

2022 ILGA WORLD CONFERENCE REPORT





For almost three years, we were separated from our chosen family with only screens to keep us connected. We suffered fatigue from the endless virtual meetings, and we were left without the possibility of sharing the same room, hugs and physical connections that bring so much joy to our lives. Yet, at the same time, we faced the urge to keep pushing ourselves to the limit to support our LGBTIQ communities, especially those that were most left at the margins by a deadly intersection of structural discrimination and a time of exceptional global hardship!

Covid-19 has put us all through this, impacting each of us in different ways. We have all been gasping for air, waiting for an opportunity to be reunited at last and heal together. At ILGA World, we have been extremely proud to have created such a moment: our 2022 World Conference in Long Beach, CA, United States has been one of the first occasions in which our global LGBTIQ community could gather together again, share their best energies, and reconnect with fellow human rights defenders from all around the globe. The hugs, the happy tears, and the conversations that started to flow spontaneously again during this ILGA World Conference are all memories that we will treasure for a long time to come.

Covid-19 is only one of the crises that our planet continues to face. The climate emergency, wars and widespread conflicts, gender-based violence, racism, social injustice, and economic disparities are only a few of the deadly presences we are battling against. But a conference like ours has been a much-needed reminder that we don't have to fight alone: our struggles intersect with those lived by others, and weaving alliances is now more important than ever. Our LGBTIQ communities are here to unite, not to be divided.



This has also been our first ever World Conference that brings the focus on LGBTIQ youth. It has truly been inspiring to see them take the stage, call everyone in, and mobilise in solidarity to bring radical, positive change to the world!

When we unite, something beautiful happens. In Long Beach, our global family decided it was finally time for our World Conference to return to Africa, and even competing bidders invited everyone to vote in favour of this proposal. For the first time in 25 years, then, our global family will soon be back together on the African continent!

Until that moment, we will continue to serve as ILGA World's Co-Secretaries General, and we are honoured to having been re-elected by our membership for one more mandate. ILGA World is in a time of exceptional growth, and we look forward to continuing our work for an organisation that is strong, inclusive, and looking out not just for each other, but - also more importantly - for our global LGBTIQ family.



ILGA World is a convenor of the global LGBTIQ movement. This is what we have always been since our early days, more than 40 years ago. This work hasn't stopped even during the months of the Covid-19 pandemic, when we had to find new, digital ways to bring our communities together.

This experience has inevitably shaped the 2022 World Conference, our first to ever offer possibilities for digital participation for those who could not be physically present at the event. Overall, almost 900 persons took part into our global gathering, either in-person or through their screens back home. We made a large majority of sessions available also for online participation, and we ensured the safety and well-being of those in Long Beach both through a comprehensive Covid-19 protocol and the presence of a support team. It has been a success, and we will build on this experience to broaden our convening power even more in the future!

With 137 sessions in five days some of them marking an absolute first at ILGA World, such as the pre-conferences addressing family diversity, media representation, research, and the realities of LGBTI people with disabilities - together we took a deep dive into our common struggle to power progress for all. It has been an incredible learning experience - something that we are already building upon to give back to your communities on the ground. This conference marked also the first time that three States' Special Envoys on LGBTIQ human rights attended the conference together. From the United Nations, three Special Procedures mandate holders and the Youth Envoy joined the conference, too. In a moment of increased, concerted attacks against our rights, such statements of commitment and solidarity are more important than ever.

This conference would not have been possible without the work of many: our Board who understood the necessity for our movement to come together again, and took the bold decision to go ahead with the conference; our staff and team of consultants who have turned this vision into a reality, pushing through even Covid-19 derailed our plans; the volunteers who helped the conference engine running smoothly; the Chairing Pool who has led operations during the event, and our local host and member organisation It Gets Better Project, who worked tirelessly to welcome our global family to California.

