



Report of European Representatives to the ILGA World Board

The report is prepared by Yuri Guaiana and Olena Shevchenko (October 2023)
Period of reporting since last ILGA-Europe Annual Conference (October 2022)

We were re-elected your representatives to the ILGA World board in October 2022 and we have subsequently continued to carry out our functions as board members of ILGA World. In doing so, we help ensure that ILGA World has good governance from its board, joining the other 17 board members who are also each elected representatives of ILGA member organisations from around the world.

As board members of ILGA World, we are brought into many detailed discussions around its governance, its finances, its staffing, its ethics and its membership. We are of course therefore subject to confidentiality in many areas as is appropriate.

Further, ILGA World itself reports on its own work, especially through its annual reports and at the World Conference, which will take place next year in Cape Town, South Africa. Therefore, this report is not meant to be a replacement for ILGA World's own reporting to its members. We encourage you to read its [latest annual report](#) that sets-out the programmatic content of what the organisation is doing and its latest financials. What we present here, therefore, is a report on our own participation in the board and what we see as the major areas that you as European and Central Asian members might be interested in since the last annual report.

Our own participation

As members of the ILGA World board, we have participated in all committee and board meetings that have taken place. These have been online and in-person through 2022/23.

In particular we had in-person board meetings in Rome from the 7th to the 11th of November 2022, and from the 22nd to the 26th of May 2023 in Berlin. Prior to the board meeting in May 2023, the Governance committee met in-person to steer the Constitutional reform process, which took place from the 19th to the 21st of May 2023 and Yuri, as co-chair of the Committee proudly attended. We also participated in a number of other committee meetings, which took place through 2022/23.

On the board, we participate as active members of the various committees that exist.

Yuri is a co-chair of the Governance and Dispute Resolution Committees and a member of the Membership and Strategy Committee. Olena is a member of the Employment Committee, Finance Committee and the (World) Conference Committee. Within these committees and our wider work, we ensure that the voices and interests of European and Central Asian member organisations are heard as we work in global solidarity cross-regionally.

Governance reform process

The ILGA World board was tasked to review and amend our founding documents to make sure ILGA World operates with the most a sustainable and impactful governance model and policies.

We are fully aware that a new world era at ILGA World cannot be fully realised without the input, consultation and validation of its members in the governance review process. That's why we held a Town Hall meeting during our last World Conference in Long Beach, USA and are now carrying out interviews with members and staff.

The process is led by the co-chairs of the Governance committee and the ED, with the help of Development Dynamics a boutique consultancy firm based in Nairobi, Kenya, we hired in February 2023 after an open call and a rigorous selection process.

As mentioned above, the ILGA World governance committee held a governance workshop in May 2023 to shape the review and co-design of ILGA governance models process. The co-creation sprint also factored inputs from the whole ILGA World board through a pre-session survey. Through the two and half days, the Governance Committee of the Executive Board

- identified key issues and gaps related to ILGA World's governance, values and priorities,
- recognized governance wins within ILGA World,
- reflected on inclusion and how an intersectional and feminist leadership lens would come into play through our governance
- developed possible change-scenarios for a new governance era at ILGA World exploring Adaptation, Reformation and Revolution,
- designed a road map to a new governance era at ILGA World, and agreed on member engagement tools in the governance review process.

In terms of the road ahead, the governance committee will continue to refine the proposed governance scenarios based on the outcomes of the governance workshop and ongoing discussions.

New strategic plan for 2025 – 2029

ILGA World has started developing a new strategic plan for 2025 – 2029. The strategic plan offers strategic guidance and direction for Board and staff.

The board has decided to hire a team of consultants to support the Strategy Committee and the Board in this important process.

Part of the development is an evaluation of the current plan. Based on the evaluation report, ILGA World seeks to consult with ILGA members, key external stakeholders, staff and the Board in order to unpack the needs of the communities we serve, ILGA World's strengths and weaknesses, aspirations by our members and partners around the organisation's work.

