



A year of growth for ILGA - Uniting communities and movements

Report of ILGA's activities for 2015 - 2016 from the European Representatives to the ILGA World Board

Since the last ILGA-Europe conference, ILGA membership has reached 1,167. This global federation of LGBTIQ networks, movements, communities, and bodies work together to challenge oppressive and discriminatory systems, practices and norms that exclude, outlaw, mutilate and kill us,

The work carried out at the ILGA World Office in Geneva and the regional offices in Bangkok, Brussels, Buenos Aires and Johannesburg reflects this complex web of dedicated advocates and activists.

And the regional structures of ILGA in the global South are successfully building their capacity, and members get more opportunities to meet, share and acquire new knowledge, and to better coordinate their advocacy in relation to their respective regional human rights bodies.

Work at UN

As the only global federation of LGBTI organisations, ILGA uses its access at the UN to raise the visibility and protection of LGBTI persons at various United Nations fora.

In addition, ILGA has stepped up its work with the Treaty Bodies in addition to using the Universal Periodic Review of the UN member states as an effective advocacy tool.

Data collecting and distribution



The content of the State Sponsored Homophobia report increases in extension of the issues covered and in the depth of the information provided, while ILGA partners with a Canadian data corporation, RIWI, to launch a global attitudes survey on LGBTI people in 65 countries.

In addition to this, the increasing interest and capacity in dealing with LGBTI-related data at the global level has led ILGA to cooperate on a project about a global LGBTI inclusion index promoted by the United Nations Development Programme.

Protecting the defenders

At the same time, the participation in the consortium of NGOs behind the EU funded initiative ProtectDefenders.eu provides for the first time provides ILGA with concrete tools to help and support LGBTI human rights defenders in difficulty or even in danger.

Internal governance

Internally, the LGA World Board has worked on the further strengthening of the internal governance structures by adopting a governance manual, staff manual and several amendments to Constitution and procurement politics.

Both manuals include very detailed information and separate policies (ex. Staff development and training policy, Code of conduct for Executive Board Members, Environmental Principles, Travel Policy for Board Members and Staff, Procurement policy).

The board has also worked on a new format for selection of scholarships and workshops at the World Conference and changes to the constitution that will be presented at the conference.



Anastasia and Martin at the ILGA Board meeting in Bangkok in September 2015

Finances and budget

ILGA's finance has seen a very positive development in the past year, and the budget for 2016 shows an increase of 14% compared to the 2015 management results. Following the migration from the old membership database to the new membership database, we expect a raise in membership fees collection as a result of a more regular sending of invoices to members.

*We look forward to welcoming you at the ILGA World Conference in Bangkok
from 28 November to 2 December 2016*

Anastasia Danilova and Martin Iversen Christensen

Highlights from ILGA's work in 2015-2016

Highlights of the UN work

Independent Expert On Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

ILGA and its members was heavily engaged in the advocacy at the UN for establishing an Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity, and on 1 July 2016 the United Nations Human Rights Council passed by the resolution with 23 votes in favour, 18 against and 6 abstentions)



Human Rights Council

ILGA monitors the references to SOGIESC issues in the various reports to be delivered and shares these with civil society. ILGA also reports back to civil society on SOGIESC-relevant issues. ILGA coordinated, delivered and/or participated in 9 statements at the September 2015 council session and in 13 at the March 2016 council session. On 18 September, ILGA together with intersex NGOs and COC organized a side event on intersex issues in the UN. On 10 March ILGA, together with COC and APT, co-sponsored a side event on how to end impunity for torture and ill treatment of LGBTI individuals.

ILGA also continues to be involved in ongoing bilateral and group discussions with both civil society and governments on the next SOGI resolution, expected to be brought at the council during 2016.

Universal Periodic Reviews

ILGA maintains a monthly notification regarding upcoming UPR and Treaty Body deadlines and sessions. It also coordinates closely with others providing support on the UPR.

Treaty Bodies

ILGA has set up a mailing list for organisations engaging with the Treaty Bodies on SOGIESC issues to encourage better coordination.

ILGA is preparing two reports compiling and analysing the SOGIESC references made by Treaty Bodies in 2014 and 2015.

Special Procedures

ILGA provided substantial comments for the report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture on gender. The final report discussed LGBTI persons extensively.

ILGA also made submissions to the Special Rapporteur on Housing for a report on homelessness. The report is out and references LGBTI.

ILGA made submissions to the Special Rapporteur on Health on LGBTI adolescents and separately on mental health of LGBTI persons and has been informed that it will be part of a core group of experts consulted in the preparations for that report.

Cooperation and partnership activities

TGEU-ARC Trans Advocacy Training

Cooperating with Transgender Europe and ARC International, ILGA conducted a training in Geneva on the Treaty Bodies, specifically on GIGE opportunities.

ARC-Mantiqitna Dialogue

ILGA World co-organized a two-day strategy meeting on the SOGI resolution at the HRC that took place in the run-up to the dialogue and made a presentation on the Treaty Bodies on a panel on international human rights mechanisms during the Dialogue in February 2016.

Human Rights Defenders

ILGA attended the 8th Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders organized by Front Line Defenders (FLD) in November 2015. ILGA also connected FLD to LGBTI defenders in various regions to contribute to a graphic novel on the risks faced by them.

Protection of the Family

ILGA World made a submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on protection of the family. ILGA is also engaging with others to establish a coalition of NGOs that will strategically support diverse family inclusion in UN spaces.

Faith and Human Rights

The ILGA UN Programme and Advocacy Manager is a member of the World Council of Churches Reference Group on Human Sexuality and attended its annual meeting in Berlin in December 2015 and a dialogue related to faith and human rights in Utrecht in January 2016.

Advocacy in New York

ILGA World participated in the advocacy week organized by OutRight Action International in NYC, meeting with missions from several countries, participating at the OutRight Summit and meeting bilaterally with defenders, UN agencies and others.

UNAIDS

The UN Programme and Advocacy Manager is a member of the Global Platform to Fast-Track the HIV and Human Rights Responses Among Gay and Bisexual Men and Other MSM, organized by MSMGF and advising UNAIDS. ILGA is also co-writing an article with UNDP on a global homophobia index.

UNDP LGBTI Indicators Project

ILGA World together with OutRight Action International carried out an online consultation with global LGBTI civil society on a proposed LGBTI Indicators project.

Intersex work at the UN

ILGA participated at a meeting of UN-convened experts to consider how best to protect the rights of intersex persons within the UN system.

More information about ILGA's work at:

ilga.org/downloads/ILGA_Annual_Report_2015_ENG.pdf

ilga.org/downloads/02_ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2016_ENG_WEB_150516.pdf

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