



# 2024 CONFERENCE REPORT

This report is dedicated to the memory of our former co-Secretary General **Tuisina Ymania Brown** and of imam **Mushin Hendricks**. Our entire movement has lost two heroes, and their legacies will live on in our struggle towards a better world for everyone.





When the ILGA World family last met — it was May 2022, in Long Beach — our conversations were basking in the joy of finally seeing each other again. We were all craving to be in the same room, leave the Covid-19 pandemic behind at last, and find a new normal that finally did justice to every marginalised community.

More than three years later, we know that things haven't quite gone as we hoped they would. Geopolitical and humanitarian crises are louder than ever, and our LGBTI communities are facing an unprecedented backlash across the world.

In such polarised and contentious times, the resilience and courage of our movement are tested, yet they remain vital. Our recent World Confer-

ence has demonstrated our unwavering commitment to this cause, showing that our diversity—of identities, perspectives, and strategies—is fundamental to building inclusive, strong solidarities. It has been inspiring to witness our community listening to one another, engaging in complex discussions, embracing our differences, and standing together with other progressive causes and advocacy efforts.

Our shared dream of a world where everyone can live authentically and without fear is what keeps us united—across borders, cultures, and communities. We are committed to advancing this vision, recognising that progress is always a collective effort that benefits from embracing diverse voices and perspectives.

We are proud to have brought the global LGBTI community back to Africa, especially now that dangerous anti-rights narratives are diluting into the region from the Global North. Being here, together after so many years since the last time, and having the opportunity for the world to witness what activism looks like in South Africa, has been a wonderful statement of unity and solidarity across borders.

This conference is particularly meaningful for us, as it marks the moment when our membership entrusted us to lead ILGA World into the future. Our deepest gratitude goes to our global family, especially to Luz Elena Aranda and Tuisina Ymania Brown—our former co-Secretaries General—whose fearless leadership since March 2019 has

laid the groundwork for a more inclusive, resilient movement. We mourn the recent loss of Ymania, honouring her enduring legacy and commitment to our cause. We commit to fostering an environment where all voices are valued, and where our collective efforts continue to grow, flourish, and adapt in solidarity—both in our triumphs and setbacks.

*Kimberly*

*Yuri*

**Kimberly Frost and Yuri Guaiana**  
ILGA World Co-Secretaries General



The global LGBTI movement has come a long way. Back in 1978, when the then-named International Gay Association was created, there was very little information about the state of development of the movement around the world. Our funding meeting was spearheaded by just thirty pioneers. Fast forward to forty-six years later. Our global communities and other social justice movements are experiencing a tidal wave of pushback for their work, and ILGA World is in Cape Town, South Africa for the largest conference in its history — with almost 1,500 participants from over 100 countries worldwide, hosted by local organisations working for lesbian, trans, and intersex persons.

It has been a historic moment, and not just for these numbers. For the first time in 25 years, our global LGBTI community returned to African soil. At a time of democratic backsliding and rights being taken away, we came together under the theme “Kwa umoja we rise”, referencing a phrase in Swahili that celebrates unity and collective progress.

For five days, hundreds of LGBTI human rights defenders and grassroots activists, development, policy makers, and international human rights experts, as well as government representatives, researchers, journalists, funders, and allies responded in global solidarity to the ongoing anti-rights pushback.

A constellation of many more events happened during and around the ILGA World Conference — including the inaugural International Pride Awards, a strategic summit on intersectional and inclusive democracies, and holistic security training for activists worldwide. The teach-ins by the Pavement Special Collective showed us the life-saving work that activists in Cape Town are doing for our communities and pushed our organisation towards even more intersectionality and inclusion.

The conference saw strong collaboration between advocates for sexual and reproductive health, an equitable HIV response, and LGBTI people’s rights. It heard urgent calls to fund our futures. It reminded us of the power of communities

— the theme for the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia in 2025, which was announced during the conference. With 127 sessions in five days, together we took a deep dive into our common struggle to power progress for all.