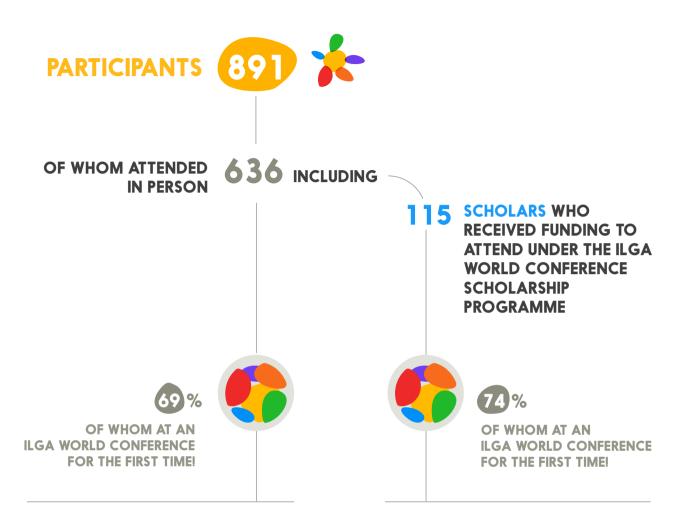
To them, and to everyone else who made this conference possible, we simply say: thank you for bringing our global community together again when it seemed almost impossible, breaking an isolation that has lasted far too long. We look forward to reuniting our global family again, and we are already working to make it happen: it won't be long until we will all meet again in Cape Town!

Julia Ehrt

Julia Ehrt ILGA World Executive Director

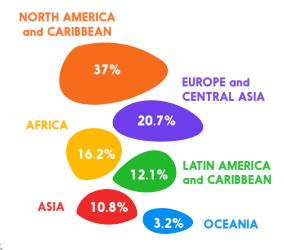


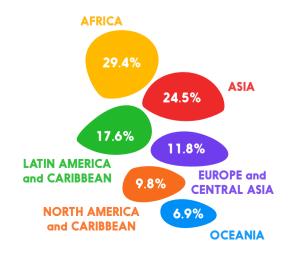
A DIVERSE WORLD CONFERENCE



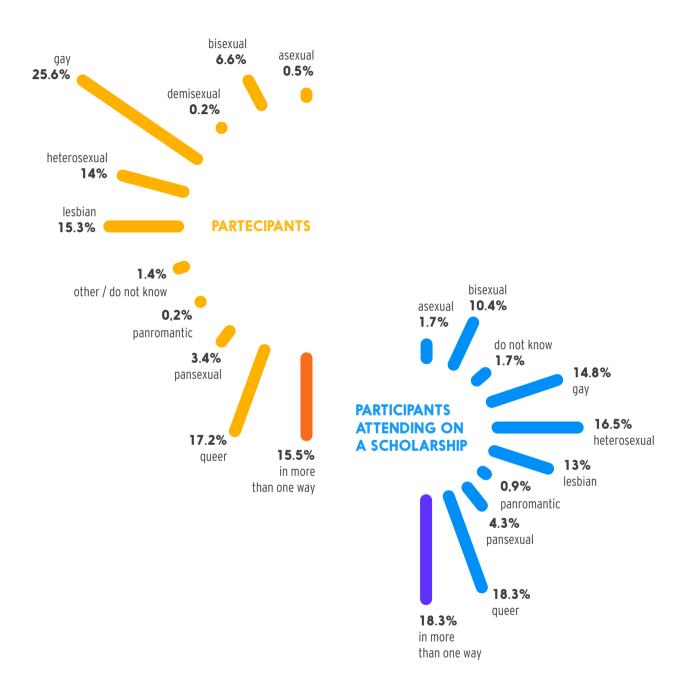
FROM 111 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

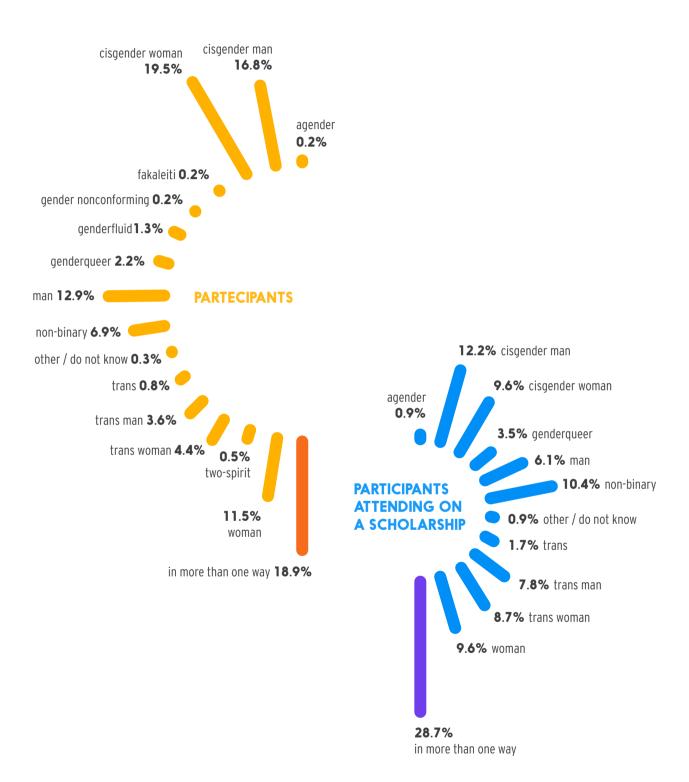
FROM 57 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES



