



23rd ILGA-Europe Annual Conference
23-26 October in Prague, Czech Republic

Preliminary programme

We are a little more than two months away from the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference 2019, the largest annual gathering of LGBTI activists and allies in Europe and Central Asia. We expect to welcome 600 participants – including activists, civil society partners, policy-makers, grant-makers and supportive businesses.

What's this year's theme?

As activists around the globe celebrate 50 years of Stonewall, we are keenly aware that our gains are fragile and that the journey for equality is not complete. It is hard to deny the rollback that we are experiencing. It is hard to disassociate the very real pressure that LGBTI communities experience in parts of the region and globally from forces of authoritarianism and populism. It is wrong to ignore the imperfections within our own movement and the many voices from communities that have been left behind. It is hard not to see the growing complexity that current realities bring to the everyday work of activists.

Whilst there is a growing sense of urgency to address this backlash, questions remain about how we can best strengthen collective forces for a more just world. So this year, under the theme “*Stronger Together*”, we will be asking ourselves how we can truly come together around shared goals. How do we celebrate and elevate our rich diverse voices to make sure everyone is heard, while affirming our common humanity? How do we make sure none of us forget that we do have so much more in common than what divides us? Can we find unity around a common purpose? Those are some of urgent and crucial questions we have to ask ourselves, if we are to continue making real change happen to LGBTI people in all their diversities across our region and beyond.

Read more about the theme of the Annual Conference 2019 [here](#).

What are the programme highlights?

This year programme will include over 50 different programme spaces. Most of the workshops are connected to the theme of the conference, dedicated to issues important for our movements, including relevant advocacy issues from a European

perspective and/or capacity-building sessions. This preliminary programme has been shaped by the experiences and stories that have empowered communities throughout Europe and Central Asia. We want to emphasize positive stories of coming together as a movement to achieve change. Together we hope to build another conference where you can get inspiration and be empowered.

The programme in a glimpse...

On Wednesday

Newbie Sessions: If you want to know more about how ILGA-Europe works, if you are wondering what happens at the Annual Conference, if you are not sure about how decisions are made at the AGM, you are most likely not the only one. Join the Newbie Sessions (in English and Russian) to make sure you are fully prepared to participate and enjoy the conference!

Connecting Spaces: To make the conference a welcoming and safe space for everyone and to see how different perspectives come together to enrich our collective discussions and thinking, we offer the Connecting Spaces at the very start of the conference. In this sessions you can connect with other participants with a shared aspect of your identity: Lesbian people; Bisexual people; LGBTI people of Faith; LGBTI people of Colour; Trans, Non-Binary and Gender Non-Conforming people; Intersex people; Elderly LGBTI people, LGBTI Youth; Disabled LGBTI people; Russian-speakers.

“Queer Plaza” – informal opening evening at the conference hotel: Recognizing that the opening evening contributes greatly to setting the tone of the conference and based on feedback, we decided to replace the traditional, formal opening ceremony in an external venue by a more informal opening evening at the conference hotel. The objective is that participants have the chance to get to know each other, connect with other activists around share goals or expectations, get familiar with the conference programme and theme, and get acquainted with the venue. Finger food will be served and the hotel lobby bar will be open. More information will follow!

On Thursday

Opening session: The opening morning will feature an inspiring and thought-provoking speakers with whom we hope to set the tone for the conference. We will discuss ways to resist polarization, find a common purpose despite our diversity and work across equality and progressive social movements towards an alternative agenda for the future – one that offers a pathway to fair, inclusive and sustainable societies.

Thursday will also see a Czech political panel and of course, numerous workshops, self-organized spaces and consultationsessions.

On Friday

Plenary session: We are excited to announce that Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, will deliver a keynote speech on Friday morning.

The keynote intervention will be followed by a panel discussion bringing together activists from different parts of the LGBTI movement to debate some crucial questions: What do we need to come together as individuals and as communities? How do ensure and value the fact that everyone can contribute with their perspective, in particular those voices that remain too often unheard? How do we make sure none of us forget that we do have so much more in common than what divides us? How do we make sure our work is anchored in a sense of common purpose?

On Saturday

Closing evening with entertainment: The conference will end with a farewell dinner in a festive venue with the traditional flag hand-over to the 2020 host organisations. Be ready to be surprised by local entertainment acts and a wonderful goodbye party!

What are the topics covered?

Workshops

This year's programme will include almost 50 different workshops – some of which will be directly connected the conference theme, some others will be dedicated to topics relevant to our movements, including advocacy issues from a European perspective and/or capacity-building sessions.

Preliminary list of workshop proposed: Anti-polarization strategies within the mouvement; Alliance building across movements; Anti-democratic developments in Europe and Central Asia; Anti-gender movement; LGBTI rights and freedom of religion; Strategic litigation; Civil parternship; FRA and DG Justice Eurobarometer; Legal gender recognition; Gender markers; Intersex legal toolkit; ICD 11; Conversion therapies; PrEP; Hate speech; Trans hate crime; Asylum; Homelessness; Prides; Sport; Intersectionality; BPOC; LGBTI Roma; Elderly LGBTI people; Sex work; Bisexuality; Lesbian activism; Rainbow families; Campaigning and message framing; Audience research and message testing; Fundraising; Corporate engagement; Governance and accountability; Management of organisation and power dynamics; Leadership skills and strategies (VUCA world); Wellbeing in crisis situation; Digital security.

Consultations

The conference will provide space for short one-on-one consultations with conference participants. Consultations will be offered by organisations and

individuals with expertise in a diversity of topics related to capacity-building of the European and Central Asian LGBTI movement.

Preliminary list of consultations proposed: Digital security; Dating apps; Wellbeing; HIV/AIDS; Trans health; Sex work; Intersex issues in the broadest context (legal, policy, social); LGBTQ Roma intersectional issues; Parents and relatives of LGBT people; LGBT+ ageing; Homelessness; Education; Pride; Litigation.

Research and project presentations

As in the previous years, ILGA-Europe wants to give participants the opportunity to showcase projects, publications and research that can enlighten activists from Europe and Central Asia on various LGBTI issues. This year we received an overwhelming number of proposals, so we are currently looking in organizing clusters of research and project presentations. They will be organized around the following themes: Violence against LGBTI communities; Multiple marginalisations and those left behind; Trans health; Youth; Law and legal tools (international, regional, national); Social, economic and cultural rights of LGBTI people; Funding and campaigning; Photo and video projects.

Self-organised spaces

Alongside the workshops included in the formal part of the programme, participants will have the opportunity to schedule meetings and activities on topics of their specific interests through self-organised spaces. These sessions can be planned or spontaneously organised when you arrive at the conference. Sign-up sheets will be displayed at the beginning of the conference. The spaces will be allocated on a 'first-come first served basis'.

Networking space

This space is designed to provide participants with a place to get to know each other and each other's work. Participants can meet fellow activists, discuss issues of importance to their work, and hopefully establish relationships to be built on further during the rest of the conference. You will also have the opportunity to display materials at this space.

What to expect from the social programme?

Accompanying the formal programme, there will also be many informal and social activities taking place throughout the conference and organized in collaboration with the local host Proud and Prague Pride. Here are just a few examples of what to expect: guided tour of Prague, film screening, board games night, relaxation session, queer pub crawl, and of course not to forget: the famous karaoke night!