World Conference

The 31st ILGA World Conference, hosted by the Iranti and Gender DynamiX, will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from 11 to 15 November 2024. In the past months the ILGA World board has designed an evaluation process for scholarships that considers the diversity of the global LGBTI movement, as well as activists who can bring unique/underrepresented perspectives and benefit the most from the conference and agreed on the logo and theme: **Kwa umoja we rise!**

This gathering of ILGA World member organisations and other LGBTI activists and allies provides a great space to connect, learn, collaborate, coordinate, strategise for the future of our global LGBTI movements. LGBTI activists who would otherwise be unable to participate have applied for a scholarship that will cover the costs associated with the conference. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of January 2024.

Experiences, good practices and knowledge will be shared to help the global LGBTI movement advance equality and freedom for all human beings, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and sex characteristics.

ILGA conferences are diverse and engaging because much of the content is proposed and run by LGBTI organisations and other partners from around the world. Proposals made by both organisations and individuals have been submitted and will now be reviewed by the ILGA World conference programme committee set up for this purpose. The next World conference itself is on the stage of final preparations and we ensure that all selection processes for scholars and thematic conference program are in line with all the procedures.

Head to <https://worldconference.ilga.org> to find out more!

Membership

Throughout the year, our global family got stronger than ever. Our membership has now reached 1,869 organisations from 169 countries around the world. Our members are the true foundation of our movement: supporting their work – so that decisions made at the regional and global level reflect the needs of our LGBTI family on the ground – is the deepest reason of our existence.

From 2023 onwards, ILGA World has implemented a new membership fee model, as proposed by the board and approved by the membership at the Long Beach conference.

The new structure consists of a sliding scale of fees based on the organisation's annual budget. Through the payment form sent via email, each member organisation will be able to choose the fee that best fits its financial status, and ILGA World will not ask for any budgetary documentation.

At ILGA World, we understand that organisations might face challenges to their financial stability, no matter the functioning of their country's economy. Therefore, our new membership fee structure bases fees on the financial stability of the organisations, and not on the division between high or low-income countries as in the previous model.

Programmes

ILGA World has a range of Programmes in four key areas:

1. United Nations Advocacy, including work on:
 - a. UN Treaty Bodies
 - b. UN Special Procedures
 - c. UN Human Rights Council
 - d. UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
 - e. Sustainable Development Goals and engagement with the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)
2. Gender Identity & Expression, and Sex Characteristics
3. Research
4. Communications

Details of the programmes can be found in ILGA World's [latest annual report](#).

Some areas that we thought you might be particularly interested in:

A. Co-ordinated global campaigning

Deepening our commitment to coordinated global campaigning, ILGA World agreed to coordinate the working group and host the secretariat of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) for the years ahead.

As of the end of 2023 we have also been selected as the host entity of the new Equal Rights Coalition (ERC) Secretariat to be installed in the coming months.

B. Research

In March 2023 we launched the [ILGA World Database](#), a platform launched today by ILGA World compiling laws, news, and references to human rights bodies and advocacy opportunities with the United Nations related to LGBTI people worldwide.

Thanks to this free, interactive, and collaborative platform, everyone can track current progress and backlash around sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics issues in 193 UN member States and 47 non-independent territories.

The ILGA World Database features updated information about laws (including judicial decisions, executive orders and bills in the making) that affect LGBTI people worldwide - divided into 18 legal categories and more than 100 topics, and visualised in interactive global and regional maps. Every State and jurisdiction worldwide has its own profile with laws, upcoming advocacy opportunities for human rights defenders, and a selection of the latest LGBTI news. Activists can track developments in every human rights body within the United Nations, monitor deadlines to engage with them, and integrate any entry into their research or policy work.

Finances & Fundraising

Accounts and Audit

ILGA World is in sound financial shape with strong fundraising supporting its growing work.

We have developed a reserves strategy to enhance the financial resilience of the organization and are doing good in terms of fundraising strategy.

Staff updates

Our ILGA World office is stable and staff members (including junior consultants) are 22 (although we have one vacancy, which makes it 21 currently working for us).