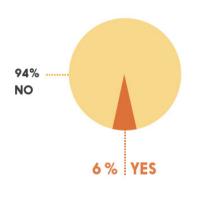


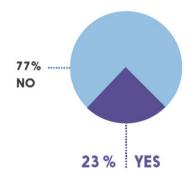
WHO IDENTIFY AS



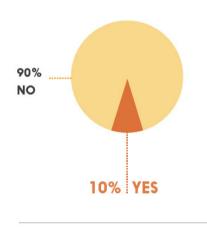


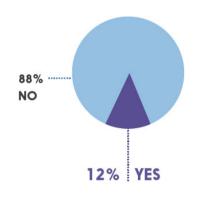
ARE INTERSEX



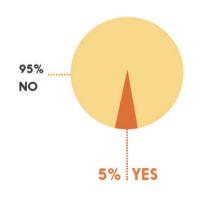


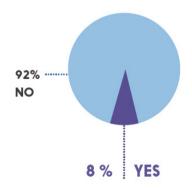
HAVE A DISABILITY





ARE LIVING WITH HIV

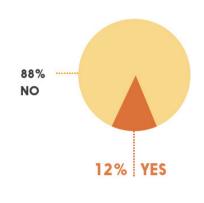


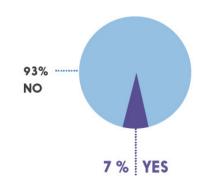


PARTICIPANTS

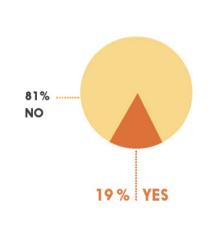
PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING
ON A SCHOLARSHIP

