

ILGA-Europe's Annual Conference 2015, Athens, Greece, 28-31 October 2015

Many voices, One movement - Together, mobilised for a just society.

Preliminary conference program

The ILGA-Europe team are working hard to create an exciting program for the 2015 Annual Conference. The full program will be announced closer to the conference but we can already share some highlights with you:

Wednesday 28 October

We will start the program with a 'Newbie' session for those who have not attended an ILGA-Europe conference before. Then we will head off to the Planetarium of Athens for the opening reception.

Thursday 29 October

The first full day of the conference will open with a Queer-Ed talk by Gráinne Healy, co-director of Yes Equality and chairwoman of Marriage Equality. Gráinne will share some lessons from the Irish referendum campaign, and the co-chairs of ILGA-Europe will reflect on the successes and challenges of the year so far. Following the Queer-Ed talk, a high-level panel of prominent European politicians will discuss what it really means to show political leadership on LGBTI issues. German Parliamentary State Secretary Elke Ferner is confirmed for this panel.

The first plenary will also take place on Thursday.

The workshops will begin after lunch. This year, we will have over 35 workshops covering a variety of topics of general interest, such as capacity building, messaging and fundraising. There will also be more targeted workshops, for example on family issues, trans advocacy, sex work and more. We will be able to present you with further details on all these workshops closer to the conference.

Before dinner, there will be time for self-organised meetings and diversity caucuses.



We are also very excited to add a new element to the conference this year: different experts will be available to provide one-on-one consultations in their area of expertise.

Our partners in Athens are organising some optional social activities for conference participants. On Thursday evening, they will offer a tour of the city.

Friday 30 October

Friday morning will start with a panel discussion, featuring activists from diverse organisations. Geetanjali Misra from CREA, an organisation working on women's and sexual rights in India; Jessica Stern from IGLHRC; and Mike Jackson from Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, the inspiration for the film *Pride* (2014), have been confirmed so far.

More workshops will follow, after which the second plenary will take place. This is your chance to hear a keynote speech by Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Once again, there will be space for self-organised meetings, caucuses and consultations before dinner. A visit to the Acropolis will be offered by our local partners later in the evening (optional).

Saturday 31 October

The final day of the 2015 Annual Conference will feature more workshops, the two final plenaries and the Gala dinner. The winners of the Diversity Awards will be announced and Thomas Hammarberg, former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, will be honoured for his lifelong commitment to fighting for the human rights of vulnerable groups, including LGBTI people.

On Sunday, you can attend an optional beach brunch organised by OLKE, our local partners. This is the day when most conference participants will be saying goodbye to Athens and making their way home.

We hope this preview of the 2015 conference program will give you a better idea of what to expect in October.

Don't forget: **registration closes on Monday 31 August** (midnight CET).

