Report from the European Representatives on ILGA Executive Board

In December 2012 the World Conference of ILGA was held in Stockholm, Sweden, organised by RFSL. More than 450 activists from more than 100 countries in the world were able to meet, exchange thoughts and ideas and participate in interesting panels and workshops. Furthermore, the conference formally approved a large number of new members so that ILGA now has surpassed 1,000 members. Among the dignitaries addressing the conference was the vice President of Argentina, the Prime Minister of Sweden and the Secretary General of Amnesty International.

In addition, we can announce that the next ILGA World Conference will take place in Mexico City and is being planned for the last week of October in 2014.

After three years as Executive Director, Sebastian Rocca, decided to step down, and was replaced by Renato Sabbadini, who resigned as Co-Secretary General in order to take up the position.

This means that the two Co-Secretaries of ILGA are now both women; Gloria Careaga (Mexico) and Azusa Yamashita (Japan).

ILGA is increasing its advocacy and presence at the UN and staff member André du Plessis is a new addition to ILGA’s team as UN Programme and Advocacy Manager. He is based in Geneva and his role is to enhance ILGA’s presence at the UN, including at the Human Rights Council that regularly meets in Geneva, and to ensure that ILGA makes full use of the ECOSOC Consultative Status gained in 2011. ILGA also has a continued presence at the Commission on Status of Women and organized a side event on violence against lesbian, bi and trans women during the 2013 session.

As usual, the ILGA State Sponsored Homophobia Report attracted a lot of attention. Over the last six years, the report has achieved status as a reliable source of information about laws criminalizing same-sex sexual acts between consenting adults.

As European representatives we have been actively involved in the work of the Executive Board as well as actively been involved in fund raising efforts and capacity building of ILGA.

Maria Sjödin and Martin K.I. Christensen
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