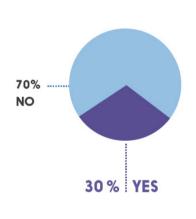
ARE INDIGENOUS/HAVE A TRADITIONAL IDENTITY



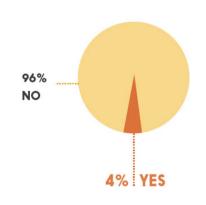


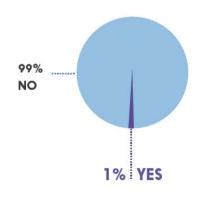
ARE UNDER 30





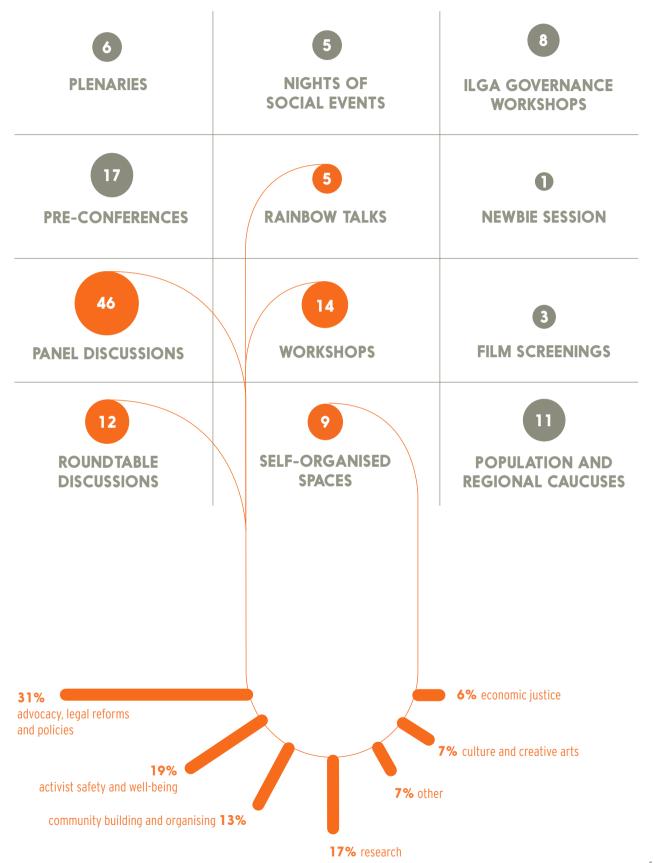
ARE 60 OR OLDER





PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING ON A SCHOLARSHIP

WORKSHOPS, SESSIONS, PRE-CONFERENCES



OUR FIRST HYBRID WORLD CONFERENCE



PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



OF SESSIONS MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE



ACTIVE USERS ON THE VIRTUAL PLATFORM

MEDIA COVERAGE





POTENTIAL READERSHIP 730,107,674



THANKS TO THE 59 VOLUNTEERS



WHO HELPED US MAKE THE CONFERENCE POSSIBLE!



MONDAY 2 MAY

After months of preparation, the journey is over: the 2022 ILGA World Conference is ready to start! An amazing energy fills the room: one that is made of solidarity, determination, and joy. "This week, we hope you will glow on the rainbow euphoria that we all carry in our hearts: do it also for all the members of our family who are not here with us," our co-Secretaries General Tuisina Ymania Brown and Luz Elena Aranda tell the crowd.







636 persons from 111 countries and territories are now in Long Beach, and Mayor Robert Garcia is on stage to welcome them all. In addition, over 250 participants are following online: this is our first-ever global hybrid event, held under the theme "LGBTIQ Youth: Future Present Change".







turn to the person next to them and

them "I believe in you, and I believe in

us". It is the words that all of us needed

to hear at this point in time.

From our host organisations to dozens of sessions, LGBTIQ youth is front and centre in this conference. The year-long Queer Youth Dialogues campaign is about to end, and the UN Envoy on Youth seals it off with a powerful reminder of how LGBTIQ youth continue to speak up against injustice, despite often facing considerable risk.

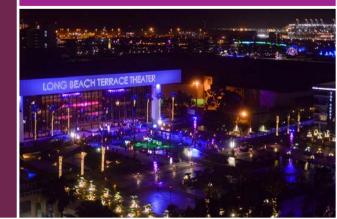




During the evening, the It Gets Better Project hosts the first of its five social event nights, in a reception outside the Performing Arts Center in Long Beach. A wonderful way to unwind after a very intense first day at the conference!



Day One already offers many spaces for our communities to come together, three of them marking an absolute first for an ILGA World event: pre-conferences dedicated to family diversity, media representation, and LGBTI people with disabilities. Three population and regional caucuses and eight more pre-conferences unfold during the day - touching upon advocacy strategies at the United Nations, as well as on indigenous persons, Francophone communities, and on faith, trans, education, women, and youth issues.



TUESDAY 3 MAY

Many conversations continue to unfold during the second day of the conference, as lesbian, bisexual, and intersex people, as well as sex workers and trade unions, have dedicated pre-conferences to share their own experiences within their own community, the larger LGBTI movement, and beyond.



Populations and regional caucuses also come to a close today, each of them collectively charting ways to advance the human rights situation of the people they represent and serve.







A specific pre-conference dedicated to research takes place for the first time in an ILGA World event. We all know how important it is to have reliable and accurate data on the lived realities of our communities, and at ILGA World we have been working on very significant changes in how our research is structured and presented. Our brand-new database on SOGIESC issues is introduced during the conference for the first time, and we'll be soon ready to launch it: stay tuned!



"I am overwhelmed, but in a good way, by the sheer number of activists who are here, want to connect and have a conversation about the work that is being done. Activism is rewarding but takes lot of energy, so being in a space like this reminds us of why we are doing it."

For almost 7 in 10 participants, this week in Long Beach marks their first time at an ILGA World Conference. With hundreds of human rights defenders in the same place, and so many conversations happening at once, some tips and pointers may be useful: today we organise a "newbie" session to help navigate this huge







WEDNESDAY 4 MAY

How do we build back better, and what does that look like? The question resonates across corridors and rooms, and everybody brings it with themselves as we gather together for the opening plenary. At such a pivotal moment in time, where even rights that we once thought secured are being challenged and denied, being united in creating a future for our movements seems now more important than ever. "It is important for us to foster solidarity to create change," is the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism E. Tendayi Achiume reminds everyone from the stage.





