Dear friends,

Diversity is what makes ILGA-Europe the vibrant membership-based organisation that it is today. Having proactively worked on this issue for more than a decade, we are committed to reflecting and integrating the diversity within the LGBTI population across all our activities.

ILGA-Europe’s Working Group on Diversity and the organisation’s strategic plan means that diversity is part of our daily work. But the Annual Conference is a place where diversity steps firmly into the spotlight. This gathering of LGBTI activists from around Europe is the epicentre of all our equality efforts.

ILGA-Europe plan each conference with diversity at the forefront of our thoughts. From choosing the theme, to selecting a location and setting our event programme, every element aims to be as inclusive as possible.

The 2015 conference theme “Many Voices, One Movement: together mobilised for a just society” intends to give participants plenty of scope for diversity discussions.

On a practical level, our venue is designed accessible to wheelchair users. This year, we will offer sign interpretation and in Russian. Our conference programme will be produced in braille.

Our staff and board always try to create space at each conference to allow for personal engagement and enable attendees to explore how all the facets of their identities intersect. We also integrate as many themes in the programme as possible, encouraging our friends and attendees to suggest speakers and workshop topics.

Diversity of participation at the conference is incredibly important to ILGA-Europe. It is vital that we include everyone and make sure that those who are seldom represented can flourish at the centre of our annual gathering. We can do this, but only with your help:

- ILGA-Europe provide a certain number of scholarships every year to ensure under-represented groups within the LGBTI movement can attend the conference. Is there someone you think might be interested in joining us in Athens? Spread the word about our scholarships.
- Are you reading this at work? Take a look around your office. Who has been to the ILGA-Europe conference before and who has yet to meet us? We encourage you to think about who will attend the Athens conference and help us to empower minority groups to take part in European level discussions.
- Consider bringing someone to the ILGA-Europe conference who normally would not be able to attend or make a donation to ILGA-Europe’s Diversity Fund so that we can do this for you.

The Annual Conference represents a great chance for activists and organisations that might face visibility problems to reach out to one another. Let’s make the most of the opportunity!

Evelyne Paradis & Joyce Hamilton
On behalf of ILGA-Europe’s Working Group on Diversity