While it is true that the elderly represent a large and rapidly growing segment of the world population, it is noteworthy that women make up the majority of the elderly, and global demographic data has systemically shown that women tend to live longer than men, especially at advanced ages.

Older adult women also make substantial contributions to our societies and economy by even assuming unpaid caregiver roles, volunteering and being community leaders. However, aging is not gender- nor inequality-neutral; the discrimination experienced by women throughout their lives is often exacerbated in old age.

For example, older women are at increased risk of poverty and of facing barriers in access to basic rights such as health, adequate housing, and protection from violence, abuse and neglect. However, these specific issues, aggravated by the intersection of age and gender, tend to remain invisible and under-studied.

All older adult lesbians, bisexual women and trans women endure and suffer from an additional host of biases due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, which intersect with the stage of their life cycle, thereby materialising barriers to living fully or at a barely basic level, especially with regards to their sexuality. The latter, an issue plagued by discriminatory narratives, namely to subject the right to an active sex life or to make different sexual choices to the concept of "youth".

In general, older adults are not seen as consumers because they are not objectively "big" spenders; they cannot or are not able to adhere to the consumerist rhythm imposed by capitalism. As such, they are ignored by the advertising industry and excluded by this powerful factory of stereotypes intended for a white, young, active, heterosexual and consumer-abled population.

The concept of youth, its cultural context and everything deriving from it essentially exclude older adults, who are further expected and assumed to be asexual, since sexuality and pleasure have become rights and privileges of the young or the



Picture: National Association of LGBTBI Older Adults of Bolivia, led by lesbian activist Consuelo Torrico Alaiza.

active population.

The intersectionalities and specificities of being an older adult trans, lesbian, or other person are insufficiently integrated into academic and political thought on aging and gender, thus leading to insufficient empirical evidence to inform the development of social policy or actions that consider said population's needs.

Additionally, older adults are conceived as "objects" of public policies, but never as "subjects" of rights. To the contrary: they belong to a symbolic state of forbiddance. This occurs because they have no real political power – even less so if they are lesbian or trans women whose power is absent to the point that even the movement for the advance of the rights of LGBTIQ persons rarely includes in their agenda the fight for the rights of LGBTIQ older adults. This – rather than being a senseless or unjust observation – serves to remind us that there have been and still are many priorities within the movement left to be addressed; that several important issues, such as the one previously described, continue to be postponed. To gather this information and submit it to the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Claudia Mahler, ILGA World Women's Committee collected information and found important and valuable research by the NGO SAGE - Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders, who have historically been partners of ILGA World, and ILGA World member organisations such as CIPAC of Costa Rica and Fundación ManoTiversa [Diverse Hand Founda-

tion] from Bolivia. It also identified initiatives by grassroots organisations, which are the first and only line of support for BTQI older adult lesbians and women, such as the National Association of LGTBTI Older Adults in Bolivia, led by lesbian activist Consuelo Torrico Alaiza, and the Colectiva Sueños de Mariposa [Butterfly Dreams Association] of Buenos Aires, Argentina, founded by Alicia Caf.

And how can we not talk about Alicia Caf when we refer to the realities of the lesbian elderly? Alicia was an impoverished 68-year-old lesbian activist who was found dead on the street by the police in Buenos Aires in August 2020. Authorities reported that she died of COVID-19. Alicia founded the Colectiva Sueños de Mariposa in 2017, in order to promote decent life alternatives for lesbian elders and for future generations. Her dream project was to build a Lesbian Center for Lesbian Old Age.

Alicia's body was found on Avenida Cordoba #3200 and taken to the morgue. She lived alone since 2017 in a hotel, in a small room, filled with mould and humidity, in great frailty, after having lived, since 2014, in Casa Frida, an integration centre for women, trans persons and dissidents in street situations, and receive a small pension. When her friends and activism companions learned of her death, they were unable to claim her body or get any information based on the fact that they were not her biological family. After having lived in Switzerland and other European countries for three decades, she only kept a distant connection with her biological sister, since she only returned to Argentina in 2014.

The Buenos Aires police eventually released the body to her niece with a report that vaguely stated "lung complications from COVID-19" as the cause of death. Alicia's activism companions at Colectiva Sueños de Mariposa report that this process was plagued with misinformation, speculation, bureaucracy, exercise of sexist power, as well as violent dynamics, including actions and schemes by the police and public prosecutor when faced with the request to clarify the causes of Alicia's death.