The conference also marked important moments for ILGA World itself: our membership approved the strategic plan that will guide our work for the years ahead and elected new Board representatives to lead the organisation.

Such a transformative event would not have been possible without the work of many: our Board members past and present, who represent our movement through thick and thin over the years; our staff and consultants, who organised everything under the guidance of feminist principles and an unwavering commitment to serve our communities; the Chiring Pool, who helped the conference engine running smoothly; and our local hosts and member organisations Iranti and Gender DynamiX, who worked tirelessly to welcome our global family to South Africa.

To them, and to everyone else who made this conference possible, I simply say: thank you for bringing our global community together, and for allowing us to walk the talk of cross-movement solidarity. We will build our future on these powerful days, and it won’t be long until we will all meet again in Buenos Aires, Argentina for our next World Conference!

*Julia*

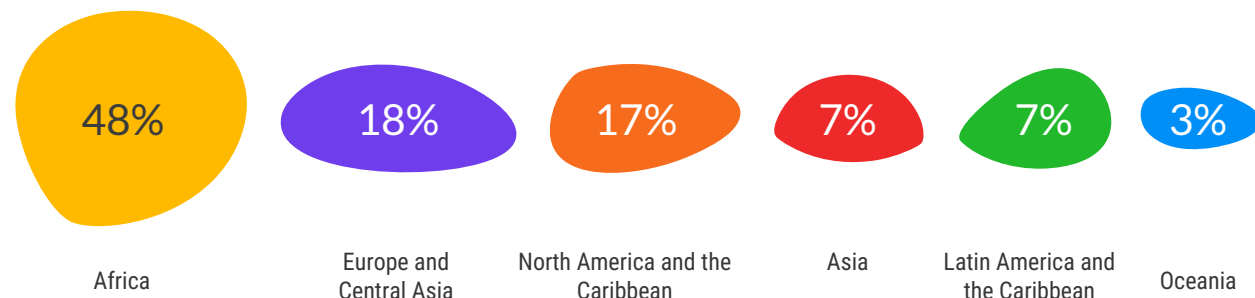
Julia Ehrt,  
ILGA World Executive Director

# STATISTICS

## A diverse World Conference

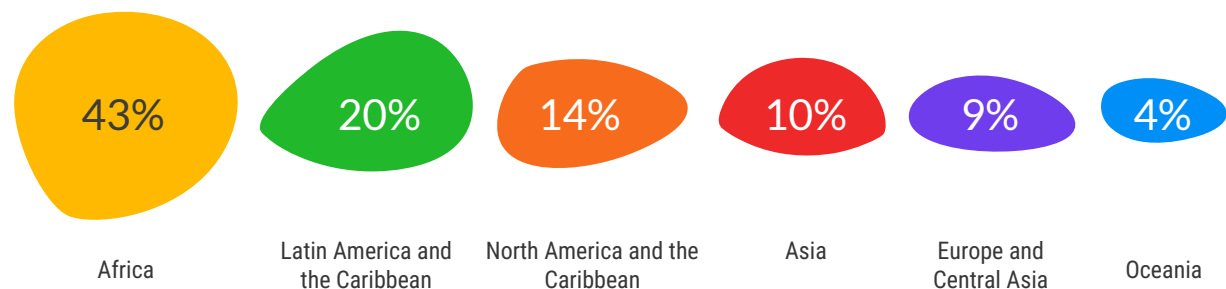
**Participants**    **1,463**        **65.7%** of whom were at an ILGA World conference for the first time

from 129 countries and territories:



**Including 122 scholars**    **91.8%** of whom were at an ILGA World Conference for the first time  
who received funding to attend under the ILGA World Conference scholarship programme

from 75 countries and territories:



and all the people whose participation we could support directly!