One thing is clear: youth is not just the future, but the present of human rights movements. Their capacity to speak truth to power, and to mobilise millions, is a force to be reckoned with, and their voices should be included as we collectively strive for change. An inspiring panel of young LGBTIQ people from all over the world takes the floor, discussing the challenges of navigating both their daily lives and advocacy spaces, and how they can contribute to change.

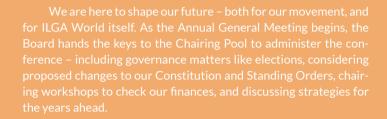




"Many young people are marginalised because they don't have access to resources. Therefore, they need to be prioritised as we must not leave anyone behind"



Many other workshops, Rainbow Talks, and panel discussions take place. These are important moments to share knowledge, learn from each other, and empower our collective work: the fight to ban 'conversion therapy', strategies to resist online harassment and create safe spaces for activism, the upcoming global effort to renew the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity are among the dozens of issues we address today.











THURSDAY 5 MAY

Feminist and LGBTIQ human rights movements continue to celebrate advances worldwide, but victories are also being met with increasingly severe backlash. Anti-rights groups actively try to fabricate conflicts among historically allied movements, but we know otherwise: the fight for the human rights of LGBTIQ people and the fight to advance gender equality are inextricably linked.







Today, our World Conference sees a powerful reminder of this historic alliance: the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Reem Alsalem, takes the stage with women human rights defenders, united precisely because of their diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics, and brought together by the common understanding of the intersectional nature of violence and discrimination against women.

"Feminism takes many forms and we provide women with the resources to do intersectional work"





Food for thought is served throughout the day, with dozens of workshops and panel discussions touching upon ways how homelessness impacts on LGBTIQ youth, how criminalising laws are enforced worldwide, and strategies towards better economic empowerment - amongst others. Our host organisation It Gets Better Project also shares valuable insights into the art of storytelling to mobilise change.





Meanwhile, the ILGA World team offers consultations on advocacy to activists wishing to engage with human rights mechanisms at the United Nations, and something historic happen: for the first time, the Special Envoys on LGBTIQ Rights of Argentina, Italy, and the United States gather at the ILGA World Conference to discuss collective strategies to help protect the human rights of our communities worldwide.

FRIDAY 6 MAY

With eyes still filled with the wonders seen during last night's social event at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific, all participants come together again for the final day at the conference. There are still many more discussions to be had – including on the criminalisation of LBQ women, strategies to counter the anti-gender movement, the changing media landscape for our communities in the MENA region, and many more.



Our global community also reacts in shock and outrage at the news of the Roe v. Wade possible overturn, which leaked earlier this week and will become a reality only one month later. "We call on the United States not to turn back the clock on the dignity, the autonomy, and the self-determination of over half of its population". The fight for sexual reproductive health and rights will continue.



Meanwhile, at the conference, governance processes come to a close after months of collective work: our global family passes resolutions, financial matters are approved, and our Constitution and Standing Orders are fine-tuned following the proposals of our membership.









The bid of Iranti and Gender Dynamix to host the next ILGA World Conference is successful: our global family will soon meet again in Cape Town, South Africa, bringing our global event back to the African continent for the first time in 25 years!

The voting process also gives us a new Board: Tuisina Ymania Brown (Samoa) and Luz Elena Aranda Arroyo (Mexico) are confirmed in their role as Co-Secretaries General. New Chairs are elected to the Steering Committees: Angelica Polmonari (Women), Ian Lawrence-Tourinho (Bisexual), Tashnuva Anan (Trans), and Crystal Hendricks (Intersex), while Martin Karadzhov is confirmed in his role to chair the Youth Committee.





There is still time left for a wonderful closing party (and who can provide better entertainment than fabulous local drag queens?), before it is time to say goodbye. Five incredibly intense and enriching days have gone by in a heartbeat: until next time!







OUTCOMES

The 2022 ILGA World Conference has been a transformative experience for our global family. It has been a powerful reminder that nothing speaks louder than a community that comes together through dialogue and cooperation, and unites in their fight. The event has laid the foundations of the years ahead not only in terms of our activism, but also in the organisation's governance. Here is what has changed.







AN INTERSECTIONAL FEMINIST LENS

ILGA World increasingly seeks to work through an intersectional lens, and this is now reflected in our Constitution, too: "Recognising that there is no single issued struggle to achieve human rights and socio-economic equality for all, ILGA World strives to work through an intersectional feminist lens".

