REPORT HILDE VOSSEN BISEXUAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Report Bisexual Steering Committee representative ILGA World

Since 2018 a group of bi+ people was installed. It took a while but in December 2019 we were complete.

What did I do? I shared information, network contacts, ideas, experiences. I stayed in touch with most of the other members of the Steering Committees on behalf of Europe: intersex secretariat, trans secretariat and youth secretariat.

My contributions to the ILGA Europe conference in Prague 23-26 October 2019:

- encouraging bi+ and pan activists to request for scholarships. Result: 2 successful; never been to ILGA Europe conference before, one from Turkey and one from Serbia.
- submitting a bi+ workshop. Result: was accepted.
- setting up a Team B on Facebook. Result: 22 members + 2 observers.
- managing voting powers from bi+ and LGBTI+ organisations who didn’t sent any delegates to the conference. Goal: vote openly bi+ candidates in the current board. Result: 10 bi+ votes extra for sure, and several others, who used the bi+ advice during the voting process. Plus: 1 openly bi+ candidate made it to the ILGA Europe board: Soudeh Rad.
- setting up a WhatsApp group for Team B.
- preparing a Connection space for bisexual+ people - 23 Oct. Result: over 35 attendees, newbies from St. Petersburg, Russia, 50% young people. Some of them didn't expect to come out as bi/pan on day 1 of the conference.
- setting up a messenger group for the attendees of the bi+ connection space and other bi+ attendees of the ILGA Europe conference and observers - 24 Oct. Result: almost 50 members, busy list during the conference.
- writing and posting publicity messages about Bi+ programme tips for the ILGA Europe conference on a daily bases during the conference.
- organised a self organised space about bi+ empowerment and good practices for bi+ people - 25 Oct. Result: great meeting with about 15 attendees, lots of Bi Pride, also sadness.
- preparing the bi workshop at the conference, about bi+ and race, health, intersectionality, asylum seekers - 26 Oct. Result: 4 speakers, interesting, because 3 of them were people of colour.
- organised and informal event on the Sunday when the ILGA Europe conference was over - 27 Oct. Result: 17 attendees joined to the Rainbow's End Café, super fun.

The Bisexual Steering Committee is a worldwide group of bi+ activists. You team up with your timezone buddy. For Europe and Central Asia this is the representative of Africa. But I often had individual contact with all the other members, because of their specific backgrounds: region, research, funding, conferences, community.

A future representative does have open space to bring ideas to the committee. Please do suggest what you think would be useful for the Bisexual Steering Committee and ILGA World to do on bi+ issues, besides what already is being done.
A plan has been written, but not all of the group members were able to contribute to that, so there is room for new ideas. It would be a wise thing to work on more bi+ visibility, to offer a bi+ information hub for bi+ initiatives and projects in the ILGA World regions, and a clear advocacy path to the ILGA World conference in 2022. Not many bi+ organisations are able to become a member of ILGA World, so a worldwide research on what their needs are, how ILGA World can reach out to them, is needed.

Bi Five!
Hilde Vossen
2018-2020 Report ILGA Intersex Committee
Representative for Europe
Dan Christian Ghattas
(Executive Director OII Europe)

After all elections and nominations of representatives of the different regions for the Intersex Committee had taken place and the chair of the committee had been elected, the ILGA Intersex Committee was contacted and welcomed by the Chair, Tony Briffa, on the 10th of June 2019 via email.

Since then the Intersex Committee has convened regularly online via Zoom with an approximate average of once every two or three months, a bit less in the beginning and increasingly when the organisation of the 5th International Intersex Forum started in fall 2019.

In the beginning the Committee’s work has focussed on creating the team and sharing regional realities mostly via email. Emails are being written per default in both English and Spanish.

Since October 2019 the 5th IIF, planned to be held from the 30th of March to the 3rd of April 2020 in Bangkok, became the key focus of the Committee who first took part in selecting the forum’s organising team and then joined its work in an advisory role.

The months of October to January 2020 where filled with all the steps needed to organise an international intersex forum. Some of the Committee members, including myself, were able to bring in expertise from having attended and being consulted on many aspects of the organising of the prior four IIFs. As the European Committee member I could also add OII Europe’s expertise from our past three OII Europe community events and how we, as the European intersex community, deal with the multiplicity of national languages as well with the still existing lack of non-pathologising terminology in some languages.