# WORKSHOPS, SESSIONS, PRE-CONFERENCES



Media coverage



32 countries and territories reached by news of the ILGA World Conference

DAY-BY-DAY DIARY



# Monday 11 November

To the question “Can we please bring our global community back to Africa?”, we could only answer with a loud, resounding “yes.” After months of preparation, the journey is over: the ILGA World Conference has returned to the African Continent for the first time in 25 years, hosted by organisations led by – and working for – lesbian, trans, and intersex persons. We are here at last, responding with global solidarity to the increasing targeting of our communities shaking the region and the world.



Day One already offers many spaces for our communities to come together. Three population and regional caucuses and seven pre-conferences unfold during the day - touching upon diverse populations like women in all their diversity, LGBTI people within trade unions, persons of diverse faiths, and intersex folks amongst others.

In times of violent opposition, we must find ways forward together. The room is filled with the joy of being reunited again, but also with the positive rage that derives from having become the target of anti-democratic powers and knowing how urgent it is to bring about change.



This is the largest conference in ILGA World history, with over 1,450 delegates from over 100 countries in attendance under the theme “Kwa umoja we rise”, referencing a phrase in Swahili that celebrates unity and collective progress.



During the evening, Iranti and Gender Dynamix host the first of its four social event nights, leaving the stage to the wondrous performances of Drag Night Namibia. A wonderful way to feel the power of queer culture unravelling after a very intense first day at the conference!



Tuesday  
12 November

On the second day of the conference, discussions continue to evolve as lesbian, bisexual, and trans individuals — alongside sex workers, LGBTI people with disabilities, indigenous people, and activists from the Commonwealth and Francophone countries — hold pre-conferences to exchange experiences within their respective communities, the broader LGBTI movement, and beyond.



For nearly 70% of participants and almost every scholar, being in Cape Town marks their first experience attending an ILGA World Conference. With so many human rights advocates gathered in one location and numerous discussions taking place simultaneously, some guidance may be helpful. Today, we organise a “newbie” session to assist attendees in navigating this expansive constellation of events.

Regional caucuses and various population groups also conclude their sessions today, each focusing on strategies to improve the human rights situation of the people they represent.



# Wednesday 13 November

How do we build solidarity across movements, especially at a time when reactionary forces thrive by sowing division? The question resonates across halls and corridors, and everybody brings it with themselves as we gather for the opening plenary.



One thing is for certain: no movement can make it alone, and we are putting words into action. The conference sees the launch of a global cross-movement initiative working for sexual and reproductive health, HIV, and LGBTI people's rights, and hears urgent calls to [Fund Our Futures](#). Our communities share the stage with feminist organisations, as well as climate, disability, and racial justice movements. Our causes intertwine, and we must be side by side.



*"God's love overflows in diversity. God's love overflows into the beauty of you"*

- MPHO TUTU VAN FURTH

The Pavement Special Collective, a group of local LGBTI and sex workers organisations, holds teach-in events throughout the week, inviting everyone to learn more about what queer activism in Cape Town and to join them in action. Their engagement with the conference reminds us that activism is all about solidarity and, from the stage, the words of ILGA World executive director Julia Ehrt offer further guidance: "I call on us to meet each other with generosity, to make an effort to calling more often in than out, to learn and get better at accepting our differences for the greater common good."



We are here to shape our future – both for our movement, and for ILGA World itself. As the Annual General Meeting begins, the Board hands the keys to the Chairing Pool to administer the conference – including governance matters like elections, considering proposed changes to our Constitution and Standing Orders, chairing workshops to check our finances, and discussing strategies for the years ahead.



Many other workshops and panel discussions allow us to learn from each other, addressing issues as diverse as the plight of rainbow refugees, the situation of LBQ women forced into marriage, and the strategies of the anti-gender movement. And when the evening falls, we come together for the [International Pride Awards](#) and the first-ever ILGA World ballroom celebration.



