ILGA-Europe Annual Conference brings call for LGBTI equality and political change to Brussels

News, ILGA-Europe Annual Conference

At one of the largest ever ILGA-Europe Annual Conferences, hundreds of equality and diversity organisations have come together to issue a strong call for change – right at the heart of the European political system.

Over 550 LGBTI activists and allies are gathering together in Brussels at a time when populism, nationalism, anti-equality groups and right-wing extremism are prominent features – infiltrating both our news headlines and our daily lives. And LGBTI equality is at the forefront of all of this.

“Inequality is a social pollutant and finding common solutions is in everyone’s interest,” noted Brian Sheehan, co-chair of ILGA-Europe’s Executive Board. “The LGBTI communities cannot win this fight alone.”

The visibility of these divisive forces reminds us all of a basic truth. These threats concern us all. The fate of the LGBTI community is also bound to the experiences of the migrant communities, climate justice advocates, feminist groups… Our march towards equality will be based on deep and meaningful solidarity,” commented ILGA-Europe Executive Director Evelyne Paradis.

“The story of the 2018 ILGA-Europe conference is also the story of the LGBTI movement. In spite of the repressive forces that seek to divide us, we have created one of the largest ever gatherings of LGBTI activists that ILGA-Europe have ever seen,” remarked Joyce Hamilton, co-chair of ILGA-Europe’s Executive Board.

“Our family is growing. A broad spectrum of allies – from fellow human rights movements, to EU institutions and policymakers like FVP Frans Timmermans who joined us yesterday – are with us. We are mobilised, we are angry and we are thirsty for action that will create lasting change,” said Sheehan.

Watch the Year in Review Video Presented at the 22nd Annual Conference

- The 22nd ILGA-Europe Annual Conference is taking place in **Brussels, Belgium** from **24-27 October 2018**. For the first time the Annual Conference is taking place in Brussels – the capital of Europe and the home of ILGA-Europe.
- A political panel involving European policymakers took place on 26 October, kicking off conversations on inclusion and equality, just months before the 2019 European Parliament elections.
- Intersex Awareness Day (26 October) also falls during the 2018 ILGA-Europe Annual Conference, providing a valuable opportunity to put intersex issues on the European political agenda:

  ? ? Check out this amazing #Intersex Awareness Day group photo! ? ?

The @ILGAEurope family came together this morning during #IEBrussels2018 to mark #IAD2018. For more info and shiny new resources, check out @OIIEurope #IAD #IAD18 pic.twitter.com/JCXubxN8KI

— ILGA-Europe (@ILGAEurope) October 26, 2018