As an international Committee we got to know about the Covid-19 situation early on and after in-depth evaluation of the international situation decided already in the first two weeks of February to postpone the forum. Tentatively we chose September, while planning to monitor the situation until June before taking the final decision. Unfortunately, it became clear much faster, that another postponement would be due. Currently, the SIIF is, again tentatively postponed to mid 2021.

ILGA and the funders of the 5th IIF have been incredibly supportive if making sure that the financial loss has been comparably minimal and that the funds will still be available for next year (if Covid-19 allows the Forum to be held by then).
Currently the Committee and the 5th IFF organising team together with ILGA staff are preparing an online gathering, which will start in the week of the 28th of September. The virtual gathering will provide a platform for conversation, exchange and mutual learning for intersex activists across the globe. The three-week event will touch upon various topics such as national, regional and global intersex activism, the impact of Covid-19 on intersex communities globally and funding. The forum is for and by intersex activist only, but will feature a public online training on allyship.

I am happy to say that the work in the Committee has been all that I expected it to be: intense, joyful, busy, sometimes challenging but always warm and ongoing. With the intersex community being close on a global level already and many members of the Committee having had worked together for years prior to becoming regional representatives of the ILGA Intersex Committee, I had expected nothing less.

As for regional differences: We are very well aware of them but they enrich the work of the Committee. We also pay close attention to power imbalances between regions, and actively include reflection on this and measures to navigate them in the Committee’s work. If anything, Covid-19 has made the bond and the networking even stronger.

We haven’t talked about next year yet, but I believe that it will probably be devoted to taking decisions about the 5IIF and to find ways to further support the global intersex community during the Covid-19 crisis.
October 2018 – elected as representative of ILGA Women’s Committee.

Since November 2018 till May 2019 Women’s Committee were in a process of establishing, due to different deadlines in elections for all regions.

May 2019 Introduction to the Women’s Committee and the code of conduct sent.

All Committees established and lists of representatives from different regions done.

September 2019:

List of proposed actions formed for Women’s Committees and shared among members:

Pillars: Governance, Communications and Convening:

Create a network of LBTI Women’s organizations: We are 7 women who will identify 4 partner organizations in our region.

Conduct a survey among the 28 organizations of the NETWORK to choose 5 relevant topics that we want to promote from the Network

Each woman member of the Women's Committee will choose with the 4 organizations of her circle, an article, a research, etc., which will be in the quarterly publication.

Each woman member of the Women's Committee will choose with the 4 organizations in her circle, a grant opportunity or call for funding for LBTI Women's organizations, which will be in the quarterly publication.

Face-to-face meeting of the Network of 28 LBTI Women's Organizations at the Women's Pre-Conference in Los Angeles – USA

October 2019:

Communication between members in list serves and in WhatsUp group.

Individual calls on planning with Committee members.
Meeting with European representatives to ILGA Committees during ILGA-Europe conference in Prague.

November 2019 – March 2020:

Establishing a communication and attempts to organize join call.

Steering Committees pages conducted on ILGA website.

Problems: different times zones and languages.

March 2019:

Joint action to International Women’s Day conducted flash-mob with short videos and photos in social networks.

May 2020:

Questionnaire on violence towards lesbians shared.

IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING THE PROPOSED WORK PLAN:

1. Digital magazine to make visible LBTI women in ILGA WORLD
2. Creation of an LBTI Women's Network of ILGA WORLD
3. LBTI Women's Global Calendar
4. Protocol for Handling Complaints on Violence against LBTI Women in ILGA WORLD

Roundtable discussions on the impact of and civil society response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

July 2020:

Call on planning:

Collecting information on:

- Calendar of importing dates for WC.
- Mapping of LBTIQ women’s organizations and initiatives in regions.
ILGA World Youth Steering Committee  
Youth Representative Anbid Zaman

ILGA Europe member organisations elected the representatives to five intersectional committees during its annual conference in October 2018 in Brussels.

Background:
The Committee was fully established after May 2019. It was the first time the youth portfolio was covered within the ILGA family. During the last year, the Youth steering committee worked to strengthen partnerships with other youth movements and increase participation and visibility of LGBTIQ Youth within the movement and on a global level. Despite a brand new structure and challenging environment, it has been a very busy period for the ILGA World Youth steering committee.

