



Report of the European representatives to the ILGA World Board 2015

The last year has been one of further consolidation for ILGA and it has been another busy year.

The move in 2014 to Geneva resulted in a strengthening of ILGA's UN work and has proved a great opportunity for ILGA to achieve its Strategic Objectives - especially in *becoming a representative voice of LGBTI civil society within international organizations, particularly the United Nations, through collaboration, engagement, and support of members and partners.*

The presence in Geneva has resulted in a more solid cooperation with other NGOs and allies, is stockpiling knowledge and contacts that are already encouraging regional organisations and local groups to bolster their advocacy work with their relevant regional and national human rights bodies, bridging the gap between affirmation of LGBTI human rights in the international arena and the implementation of said rights at the local level.

Apart from the move of the Head Office from Brussels in 2014, LGA supported the organisation of three out of five regional conferences (Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean as well as Oceania), organised a World Conference in Mexico City, hired its first Gender Identity and Gender Expression Programme Officer, continued its support of regional offices in Buenos Aires, Johannesburg and Hong Kong, published the 2014 issue of the State-Sponsored Homophobia Report and related map, all while expanding its UN work, and awarding former High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay for her outstanding accomplishments vis-à-vis LGBTI rights during her mandate and directly organising or supporting many other activities listed in this report.

The World Conference took place in December 2014 and brought together about 400 activists from all around the world. A new constitution was passed and Ruth Baldacchino from Malta and Helen Kennedy from Canada were elected co-secretaries general. Internally the board has focused on strengthening the governance of the organisation, and in order to ensure a stronger cohesion of the organisation, the two new co-secretaries general have introduced bilateral meetings with the regional representatives.

Martin, as member of the Governance Committee, has been involved in the development of an Organisational Manual, which includes an overview of the main functioning of the committees and secretariats, code of conduct, ethical guidelines, equal opportunity policies, financial and procurement guidelines, staff manual and so on.

Anastasia, as member of the Conference Committee is working on a Conference Manual with guidelines for present and future host cities, board and chairing pool as well as provisions for scholarship selections. In this connection, we would like to thank ILGA-Europe for their generous help with inspiration and input to both documents.

At the world conference, the functioning and efficiency of the secretariats (Women's, Trans, Intersex and Bisexual Secretariats) were discussed and the board was asked to evaluate and possibly put forward a proposal to adjust the way ILGA works at the next conference. A questionnaire will be sent out in the following months allowing members in all regions to give their input.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the next ILGA World Conference in Bangkok 28 November to 2 December 2015.

Anastasia Danilova & Martin Iversen Christensen, European Representatives to the ILGA World Board