MORE CLARITY IN GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Perhaps a little bit confusingly, the General Meeting of ILGA World used to be referred to as 'World Conference" in our Constitution and Standing Orders. Not anymore: any related mentions have now been replaced with "General Assembly". Read our guide to find out more about how our membership can get involved in this crucial moment of the life of our organisation!

A NEW ROLE FOR STEERING COMMITTEES

Our Steering Committees are groups of activists appointed or elected from every region of the world to support ILGA World's work on bisexual, intersex, trans, women, and youth issues. First established in 2016 to continue the work of the Secretariats, they have seen their role shift over the years: they will now be tasked to act as spokespersons for the Executive Board on their population's issues, and to strengthen, advise and support our programmatic work – including by reviewing it annually to ensure that our membership is consulted in an effective manner.

AN UN-INTERRUPTED REPRESENTATION OF OUR COMMUNITIES

Our Executive Board represents our global LGBTI family. To ensure this happens seamlessly all the time, our membership voted on ways to avoid vacancies within it: in case a Co-Secretary General or a Committee Chair would not be able to continue in their role, the Board will now be able to appoint a new person from within its ranks. In case a position among the regional representatives becomes vacant, the Board will be able to appoint an interim member for the function, until a replacement is elected by the region itself.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD GROWS

Good governance builds on good and ethical oversight, managing risks, and building sustainability – something that both our Board and the Executive Director are committed to. Therefore, our membership agreed to include the Executive Director as an ex-officio member of the Board, although without any voting rights.

<u>Click here</u> to see in full detail how the ILGA World Constitution has changed. All approved changes to the Standing Orders can be accessed <u>here</u>.

MOTIONS AND PRE-CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS





A NEW MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE

The conference has unanimously approved a revision of the membership fees, establishing sliding scale ones according to the declared budget of any organisation.

Budget	Under CHF 10,000	Between CHF 10,001 and 50,000	Between CHF 50,001 and 100,000	Between CHF 100,001 and 500,000	Between CHF 500,001 and 1,000,000	Between CHF 1,000,001 and 5,000,000	Above CHF 5,000,000
Full member	CHF 10	CHF 30	CHF 60	CHF 120	CHF 200	CHF 300	CHF 500
Associate member	CHF 300	CHF 300	CHF 300	CHF 300	CHF 300	CHF 400	CHF 600









DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO SAFE ABORTION EVERYWHERE

While the conference was taking place, news about the possible overturn of the Roe v. Wade decision in the United States leaked to the press, sending shockwaves throughout our global family. In response to such a decision – which unfortunately would have become reality only a few weeks later – our membership approved an emergency motion by acclamation, calling on all our communities to "unite for bodily autonomy, self-determination, and the right to safe abortion everywhere."

"The right to abortion saves lives – it is a pillar of the right of bodily autonomy. [...] As LGBTI people, we experience every day how the surveillance on our bodies is a way to control our mere existence. And we know how the impact of abortion restrictions and bans will fall hardest on those already facing discriminatory obstacles to health care."

PRE-CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

ILGA World pre-conferences delivered a number of recommendations that were accepted by the conference. With these recommendations, our membership encouraged ILGA World to support youth-led organisations with capacity-building resources, to assist them as they develop an international LGBTIQ youth strategy, to incorporate in its upcoming strategic plan specific references to the role of trade unions in promoting the human rights of our communities, and much more. Follow this link to read the full list of recommendations.

IMPACT

We asked participants about their experience at the 2022 ILGA World Conference, and takeaways that will empower their work. Here is what they told us.

"Gathering is imperative to creating a movement. I look forward to returning home and sharing with other youth what has taken place here."



"Being here is hugely important for me as an activist. It often feels like we're fighting alone, but in conferences like these you realise that there are people everywhere who are fighting the same fight. It is empowering, it gets you going."

"I have absorbed some much information, and I have so much to bring back to my community - brothers and sisters who don't have the capacity to be here. Thank you!"



"I am from a country where our communities are criminalised. So it brightens my mind to have the opportunity to meet with other activists and get to know what they do: what worked for them could work for me, too!"

"I've seen endless moments in this conference where people have shared ideas, caught each other's eyes across the room, saying 'We need to work together'. I see alliances being struck, friendships being formed, initiatives coming to life. That does not happen with a bunch of virtual calls."