A few days after Alicia's death, the Colectiva Sueños de Mariposa's activists made a plan to demand transparency from the police and housing solutions for older adults from the

Argentinian government.

Sueños de Mariposa continues to exist and resist as a self-managed place of refuge and shelter for lesbian elders and a place to honour Alicia Caf's memory. Alicia's greatest dream – and now the dream of Juli Lopinto, Madhava Mercado, as well as lesbian association's activists – was the construction of what they affectionately call a "Lesbiatric Center".

We can therefore see that we owe ourselves new reflections on the different elderly and these require looking to the future to consider as well as integrate the indicators that serve as inputs for the design of the policies on aging and old age, the public policies indicators for LGBTI persons and Afro or racialised persons, among others. For example, trans women have lower life expectancy than older adult women in general, as their life trajectories involve social and health risks that lead to earlier death, according to the main findings by certain intergovernmental organisations' and civil society's human rights reports.

Another aspect that should be subject to revision is the statistical delimitation of old age, as a life cycle, based solely on age. This contributes to a uniform view of this life stage and ignores people's other dimensions; people whom, on their own, are unable to account for all of (old age's) intrinsic diversity and the different dimensions within it (ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, gender identity).

States remain indebted regarding the production of studies and data on LGBTQI persons. They must regularly conduct research and collect disaggregated data by age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and, above all, situations of poverty, abuse and violence suffered by LGBTQI older adult persons, because a society that prides itself in being a guarantor of rights cannot move forward while forgetting those who paved the way to achieve rights that we hold today.

If you would like to receive the report in its entirety, please send an email to:

Kseniya Kirichenko: kseniya@ilga.org
Cristina González Hurtado - ILGA World Women's Committee Coordinator: women@board.ilga.org

Written by
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Coordinator of ILGA World
Women's Committee

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April 2021

SECTION 5

Funding opportunities for LBTQI organizations

Tinker Foundation Incorporated Social Project Grants



Tinker is an American organisation that funds projects and initiatives that aim to support practice and policy change that improve the lives of Latin American citizens, with an emphasis on supporting organisations in the region that promote effective policy change.

The Foundation's funding support covers the three programmatic areas in which research, innovation, replication of proven models, and the exchange of ideas have the potential to make a significant positive impact.

Latin America non-profit organisations can apply. Projects must have a strong public policy component, offer innovative solutions to regional problems, and incorporate new mechanisms for managing focus areas. Preference is given to projects that promote collaboration between U.S. and Latin American organisations.

The Program has four priority funding areas: democratic governance, education, sustainable resource management, and U.S. policy towards Latin America.

For more information, please check the terms of the call [HERE](#)

 www.tinker.org

Freedom House Urgent Human Rights Grants




Freedom House is dedicated to expanding freedom and democracy around the world and, through its Lifeline Embattled CSO (Civil Society Organisation) Assistance Fund, provides emergency financial assistance to CSOs under threat or attack and support for civil society protection and human rights work in any country, especially to those located in crisis regions.

Any Civil Society Organisation, defined as a group of two or more activists whom as a result of their activities were subject to threat or attack, can apply for emergency financial assistance. You only need to be able to document your activism history.

Prior to submitting your application, please note the following:

- The proposal should be short-term (between 1 and 3 months, up to a maximum 6 months).
- The proposal must address an urgent threat to civil society.

Apply for your initiative by email. For more information, please visit the Freedom House website.

 advocacy@csolifeline.org
 www.freedomhouse.org

SECTION 5
Visible Lesbians
in ILGA World



Women Moving Forward Together

MAGAZINE

Thank you for receiving the second version of the ILGA World Women's Committee magazine. This magazine will be published bimonthly in the year 2021.

You can send your contributions to the following email addresses: lapochi@corporacion-femm.org and women@board.ilga.org

Acknowledgements

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Women who were part of the World Committee of Women:

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Tuisina Ymania Brown - Co-Secretary General

Luz Elena Aranda - Co-Secretary General

Daniele Paletta - Communications Coordinator

Kseniya Kirichenko - Program Coordinator (UN Advocacy, Women and Training)

Polyxeni Kallini - Senior Finance Officer - Grants and Report Submission

André du Plessis - Executive Director

And to all LBTQI women!