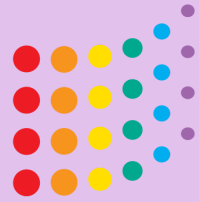


ILGA-EUROPE  
**ACTIVITY  
REPORT**

2020/2021



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION



As it has very likely been for all of you, 2021 has been a year of navigating change for the ILGA-Europe team. We've had to do our fair share of adapting to rapidly-shifting realities and the unknown, created by this pandemic. Through it all, aware of the resources and privileges we hold as an organisation, we placed importance on what ILGA-Europe is particularly well-placed to offer amidst so much upheaval and change: to hold ourselves steady so we can be a place of relative calm where activists can come to get support, solidarity and a sense of togetherness.

And so, we've kept our focus on remaining as close as we can to what is going on within the movement, what your concerns and priorities are, and where progress can continue to be made. We've put our time, energy and resources into our core strengths are, and where we play a unique role for the movement.

We've brought together information to paint the overview of the current landscape for LGBTI activists. We've assessed needs and gaps in resources, consulted with activists to understand what's impacting communities and what developments we need to be equipped to respond to, and we've worked to identify and offer longer-term and sustainable responses to current challenges.

We've prioritised our regranting work to move resources to the movement, paying particular attention to reaching groups who are traditionally under-resourced.

We've continued to focus our attention to where we see significant gaps or where we can bring an added value, and to coordinate with other organisations to make sure that we build as much as possible on our collective strengths in the region. We've continued to strengthen capacity in the movement by creating spaces for peer learning and exchanges to respond to current needs of activists, we've facilitated access to specific expertise and provided coaching, and we've launched The Hub to provide an online resource-sharing tool to facilitate ongoing learning and knowledge exchange for activists. As all this work depends significantly on our own resources and capacity, so we've also worked on raising our own funds and improving our internal skills and tools so that our own practices are as solid as possible.

In the past year, it feels like the world around us has grown in complexity and challenges. From the lockdowns which have left more and more vulnerable people socially and economically isolated, to the further rise of authoritarian governments in European countries, who sought to instrumentalise hatred against LGBTI people and increases in anti-trans campaigns, we've looked into how to build resilience and long-term strategies over rapid reactions, by investing in communications, alliances and community organising, all while monitoring the impact of this anti-human hostility on organisations and LGBTI people.

We've also worked to open cracks in what can easily feel like a wall of darkness. We've deliberately and consciously turned our attention to seizing opportunities to continue to make positive change where it is possible. The publication of the first EU LGBTIQ Strategy by the European Commission in November 2020 was a major achievement, one we've been pushing for over a decade, and has been a strong basis to open new conversations within the EU. Out of the deeply worrying developments in Poland and Hungary, a much stronger and bolder commitment is emerging from the EU to take real action in the face of human rights violations. Our work played a central role in creating this momentum, and we are seizing it. We see hope in the re-mobilising of many in the political realm and the reckoning, that now is the time to act for equality, justice and democracy.

Finally, we've put learning at the top of our organisational agenda. The pandemic has laid bare the socio-economic inequalities in our societies, deepening existing disparities within LGBTI communities and beyond. The need to tackle structural gaps is remarkably urgent in this time in history. In order to truly anchor intersectionality in our everyday work, we dedicated significant time to internal learning on intersectionality, socioeconomic justice, and anti-racism. All this learning we are and will be bringing back to the membership, applying them in our advocacy and our own practices – so we can walk the talk!

These are the main overarching choices the ILGA-Europe staff team made about priorities of our work over the past 12 months. Like many others, we've also had to make decisions about in-person gatherings, events and travels, a question that we expect to remain for the better part of 2022. ILGA-Europe continues to be committed to finding a balance between the deep and shared need to reconnect and the importance of creating spaces which are not only accessible to some of us. We'll rely on our collective creativity to find answers to some of the open questions before us, including how we all reconnect and come together again in the coming year, and how we connect with those who are most invisible, whom the pandemic has pushed further to the margins.

Our message to you back at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, was that the work goes on, despite the interruption our world experienced. As we hopefully move into a post-pandemic era, amidst the enormous change it has brought about, this message is more important than ever. Our work, with you and on your behalf, holds steady and continues.