"I feel energised: I prefer to sleep only three hours instead of missing the opportunity to hug fellow people whom I could not meet for so long. After years of much isolation, this conference has made many of us able to give a reason to our activism again." "Sometimes we stay so focused on our own reality, and we forget there's so much more out there: coming to this space feels like being able to see things in a broader perspective."



"It turned out to be a really fantastic opportunity for me to rediscover the work I do and the communities I want to work for. Being able to meet a family that I didn't even know I had has honestly been life-changing to me."

"It has been so informative, exciting, and just plain fun to meet people whom I've engaged with online throughout the pandemic. Nothing beats face to face engagement, especially as we live in a world where not all of us have equal access to digital technology."



"The pandemic has impacted our communities in so many different ways....
How do we heal from this? Where do we go now? It's a good time to have this conference."

"Being able to see all these human rights defenders together in one place just gives you a sense of empowerment: with these many people fighting for our rights, it's gotta go somewhere!"

ILGA WORLD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

RESULTING FROM THE CONFERENCE

Co-Secretaries General



Luz Elena Aranda Teatro Cabaret Reinas Chulas AC Mexico



Tuisina Ymania BrownPacific Human Rights Initiative
Samoa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Julia Ehrt ILGA World without voting rights

BISEXUAL COMMITTEE CHAIR



lan Lawrence-Tourinho
Bi Foundation
United States

INTERSEX COMMITTEE CHAIR



Crystal Hendricks Iranti, Intersex South Africa South Africa

TRANS COMMITTEE CHAIR



Tashnuva Anan Inclusive Bangladesh Bangladesh

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CHAIR



Angelica Polmonari Arcigay Italy

YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIR



Martin Karadzhov Consortium of LGBT+ Voluntary and Charitable organisations United Kingdom

PAN AFRICA ILGA



Barbra Wangare EATHAN Kenya



Star Rugori MOLI Burundi

ILGA ASIA



Candy Darim YunKorean Sexual-Minority
Culture & Rights Center
South Korea



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

ILGA-EUROPE



Olena Shevchenko Insight Public Organisation Ukraine



Yuri Guaiana Associazione Radicale Certi Diritti Italy

ILGALAC



Ari Vera Morales Almas Cautivas Mexico



Darío Arias Conurbanes por la Diversidad Argentina

ILGA NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



Kimberly Frost OUTreach United States



Renae Green TransWave Jamaica Jamaica

ILGA OCEANIA



Margherita Coppolino Invictus Health Australia



Ken Moala BIMBA Kiribati

ILGA WORLD BOARD ALTERNATES

ILGA-EUROPE ALTERNATE



Annika Ojala Seta - LGBTI Rights in Finland



Yves Aerts Jacobs Çavaria Belgium

PAN AFRICA ILGA ALTERNATES



Líria Victoria Miguel de Castro Arquivo de Identidade Angolano Angola



Rukundo Isaac Mugisha Spectrum Uganda Initiatives Uganda

ILGA ASIA ALTERNATES



Ngo Le Phuong Linh ICS Center Viet Nam



Charbel Maydaa Mosaic MENA Lebanon

ILGALAC ALTERNATES



Marlin González Hombres y Mujeres Nuevos de Panama Panama



David Aruquipa - Danna Galán Comunidad Diversidad Bolivia

ILGA Oceania and ILGA North America & the Caribbean alternates are yet to be determined.

A big thank you for all their work over the years to outgoing Board members: Rāwā Karetai Wood-Bodley (Bisexual Steering Committee),
Tony Briffa (Intersex Steering Committee),
Jabulani Pereira (Trans Steering Committee),
Cristina González Hurtado (Women's Steering Committee),
Stephen Seaborn (ILGA North America & the Caribbean co-Chair).

THANK YOU

An event of this magnitude is not possible without the tireless work and the generous support of many. A heartfelt shout-out and thank you goes to the It Gets Better Project, our

volunteers, and InterAct.Events - as well as to the Chairing Pool, our Board members, and ILGA World staff, consultants, and junior consultants who kept the conference engines running

smoothly. Most of all, our thank you goes to all the LGBTI activists around the world for the time and energy they commit to advancing LGBTI equality everywhere. We are in this together!

HOST ORGANISATION

EVENT CO-MANAGEMENT

VOLUNTEERS MANAGEMENT







Our thanks to the following organisations whose financial or other contributions made the 2022 ILGA World Conference possible:

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Head to our YouTube channel to watch the conference documentary, and...

see you in Cape Town for the 31st ILGA World Conference!



The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

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

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