Here are some the key highlights:

Meetings
The ILGA World Youth Steering Committee has had over 10 meetings so far focused on planning and creating and executing an action plan.

The Nairobi Summit by UNFPA
From 12-14 November, the governments of Kenya and Denmark and UNFPA co-convened the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, a high-level conference to mobilize the political will and financial commitments we urgently need to finally and fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action.

During the summer, the committee highlighted the importance of LGBTIQ youth issues. Two speeches were delivered.

- one at the youth Signature session on LGBTI Youth exclusion of the ICPD Programme of Action in the last 25 years
- Main speech on LGBTI rights wins and loses at the LGBTI high-level event by the Dutch Ambassador with Michelle Bechelet, ministers and others.
- Speech was quoted at the closing ceremony by the UN Youth Envoy on Youth

Articles and webinars
Committee has published three articles, including one by the World Economic Forum on COVID19 impact on LGBTIQ Youth. Also, two of the committee members were featured in an article by the UN Youth Envoy 10 LGBTIQ youth leaders fighting COVID.

Committee has participated at numerous webinars and online events, including AIDS2020, IGLYO Unite, Harvard Uni webinar, IFMSA week, and others.

Regional Consultations
Three regional youth consultations were held, including one in Europe at the ILGA-Europe conference 2019 in Prague in collaboration with IGLYO.

Incubating new projects and partnerships and events

- **the Platform for Regional and International LGBTIQ Youth Organizations**
  The Youth Committee is leading on the establishment of new strategic and innovative platforms for regional and international LGBTIQ youth organisations. The Committee has been actively involved with the set-up and running of the platform.
  - **LGBTIQ Youth Coalition for Generation Equality** - We set-up a coalition of three organisations - Queer Youth Muslim project, African Queer Youth Initiative and Youth Voice Count to engage with the UN Women Generation Equality process
  - **Youth Working Group - Copenhagen 2021** - Youth Steering Committee is in process of setting-up a youth working group for World Pride 2021 and the Human rights forum to ensure meaningful participation of queer youth
  - **Global Youth Event** - the committee is working to make a global LGBTIQ youth event possible in 2021.

Partnerships
Some of the newly established partnerships and memberships:

- Partnered with different youth organisations such as Choice for Youth and Sexuality, YVC, IGLYO, African Queer Youth Initiative and others
- joined ICPD Platform for Youth led by SRHR youth orgs
- joined (on behalf of ILGA) UNITED NATIONS MAJOR GROUP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
- Joined ICPD Youth reference group - UNFPA
- Joined ECOSOC Youth Forum working group
- Joined AIDS2020 Youth Task Force
- Started work with the Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth
- Joined UNFPA - #YouthAgainstCOVID19 campaign

The chair of the committee was also appointed to UN Young Leader for the SDGs and to the UNFPA High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25.

Moving Forward
- The committee will continue supporting the development of new platforms and strengthening connections between LGBTIQ youth organisations and building their capacity. We aim to work with partners to host a global LGBTIQ youth event in 2021.

**Challenges:**
Lack of clarity on links with regional bodies
Limited support from regional bodies

**Recommendations:**

Unlike other ILGA regions, ILGA Europe democratically elected the representative to the youth committee. Youth representatives in other regions were directly nominated from their Executive Boards. Thus it is recommended that there should be a contact/spokesperson from the Executive Board who would communicate with the elected individual for a more effective representation from the region.
A short note
to the report of the European representative
to the ILGA World Trans Steering Committee

I was representing Europe to the ILGA World Trans Committee for the last 2 years.

During my mandate, there was not much activities happening. I was not provided with any clear vision or scheme of work, the goals and objectives of the Committee and it’s regional representatives were not defined, and I had nobody to discuss it with.

I involved the members of the board in this conversation asking them to help me to find out how is the Committee working, what are the procedures, and how we can make the Committee work. Unfortunately, as these procedures were not in place, I don’t see any actions that have been done by the Trans Committee.

There is much going on in the European movement and I would like to share and to integrate a European part into Committee’s work. As a TGEU member and board member, I linked very well to other organizations in Europe and I have all means in my hands if only we could talk on the global movement issues within a Committee. I hope in the next period the work will be defined and will bring some fruits the global trans community can benefit from.

Olena Semenova
S_he/him/his