Evelyne Paradis

# RAINBOW EUROPE

## ANNUAL REVIEW: PUBLISHED FEB 16

OUR 10TH ANNUAL REVIEW SHOWS THAT AS A RESULT OF THE UNPRECEDENTED EVENTS OF 2020, LGBTI PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE HAVE BEEN PUSHED TO THE BRINK: AFTER AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR, EUROPE HAS BEEN AWOKEN TO THE ACUTE FRAGILITY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION FOR LGBTI PEOPLE ACROSS THE REGION

**5,234 DOWNLOADS**  
**26,057 WEB VISITS**



**POTENTIAL MEDIA REACH:**  
**2.2MILLION**

### TOP 5 MEDIA HEADLINES:

- 1 'STARK RISE' IN ABUSE AND HATE SPEECH DIRECTED AT LGBT+ PEOPLE ACROSS EUROPE. (THE INDEPENDENT - UK)
- 2 MORE EUROPEAN POLITICIANS FOUND USING HOMOPHOBIC HATE SPEECH. (REUTERS)
- 3 PANDEMIC EXPOSES LGBTI RIGHTS' FRAGILITY, REPORT SAYS. (EUOBSERVER)
- 4 JK ROWLING AND ANTI-TRANS RHETORIC HAVE CAUSED 'SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE' TO THE UK (PINK NEWS - UK)
- 5 EGYRE TÖBB POLITIKUS HASZNÁL HOMOFÓB KIFEJEZÉSEKET EURÓPÁBAN (MORE AND MORE POLITICIANS ARE USING HOMOPHOBIC TERMS IN EUROPE), 444.HU (HUNGARY)

## RAINBOW MAP & INDEX: PUBLISHED MAY 17

TIME FOR A REBOOT ON LGBTI RIGHTS IN EUROPE AS RAINBOW MAP REVEALS A DISTURBING STAND-STILL: AS THE 2021 RAINBOW EUROPE MAP REVEALS WIDESPREAD AND ALMOST COMPLETE STAGNATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBTI PEOPLE, WE ARE AT A JUNCTURE WHEN GOVERNMENTS CAN ACTIVELY CHOOSE THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD

**22,146 DOWNLOADS**  
**281,630 WEB VISITS**



**POTENTIAL MEDIA REACH:**  
**8 MILLION**

### TOP 5 COUNTRIES:

- 1 MALTA (94%)
- 2 BELGIUM (74%)
- 3 LUXEMBOURG (72%)
- 4 PORTUGAL (68%)
- 5 NORWAY (67%)

### BOTTOM 5 COUNTRIES:

- 1 MONACO (11%)
- 2 RUSSIA (10%)
- 3 ARMENIA (8%)
- 4 TURKEY (4%)
- 5 AZERBAIJAN (2%)



AT A JUNCTURE IN HISTORY WHEN ANTI-LGBTI FORCES ARE RIFE, NOT ONLY IN HEADLINE-GRABBING COUNTRIES LIKE POLAND AND HUNGARY, BUT ACROSS EUROPE, LGBTI PEOPLE NEED ALL GOVERNMENTS TO SEIZE THIS MOMENT AND MAKE SURE EUROPE REMAINS A COMMITTED AND ACTIVE LEADER IN THE ARENA OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE - EVELYNE PARADIS

## DONATIONS

529 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

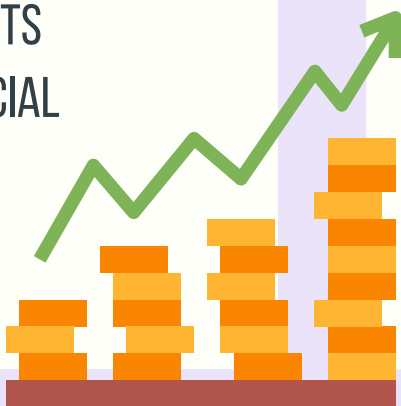
CONSISTING OF:

- 196 PEOPLE GAVE VIA FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM
- 122 PEOPLE GAVE VIA OUR WEBSITE
- 117 PEOPLE GAVE VIA WORKPLACE GIVING
- 94 DONORS AT THE EUROPEAN EQUALITY GALA
- 144,801 DISTINCT DONATIONS WERE MADE VIA REVOLUT BANKING BETWEEN 1 NOV 2020 – 2 SEPTEMBER 2021
- EMPLOYEE DONATIONS FROM 16 COMPANIES



## FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- APPROX. €3.2M INCOME
- €3.1M IN COSTS
- 3,418 FINANCIAL OPERATIONS



## REGRANTING

61 NEW GRANTS TOTALING:  
**€600,873**

- 21 ON ANTI-LGBT FORCES
- 15 ON SECURITY / EMERGENCY RESPONSES
- 13 WITHIN CREATING OPPORTUNITIES, INCL. 11 SPECIFICALLY ON TRANS WORK
- 10 IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
- 2 OTHER

WE MANAGED 131 ACTIVE  
GRANTS FOR A TOTAL OF  
**€1,511,298**  
**IN 34 COUNTRIES**



### INCLUDING:

- 25 GRANTS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES (NOLB)
- 37 FOCUSING ON THE CAUCASUS AND EASTERN EUROPE

### OVERALL, AMONG THOSE 131:

- 37 WERE AWARDED TO TRANS OR INTERSEX GROUPS
- 10 PROPOSALS BY SEX-WORKER, BPOC, MIGRANT, ASYLUM SEEKERS, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITIES OF FAITH
- 3 TACKLING HOMELESSNESS
- 5 FOCUSING ON DISABILITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

### SECURITY GRANTS

- 2020 - 2 EMERGENCY SUPPORT GRANTS
- 2021 - 13 EMERGENCY SUPPORT GRANTS



## MEDIA REACH



"ILGA-EUROPE" APPEARED  
**1.7K TIMES IN PRESS ARTICLES  
IN 80 COUNTRIES**  
THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY  
**5.4BILLION ARTICLE VIEWS**  
WHERE ILGA-EUROPE APPEARED, AND  
**51% MORE MEDIA EXPOSURE**  
COMPARED TO 2019 -2020



## CAMPAIGNS

### #InfringementNow

WORKING WITH MEMBER ORGANISATION KPH, WE LAUNCHED AN-HOUR LONG TWITTER STORM DEMO ON FEBRUARY 11, CALLING ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO TAKE INFRINGEMENT PROCEDURES AGAINST POLAND. THE HASHTAG HAD MORE THAN 2,000 MENTIONS, FROM MEP'S, INTERNATIONAL ORGS AND ACTIVISTS.

### #ParentsWithoutBorders

ON 9 FEBRUARY 2021, CJEU HEARD THE CASE OF A SAME-SEX COUPLE WHO WERE REFUSED A BIRTH CERT IN BULGARIA FOR THEIR NEWBORN CHILD. THROUGH OUR JOINT CAMPAIGN WITH MEMBER ORGANISATION, DEYTSVIE WE RAISED AWARENESS OF THE LACK OF PROTECTION OF SAME-SEX PARENTED FAMILIES IN THE EU. BETWEEN 2 AND 9 FEBRUARY, THE HASHTAG WAS MENTIONED 613 TIMES, ENGAGING MEP'S, THE COE COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, UN HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

### #Repeal154

ON 22 FEBRUARY, THE UZBEK PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE RELEASED A DRAFT OF THE NEW CRIMINAL CODE WHICH DID NOT REMOVE THE PROVISION CRIMINALISING CONSENSUAL SEX BETWEEN MEN. WE MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN TO PUT PRESSURE ON UZBEKISTAN VIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND CREATE PUBLIC AWARENESS. WE SHARED 47 POSTS WHICH ATTRACTED A TOTAL 189,021 IMPRESSIONS. THE HASHTAG WAS MENTIONED 601 TIMES.

## SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



OUR AUDIENCE HAS  
**GROWN BY 13.8%**  
COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS PERIOD

OUR TWITTER ACCOUNT  
BECAME THE BIGGEST  
CHANNEL WITH  
**39,528 FOLLOWERS**  
AND 186,797 ENGAGEMENTS



OVERALL IMPRESSIONS HAVE  
**GROWN BY 32.8%**



## MULTIMEDIA

WEBSITE USERS

**186,278 (15K pm)**

36 BLOGS

**12,320 VIEWS**

13 PODCASTS

**4,951 LISTENS**



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

A LOT HAPPENS AT ILGA-EUROPE – EVEN AS THE WHOLE STAFF TEAM WORKED REMOTELY – AND NOT EVERYTHING CAN MAKE IT TO THIS REPORT. HERE ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF WORK DONE OVER THE PAST YEAR WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO CHANGE UNDER EACH OF OUR FIVE PATHWAYS OF CHANGE.

## PATHWAY 1 - EMPOWERED AND INCLUSIVE LGBTI COMMUNITIES

### THE GATHERING ONLINE

The annual conference is in so many ways a unique community space for LGBTI activists. While it is very hard to recreate the conference in a digital space, there was no question about the importance of creating a space these past two years where members connect, where the ILGA-Europe team exchange and hear from activists, when we learn from each other and discuss what important priorities for LGBTI people and how we can work on them together. With this vision in mind, the team put together the 2021 Gathering Online, focusing on making it as inclusive and accessible as possible for activists from across the region. Close to 450 people registered to join our programme, designed to let us reflect on resilience in the face of populism and growing opposition, and structural inequalities and socio-economic justice. The aim is for the space to also be one where we reaffirm what brings us together and solidarity with each other.

### COMMUNITY ORGANISING WEBINARS

We launched a series of webinars to share learning and inspiration on community organising, with a particular focus bringing in parts of the community that may not always be included. Our first two webinars looked at migrant-inclusive LGBTI community organising in our region, and on reaching out to and supporting older LGBTI persons.

## PATHWAY 2 - STRONG, RESOURCED, SKILLED, ACCOUNTABLE AND SUSTAINABLE LGBTI MOVEMENTS

### ASSESSING THE FUNDING NEEDS OF THE LGBTI MOVEMENT

Identifying short-term and long-term needs within the LGBTI movements in Europe and Central Asia and developing strategic responses to mobilise resources to meet those needs, is one of our central roles. Given the profound transformations the movement has been going through, we therefore launched our second funding needs' assessment in spring 2021. Nearly 300 LGBTI organisations and groups in Europe and Central Asia responded to the survey about the state of play of their resources, priorities, challenges and opportunities. From this survey ILGA-Europe will launch a report in early 2022, which will be used to reach out to current and new funders, to align the LGBTI movement's priorities with theirs and make the wide range of mostly underfunded work visible.

### COMMUNICATING FOR CHANGE REPORT

We also launched a communications needs' assessment report of the LGBTI movement in Europe and Central Asia with funders and with activists, a first of its kind. Recognising that communication is at the heart of some of the biggest successes of the LGBTI movement in Europe and Central Asia, we'll not only be using evidence to make the case for communications work to be properly funded across the region, but we'll support LGBTI groups to do the same. Finally, we surveyed grantees of the past few years to hear on how we can strengthen our grant-making practices and play our role as a funding intermediary as best we can.

## RE-GRANTING TO SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT

Moving funding and knowledge closer to the movement is becoming an ever-more central part of our work every year. Over the past year, ILGA-Europe ran several large regranting programmes. The 26 grants for the No One Left Behind fund, launched in 2020, were successfully brought to a close, having supported significant new learning on socio-economic inequalities (which included grants for sex workers, BPOC, migrant, asylum seekers, and Roma-led groups). We are running 11 grants from the new Creating Opportunities programme, focusing on developing strong narratives to counter attacks on trans rights and identities.

We also launched a new funding stream, which is supporting 21 LGBTI organisations to strengthen their capacities to instigate change in the current landscape of rising anti-LGBTI forces. All the while, we wrapped up several regranting programmes in few targeted countries and made several emergency grants to groups dealing with difficult circumstances (about 15 grants).

## OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE HUB

The last year sent almost every aspect of the work of LGBTI activists into the digital sphere. Luckily, ILGA-Europe had been working on creating an online resource-sharing centre for a couple of years already. We were thrilled to be able to finally launch The Hub, our free LGBTI-Resource Sharing Centre, offering easy-to-access resources with insights, knowledge, case-studies and more, about the many aspects of LGBTI activism.