New Staff member joined in 2023 (so far):

- [Karla Avila, Human Resources](#)
- [Camila Galdino, Manager of Operations](#)
- [Madhu Jagdeeshan, MEL officer](#)
- Lily Dong Li Rosengard, Senior Officer GIESC (as of October 2023)

Current vacancies:

- Officer role in the GIESC team with a focus on sex characteristics

Board-level work

On top of the work highlighted above, the board has also worked on many other issues including but not limited to:

- Providing oversight and support for the organisation and governance of the World Conference
- Developing processes for a better application process, including streamlining verification of membership applications
- Considering and acting-on complaints submitted to ILGA World under its complaints process
- Providing oversight and support of ILGA World's finances
- Providing expertise on strategic vision for all selection processes and thematic areas development, ensuring they are in line with global challenges

Steering committees

**Each European representative to Steering Committees provides their own reports*

Each region elected/appointed their representative to each of the five Steering Committees.

Intersex Committee 2022-2023 report (Dan Christian Ghattas, Irene Kuzemko, Ins A Kromminga, OII Europe)

Different to the previous reporting cycle, the Intersex Committee's work has stalled after the ILGA Word Conference (2 to 6 May 2022, LA, US).

While some conversations about the next Forum have taken place, other than planned and envisioned in the last 2022 the Committee in its official capacity has not reconvened yet. The reasons partially lie in the new logistic and funding situation that has arisen as a result of the cancellation of the 5th International Intersex Forum after the ILGA-World conference due to Covid and which has seemingly led to new logistic challenges. Change in personnel, after the departure of the Eli Rubashkyn, former Consultant [GIESC Programme] at ILGA beginning of 2023 seems to have led to further delays.

Conversations about how and when to hold the next forum are ongoing and we expect the Committee to reconvene this fall and continue its work, after most of the new Committee members have now been elected/ assigned in the different regions.

Youth

(We did not get information about the activities of this committee by the European representative of this committee.)

Women Committee 2021-2022 report (Alina Mirzoyan, Human Rights and Advocacy coordinator of New Generation Humanitarian NGO)

The activity of the Committee has suffered much from the conflicts, war and migration situation Europe is facing, especially Ukraine and Armenia due to the war situations unleashed by Russia and Azerbaijan, the blockade of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), etc.

Not many committee meetings were held since the last ILGA-Europe annual conference in light of these situations and national activity of the committee representatives, in the meantime the women's rights, gender-based abuses and domestic violence, conversion marriages of LBT women continue to prevail across the World, especially in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. Thus, there is a need for more joint actions and attention to these issues, currently also the human rights and livelihood issues of migrant and refugee women from Ukraine, Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) are pressing and require a lot of efforts and attention.

Hopefully the Committee will have more chances of activity within the next period.

Bisexual Committee 2021-2022 report (Rachael Moore, Rainbow Nation)

In 2023, and from the last live meeting at the World Conference, The Bisexual Committee has continued meetings between the different regional representatives. The meetings have become more dispersed as finding hours to meet in group have become rather difficult. The difference in hours has proved tasking but we are confident that working this way helps us to keep communication following despite the reduction of meetings.

With regards to last year's report not much has changed. We have noted a rise in informal collectives that are pushing for more bi+ and pansexual events. Bisexual organisations continue to push for more community-building initiatives both online and offline, whilst also seeking for more structural support for their organisations and collectives. The ongoing recession paired with upcoming elections has seen further budget cuts to cultural sectors and civil society organisations. Bisexual organisations continue to face the same difficulties we have noted in past reports. Access to funding, lack of recognition, unconscious bias, erasure and invisibility continue to negatively impact the mental and physical health of bisexual individuals, the ability of bisexual individuals to build community, and the existence of bisexual organisations. There is a growing need for more cooperation between formal/informal bisexual organisations and other LGBTQI organisations. We would like to see other organisations actively working to be more bi+ inclusive through events, workshops, etc. Additionally, we would like for organisations to actively work to eradicate biphobia as this remains omnipresent in the LGBTQIA community and larger society.

Trans Committee 2021-2022 report (Lenny Emson, Executive Director KyivPride)

(We did not get information about the activities of this committee by the European representative of this committee.)

Other Regions:

Other regions of ILGA provide updates to ILGA World. The following updates are taken from the ILGA World annual report, but are not formal updates from these regions.

