

23rd ILGA-Europe annual conference

ILGA Portugal's Conference Bid

Lisboa, 2019

About us

Founded in 1995, ILGA Portugal is the largest and the oldest NGO in Portugal striving for equality and against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). Our mission is the social integration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex population and their families in Portugal through a program of social support that improves their quality of life, through the fight against discrimination on the grounds of SOGIESC, and through the promotion of full citizenship, Human Rights and gender equality.

We are a national organization and although we are based in Lisbon, we also have a project and an office in Porto. We have a strong diversity policy and very active groups devoted to a wide variety of subjects, such as trans and non-binary issues, sports, choir, book readings, as well as a group devoted to Rainbow Families or to their pets. Furthermore, we provide specific services for the LGBTI community and their families, such as the LGBT helpline, the Psychological Support Service, the Victims Support Service and the only LGBTI specific Refugee Support Service in our country. We are also responsible for the only LGBT community centre and documentation centre in Portugal. Nationally, we are members of the Advisory Council of the Portuguese Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, and internationally we are members of the FRA's Fundamental Rights Platform, NELFA and correspondents for IDAHOT.

More specifically, we are quite familiar with the organisation of large-scale events as we organise, for the past 21 years, [Arraial Lisboa Pride](#). In 2017, we finally signed a formal agreement with the Municipality and as of this year, Arraial Lisboa Pride is formally organised by ILGA Portugal, the Lisboa Municipality and the parish council of Santa Maria Maior. Arraial Lisboa Pride is the largest annual LGBTI Pride event in Portugal, with free entry and lasting 12 hours. Integrated in the "Festas de Lisboa" (Lisboa festivities), the party takes place in Terreiro do Paço, Lisbon's largest, most significant historical and emblematic square. Stands from many other NGOs and LGBT bars and restaurants also contribute towards attracting around fifty thousand people to the event.

Portugal and Lisboa Political Context

Portugal currently ranks 6th at ILGA-Europe's 2017 Rainbow Map. This means we have achieved great progress but there is still a long road ahead for *de facto* equality of LGBTI people and their families in Portugal. Hopefully, by 2019 the scenario is way up the scale.

We have marriage equality, legal gender recognition (though right now its revision is being discussed in Parliament), prohibition of discrimination in several every-day life areas, adoption and second-parent adoption rights, equal access to assisted reproduction techniques, international protection granted, aggravating circumstances in the criminal code and the prohibition of discrimination in blood donations. But, we don't have yet the legal recognition of intersex and non-binary people, the prohibition of discrimination in access to goods and services, the possibility of surrogacy, and above all we lack the profound social change that impairs and tackles homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in the Portuguese society.

The current Government is very open, friendly and aware of the changes that are needed to promote greater equality and the inclusion of the LGBTI population and their families. In addition, the Lisboa Municipality is the first municipality of the country to flag rainbow flags in commemorative days and events and to have an action plan devoted to social rights, which includes a specific section and implementation measures for the effectiveness of LGBTI people's rights. Furthermore, Lisboa is a very trendy and touristic city, which is used to receive large-scale international events such as the ILGA-Europe Conference, thus being prepared to accommodate the necessary logistics.

We hope to host the 2019 ILGA-Europe Conference because we want to involve the country and Lisboa in the change we, as an organization, promote on a daily-basis for the past two decades. We want to share with the average LGBTI person in Portugal and with the average heterosexual person why legislation is important but not sufficient and why visibility matters. We want to ask Portugal and Lisboa to come out of the closet and to fully embrace the diversity that is in the Portuguese society.

In addition, because it is highly important for us, we also hope to be able to share our country-experience and strategies (political and social) with other activists, thus contributing to the reflection and possibly replication of solutions in other countries and organisations – and, of course, to benefit from their experience, as well.

Also relevant is to note that in 2019, possibly just before the actual Conference, Portugal will have parliamentary elections (and we'll all have European elections), and hosting this conference might just be an even more political event and a message of hope for the LGBTI people in Portugal.

Conference Organising Team

As mentioned before, ILGA Portugal has extensive experience in organising the largest LGBTI event in Portugal, which involves coordination between multiple stakeholders, such as institutions and local government, service providers, other NGOs and corporations.

We have a voluntary board of 10 members, 5 staff members and a very solid team of volunteers (around 20 monthly, and an overall number of 250 possible volunteers for events like Arraial Lisboa Pride). We're all involved and work for Arraial Lisboa Pride and we intend to use the same method for ILGA-Europe's Conference.

One of our staff members is an event and cultural producer, and she will lead the conference organising team, developing a chronogram and task schedule and distributing tasks between board, staff and leading volunteers. Each of these persons will form its own task force and share contacts and tasks among its team. All working documents are available and shared online and there will be in person meetings with area coordinators regularly.