## FACILITATING PEER EXCHANGE AND LEARNING

While the work may have moved online, we continued to create lots of spaces throughout the year to strengthen capacities of activists through peer learning and specific trainings. These included a series of 'skills boost' workshops for activists on home-made video campaigns; "Wellbeing Wednesdays" dedicated webinars every last Wednesday of the month to support LGBTI activists and organisations in addressing wellbeing issues; a range of peer exchange spaces for grantees on a variety of topics (e.g. researching socio-

economic inequalities, methods of community (emergency) support, economic empowerment, among others) and inspiration sessions on messaging, campaigning and media work; ongoing coaching on financial management and reporting.

## PATHWAY 3 - A LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK WHICH PROTECTS AND PROMOTES HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY AT LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

### RENEWED MOBILISATION TO ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSIVE GENDER EQUALITY

One of ILGA-Europe's key roles is to name broader trends affecting our movement and communities, to facilitate conversations and strategise on how to respond. As we witnessed a deeply worrying rise of voices from anti-gender and especially anti-trans actors in too many places (including EU institutions), voices fuelling division and deeply harming individuals and whole groups, we took a number of proactive steps over the year to reaffirm our values and mobilise support. Here are some examples:

**Our statement on gender.** Giving the seriousness of the current situation, on 8 March, International Women's Day, we issued a statement to reaffirm our vision of societies where gender no longer carries unequal power relations and privileges between people. While firmly committed to working to achieve gender equality, women's rights, and sexual and reproductive rights, we are standing up against any discourse aimed at negating the rights of trans and non-binary people. We hope that this statement informs the work of institutions and allies, and we will use it as a guiding principle of our advocacy actions.

**On 31 March, Trans Day of Visibility, we hosted a presentation** – together with TGEU and with the participation of Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, and MEP Malin Bjork – of the European Commission (EC) report "Legal gender



recognition in the EU: the journeys of trans people towards full equality”, and we have developed reports and provided inputs to EU institutions and the Council of Europe to advance gender equality policy inclusive of LGBTI women in politics and sports. Together with TGEU and GATE, we developed a document aimed at dismantling misconceptions about gender, gender identity and the human rights of trans people. This resource is designed to support allies in their ability to argue in favour of the human rights of trans people.

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## GETTING THE EU TO ACT AGAINST ATTACKS ON LGBTI RIGHTS

Throughout the year, we’ve been working closely with activists in Poland and Hungary to assess the impact of the worrying political developments in both countries, and support them in responding both nationally and from abroad. We’ve brought that information to EU institutions, Council of Europe and national governments, building political momentum and calling institutions to action. From debates in the EU Parliament, unprecedented discussions on LGBTI and human rights among the 27 Heads of State during the June EU Council, to strong public statements by EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, EU infringement procedures and negotiations on conditions placed on EU funding, ILGA-Europe worked very hard behind the scenes to inform political actors about the situation on the ground in both Hungary and Poland, to advise them on actions that would support the community, and to create political support (and pressure!) to act. We also shaped the public conversation as in this and this op-eds and this joint interview with EU Commissioner Helena Dalli.

## INFRINGEMENT PROCEDURES, AT LAST

On 15 July the European Commission announced it was launching three infringement procedures against Hungary and Poland, something ILGA-Europe worked on for over a year. We’ve provided evidence to make the case for infringements, together with members in both countries, and maintained our engagement with the cabinet of different Commissioners to get them to act. The infringement procedures concern censorship of a children’s book which portrayed LGBTI characters, and concerning the anti-LGBT legislation adopted in June in Hungary. For Poland, it concerns its refusal to clarify whether LGBTI people are discriminated against in the labour market in the country’s so-called “LGBT-Free Zones”. This is an ongoing process, as we continue to work with EU institutions to ensure they hold Poland and Hungary accountable on their human rights commitments. We are also making the case for infringement procedures against Romania on the non-respect of the judgement in the Coman case (freedom of movement for same-sex spouses) and the ban on legal gender recognition in Hungary.

## MORE ON ADVOCACY AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

**Time to put the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy into action** – One of ILGA-Europe’s roles is to be the voice for the movement with EU institutions, and to make sure that EU policies contribute to advancing equality. This is particularly true since the European Commission (EC) adopted its first-ever LGBTIQ Equality Strategy in November 2020, something we had been advocating for close to 10 years.