ILGA ASIA

In 2022, ILGA Asia brought together over 400 activists and allies to Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, for its 9th regional conference, hosting 14 pre-conferences (including the first-ever non-binary pre-conference in the history of ILGA conferences), 29 break-out sessions, and a Queer Arts Festival. During the year, ILGA Asia represented the voices of Asian communities in international advocacy spaces. It also received the 2022 Ardhanareeswara Pride Award, and joined Pride marches in Bangkok, Seoul and Taipei. ILGA Asia has also significantly stepped up its research, policy, and campaigning work. It published a briefing note on the use of the death penalty to punish LGBTIQ+ people, amplified the importance of strategic litigation for advancing SOGIESC rights and released statements on legal and political developments across Asia. Through its global advocacy programme, ILGA Asia continues to be present in UN human rights and sustainable development follow-up and review mechanisms, and supports member organisations to engage with them. In 2022, ILGA Asia also launched a campaign training for over 40 LGBTIQ+ activists from 12 countries focusing on increasing their capacity to spearhead national advocacy campaigns. Through its Afghanistan Program, ILGA Asia carried out multiple fundraising campaigns, provided humanitarian assistance to LGBTIQ+ individuals, and launched a mini-podcast to raise awareness on SOGIESC-based violence in the country post the Taliban takeover in 2021. In 2023, ILGA Asia also ran a continental campaign to advocate for a ban against “conversion therapies” in partnership with All Out.

See also <https://www.ilgaasia.org>

PAN AFRICA ILGA

In a time when harmful anti-rights narratives are spreading from the Global North, Pan Africa ILGA (PAI) focused on strengthening the capacity of LGBTI organisations across the continent. Its efforts aimed to empower them to engage with regional and international human rights mechanisms. Throughout the year, PAI provided training to approximately 35 activists, equipping them with the necessary skills to participate in these spaces. Additionally, PAI supported the participation of 14 activists in the 73rd session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. To ensure its continued impact, Pan Africa ILGA is currently developing a new strategic plan, with the current one being extended until December 2023. Recognising the importance of accountability and learning, PAI is also working on establishing internal monitoring, evaluation, and learning mechanisms. These will enable the region to closely monitor the progress of its programs and ensure their alignment with its organisational goals. Through these strategic endeavours, Pan Africa ILGA remains committed to promoting and safeguarding the rights of the LGBTI community in Africa. In 2023, Pan Africa ILGA (PAI) held its Conference.

See also <http://panafricailga.org/>

ILGA NORTH AMERICA

Throughout the year, ILGANAC conducted a series of meetings and dialogues with members, particularly from across the Caribbean, to increase collaboration and networking within the region. ILGANAC focused on operational capacity-building to hire its first staff and fully implement the Global LGBT Decriminalisation by 2030 Initiative and a regional capacity-building project. In addition, it worked to finalise its strategic plan, and began efforts to conduct advocacy within regional and international human rights mechanisms - including the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and United Nations bodies in New York.

See also: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/402661627035554>

ILGA OCEANIA

In 2022, the organisation completed elections of new board members, worked with ILGA World to hold a regional convening during the ILGA World Conference and conducted follow-up activities to their convening on decriminalisation in Pacific Island States. With the support of capacity-building efforts provided by ILGA World, ILGA Oceania will hire its first staff and consultants in 2023 to fully implement the Global LGBT Decriminalisation by 2030 activities targeting the region.

See also: <https://ilgaoceania.life/>

ILGA LAC

2022 was a year of renewal for ILGALAC: the Board hired a new Executive Director (Bianka Rodriguez, from El Salvador) and Operations Coordinator (Gustavo Coutinho, from Brazil). Together, Board and staff worked to establish a new regulatory framework for the region and to organise the ninth regional conference in Bolivia in April 2023. During this period, the Electoral Observatory of the region also published a report on the presidential elections in Brazil to inform the public

about the candidates' stances on LGBTI issues, and formalised new communications strategies to include all official languages of the region.

See also: <https://www.ilga-lac.org>

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Read also the ILGA World Annual Report 2022:

[https://ilga.org/downloads/ILGA World Annual Report 2022.pdf](https://ilga.org/downloads/ILGA_World_Annual_Report_2022.pdf)