The core of this team will involve people from ILGA-Portugal but cooperation with other LGBTI organisations – such as rede ex-aequo (LGBTI and allies' youth organisation) or AMPLOS (parents of LGBTI people organisation) – will be secured. In addition, we will also plan to involve other organisations and allies in the activities and social events around the Conference.

Fundraising

All the events organised by ILGA Portugal involve fundraising on a regular basis. The large majority of which is fundraising in kind – free venues, free transportation, meals and drinks support, performances, etc.

We intend to establish a formal partnership with the Government, Lisboa Municipality and the respective parish council to organise the ILGA-Europe conference. This means that numerous logistical issues will already be foreseen in this partnership agreement. This is our modus operandi on a regular basis, and we are confident that the conference will be no exception. These authorities are quite responsive to our requests and are happy to contribute to LGBTI events. In addition, and also due to Arraial Lisboa Pride and our annual Rainbow Awards, we have developed a strong relationship with some brands and international corporations which will be activated for financial

and/or technical support for the event. Also relevant is to know that companies have tax benefits when donating to NGOs like ours, so this is of high interest, and the contribution to ILGA-Europe's scholarship scheme might just be a plus for them.

Conference Site

Ideally the conference and guest are in one single space, and thus hotels seem to be the best option. In addition, close to Universities there are fewer hotel options in Lisboa. The capacity for the plenary room + the workshop rooms seem to be hard to find in one single space. So, we had to turn to 5* hotels to find places that fulfill the requirements.

The [Four Seasons Ritz Hotel](#) – is ideally located, with public transportation (bus and metro) nearby, with budget hotels also nearby, has a plenary room for up to 450 persons, and the events coordinator seemed quite happy with the possibility of hosting the Conference. We enclose their proposal, though in Portuguese. Plus, word on the street is that Madonna is actually living there 😊

Not in the city centre, but also very well located and with public transportation available is the [Corinthia Hotel Lisbon](#). It has 16 meeting rooms which can be adapted to accommodate up to 1400 persons, a business center with staff at your disposal. Actual proposal enclosed, but in Portuguese.

Though we have not yet received a formal reply from these hotels, other possibilities might be:

- [Sheraton Lisboa](#), very central, with 1,600 squared feet in two floors and the possibility to seat up to 600 people;
- [InterContinental Lisboa](#), with a plenary room for up to 450 persons and 14 meeting rooms.

Please note that all these options are centrally located, with public transportation available, with possible budget hotels nearby and are used to hosting big events.

The Four Seasons Ritz Hotel has some accessibility issues that would need to be considered and the Corinthia is the least central one.

Lisboa is a very touristic city, with high demand from travelers and companies, so if planned in advance we are sure we will be able to accommodate all the necessary Conference needs.

Programme/Speakers

Given that we have parliamentary elections, it is quite difficult to know if by the IE conference there's a new Government in place or not. If not, we are confident that the current Prime-Minister,

the Deputy Minister and the Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality will attend and open/close the conference. Anyhow, we are confident that we'll be able to call on the responsibility of any future government. The new UN Secretary António Guterres is also Portuguese, so we will also aim to involve this institution in voicing a central message to policy makers.

In addition, we have very close relationships with political parties, due to our political lobbying and advocacy work, and social personalities and it will be very easy for us to invite people like Miguel Vale de Almeida (former Member of Parliament, member of the Academia, and 1st openly gay politician in Portugal), Isabel Moreira (most active politician on LGBTI rights in Portugal), Fernanda Cândia (famous political/social rights journalist), Fernando Medina (current Mayor of Lisboa) or Rita Ferro Rodrigues (famous TV presenter and leader of a feminist organisation). We are sure we can have representatives from most political parties (in fact, all except for CDS/PP, the most right-wing party in Parliament) as they are usually involved in our activities.

Social Events

Social events are part of our core annual programming. As mentioned before we have the only LGBT community centre in Portugal and it has a monthly cultural programme full of activities indoor and outdoor. We will involve our interest groups, such as MOVE (the sports group), CoLeGaS (LGBT choir) or GRIT (trans and non-binary group) in organising social events on a regular basis for European activists to meet with the local LGBTI community. In addition, and as also mentioned before, we will liaise with other LGBTI organisations and other friendly organisations to organise a rich and diverse programme of social activities. Relevant is that the large majority of these activities will be for free, as this is a key aspect of the activities we regularly organise.

On a more institutional level we intend to organise an opening reception and dinner in a public building in Lisboa with the support of the Lisboa Municipality, to have the support of the Lisboa Tourism Authority to have a local tour organised, and to organise the gala again in a public building with the support of the Municipality and/or local parish and to organise the party as we usually do, in a large, central and friendly venue with famous LGBTI DJs – we can consider the same venue where we organise our Rainbow Awards ([Estúdio Time Out](#)).