Over the past year, much of our advocacy with the EU was aimed at working with the Commission on implementing the Strategy, from feeding into consultations and expert groups on proposed new legislation and policies, to ensuring meaningful tools for dialogue and participation of LGBTI organisations in the work. While a lot remains to be done, this first year is already proving the difference having an EU strategy makes in terms of increased attention and dedicated time to the work.

**European institutions as a tool to support advocacy in non-EU countries** – Continuing to use all EU instruments – from the enlargement report and human rights dialogues to trade agreements – we’ve been active to raise LGBTI rights violations outside the EU. For example, we published a joint statement calling the Uzbek government to decriminalise same-sex conduct, referring to its duties as a beneficiary of an EU’s trading scheme. We also worked MEPs ahead of the urgency resolution on Turkey and kept EC officials informed about the situation on the ground.

**So much more going on at EU and Council of Europe** – From written input to more than a dozen EU consultations, over 20 EU parliament reports/resolutions and several Council of Europe processes, to speaking engagements with EU Presidencies, Commission events, EP hearings, Council of Europe committees, and meetings with EU Commissioners, the ILGA-Europe team has actively advocated with European-level institutions on the adoption and implementation towards of laws and policies on a range of issues including asylum, gender-based violence, protection against violence, access to health care, tackling homelessness, hate speech, and parenthood, to name a few.

### OUR 2020 ANNUAL REVIEW SHOWS THAT LGBTI PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PUSHED TO THE BRINK

The launch of our Annual Review is always a moment to report on positive and negative trends in relation to LGBTI rights in the region. In February, we launched our [2020 Annual Review](#) at an online press conference during which we spoke of the acute fragility of the human rights situation for LGBTI people across the region, as documented in our Annual Review. We also invited TGEU to join us during the event, to talk about significant growth of opposition towards trans rights across Europe, and the negative impact on both law and community.

The Annual Review is truly a movement project, where local activists are involved throughout, providing relevant information and fact-checking. This year, our messages were picked up by national media across Europe (including Malta, Hungary, Romania, Germany, Kosovo,

Belgium, and many more), as well as international media such as [Openly](#) and [EU Observer](#). You can [listen](#) to the fourth episode of The Frontline to learn more.

### 17 MAY: IDAHOBIT AND THE RAINBOW EUROPE MAP 2021 LAUNCH

The annual International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) is the moment in the year when we take stock with the publication of [ILGA-Europe’s Rainbow Map & Index](#), ranking the legal and policy situation of LGBTI people in 49 European countries.

This year [we reported](#) a deeply worrying standstill on LGBTI rights, unprecedented in the map’s 12-year history. Not one country has moved on partnership or parenthood recognition and after reporting positive changes in bodily integrity or legal gender recognition for many years, there was no change this year for intersex and trans rights, apart from Iceland.

**So, Minister, how is your country doing on LGBTI equality?** As we’ve done for almost a decade, we presented our Rainbow Map at the European IDAHOT+ Forum 2021, before policy-makers, civil society and representatives from international organisations. This year again, we were invited to moderate a panel with four European ministers (Forum co-hosts UK and Cyprus, along with Estonia and Montenegro) to discuss the current state of affairs in their countries and what they’re committed to do to continue to make progress. Both Estonia and Cyprus committed to improve their legal gender recognition measures by the 2022 Forum. We’ll be there to hold them accountable!

### ANOTHER BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF STRATEGIC LITIGATION AT EUROPEAN COURTS

**Baby Sara Case** – We’ve been supporting Bulgarian LGBTI organisation, Deytsvie in the case before the EU’s Court of Justice concerning the right to nationality of a stateless child in a same-sex family and her right to freedom of movement. We also raised awareness of the lack of protection of

same-sex parents and their children within the EU through the [#parentswithoutborders](#) campaign.

**Judgments and decisions** – Two rulings in landmark cases where ILGA-Europe had intervened have been delivered: the [Sabalic v Croatia](#) judgment on the Croatian authorities' failure to respond to violent homophobic attack; and the [A.B. v Finland](#) case, which found that Finland had failed to consider the best interests of the child of a lesbian couple when rejecting his asylum request.

**Steps forward for trans parental rights in Russia** – [We welcomed](#) that the European Court of Human Rights' ruled in favour of a trans woman in Russia who was denied access to her children because of her gender identity and her transition. The court noted that the domestic courts failed to demonstrate that the restriction was justified and well-sustained. We, along with TGEU, submitted written comments to the case.

**A push for implementation of the Coman case** – Three years after the EU Court ruled that Romania must recognise a same-sex couple under EU freedom of movement law, its government is yet to implement the judgement. Together with ACCEPT Romania, we've submitted information to the EU institutions to highlight this fact and to make them aware of the stories of other couples currently being discriminated. [We commemorated the anniversary with this online event](#).

## PATHWAY 4 - DEEPLY-ROOTED SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE AND INCLUSION OF DIVERSITY RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS IN SOCIETIES

### SHAPING PUBLIC DISCOURSE AND REACHING NEW AUDIENCES

Contributing to positive, informed and respectful public discussions on LGBTI issues is an incredibly important goal, especially in the current context of toxic and polarised public

debates. This year we've stepped up our activities to reach out to new audiences able and willing to support our movement, and to amplify the type of information which can support more constructive public conversations. We've done so by bringing more human stories in our [blogs](#), an understanding on the complexities of what's happening in our [podcast](#) series, and shaped the conversation in the media through more [op-eds](#). Our 2021 [Equality Gala](#) was also an opportunity to bring in new voices into our conversations as we were joined this year by acclaimed author Elif Shafak and BBC journalist Ben Hunte.

### HOW CAN BUSINESS BE MORE ENGAGED IN LGBTI ISSUES?

LGBTI exclusion has a negative economic impact for countries and excludes LGBTI people from fully participating in economic life, which is why we see the need and opportunity to mobilise more companies to make the case for LGBTI inclusion using business arguments. We've connected with other organisations at both European and national level, including contributing to the launch of a recent Open For Business report on making the economic case for LGBTI inclusion in Central and Eastern Europe, and look forward to taking the conversation forward with member organisations at the Gathering Online 2021.

We've also continued to strengthen our efforts to engage private sector companies in our work, ILGA-Europe launched several successful partnerships around Pride season, including with Revolut and Crocs. Numerous companies held internal fundraising drives, often led by LGBTI staff networks, also raising awareness about LGBTI rights within their teams. It's been positive to witness increasing interest from companies in collaborating with ILGA-Europe, but it's worth mentioning that we assess each company we partner with in line with our corporate engagement policy, turning down opportunities where we have concerns and providing feedback on how the company might improve their track record going forward. We also often connect companies that reach out to us to member organisations, if we see a better match.

## **PATHWAY 5 - JUST AND EQUAL SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES**

### **AN IMPORTANT YEAR OF ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING**

A priority this year was to take time to reflect on the impact of the many profound and rapid changes in the world around us. First, we've launched an organisational learning process on intersectionality. Starting from ILGA-Europe's own experience and work, we are evaluating the impact of our current approach to intersectionality and identifying ongoing challenges. We'll bring this reflection back to the wider membership later on this year. We also carried out internal learning on socioeconomic justice and thinking about how to better integrate a social justice approach into our programming, advocacy and communications work.

Finally, the staff and board have embarked on a series of facilitated discussions on "Anti-racism as culture and practice" in March and April to reflect on how racism manifests itself in our work and our practices, and how we can take steps to act on it. We decided to organise this as a follow-up to the audit done at the end of 2020 of our recruitment policies and practices through an intersectional lens. All this learning is a very solid basis for developing concrete pieces of work in 2022, with the aim of supporting activists and organisations in their own conversations on intersectionality and social justice.

### **LGBTI YOUTH HOMELESSNESS SURVEY**

Having more knowledge about socio-economic inequalities is an important step towards being better equipped to address structural inequalities. In April, ILGA-Europe launched the report on the survey we carried out with our partners at True Colours United, a survey which found that over 60% of LGBTI organisations in Europe have worked with LGBTIQ youth experiencing homelessness. This first report will support us in picking up advocacy on the issue at European level, but also in developing new work to support LGBTI organisations in working on homelessness.