# Thursday 14 November

By building solidarity beyond identities, a more just and inclusive world is not only possible—it is already taking shape, one courageous step at a time. We see this transformation in action at the conference, where our dialogues help us embrace a collective vision of equality that transcends individual labels, powered by our stories of resilience and unity.



Food for thought is served throughout the day, with dozens of sessions touching upon trans, gender-diverse, and intersex people’s rights in sports, navigating the United Nations multilateral architecture, bisexual activists, and much more.



Through dynamic panel discussions, workshops, and personal testimonies, the focus shifts from the distinctions that often divide to the universal principles of justice and human dignity. We are reminded that the fight for LGBTI people’s rights is not just about individual identities, but about fostering a broader, more inclusive solidarity that uplifts all marginalised groups.



Before hitting the city in the evening for a party hosted at the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, there is also time for an important announcement: on the next 17 May, LGBTI people and allies worldwide will celebrate the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia under the theme “The power of communities”!

Friday  
15 November

After a self- and community care session with guided breathwork and meditation, all participants come together again for the final day at the conference. There are still many more discussions to be had – including LG-BTIQ inclusion in peace, security, and humanitarian response, sexual and reproductive health rights and justice for LBQ women in the Global South, strategies to counter the democratic backsliding, and many more.



The bid of a group of organisations to host the next ILGA World Conference in Argentina is successful: our global family will soon meet again in Buenos Aires, bringing our global event back to Latin America for the first time in over ten years!



The voting process also gives us a new Board: Kimberly Frost (United States) and Yuri Guaiana (Italy) will step in as the organisation’s new co-Secretaries General. Hamlet Nkwain (Bisexual), Alejandra Collette Spinetti Nuñez (Trans), Obioma Chukwuike (Intersex) and Gabriel Barahona Escobar (Youth) are elected as the new Chairs of our Steering Committees, while Angelica Polmonari is confirmed in her role to chair the Women’s Committee.

The UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity takes the floor, offering our global movement one more strong call for unity. “I grew up in a country where it took enormous effort and courage to overcome barriers in a collective struggle and with a vision of a collective future,” Graeme Reid would go on reflect later. “What we have accomplished is unimaginable. We lived through the bleakest of times, in which optimism was a sign of naivety, and yet here we are.”

Five incredibly intense and enriching days have gone by in a heartbeat: a wonderful gala dinner and a party, and then it is time to say goodbye. But not for long: Buenos Aires is already around the corner!



Meanwhile, governance processes come to a close after months of collective work: the global ILGA World family passes resolutions, approves our new strategic plan and financial matters, and our Constitution and Standing Orders are fine-tuned following the proposals of our membership.



# OUTCOMES

The 2024 ILGA World Conference has been a transformative experience for our global family. It has been a powerful reminder that nothing speaks louder than a community that comes together through dialogue and cooperation, and unites in their fight. The event has laid the foundations of the years ahead not only in terms of our activism, but also in the organisation’s governance. Here is what has changed.



# A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Organisations from across the world come together into ILGA World, shaping our work with their collective voice. After two years of consultations, the World Conference served as the moment for them to approve our new strategic plan for the years 2025-2029: a document deeply rooted in shared values, and reiterating our commitment to equality, freedom and justice for LGBTI people worldwide.

## Solidarity and accountability for feminist and queer liberation...

The new strategic plan formalises on paper the principles that have always guided our work: we are grounded in international solidarity, fostering transparent and accountable collaboration with our movements and with other sectors that promote equity and social justice.

An intersectional feminist approach lies at the core of what we do and informs our vision of queer liberation. Freeing society from restrictive expectations regarding sex and gender must be rooted in a commitment to collective care, critical engagement with power structures, and an understanding of how colonialism and racism have historically marginalised diverse and Indigenous communities.

## ... and how we will get there

Our member organisations are saying this loud and clear: to best support our global movements, they need an ILGA World that continues focusing on building a body of knowledge that can inform and support their advocacy efforts. ILGA World is our movements’ home, in which they find resources and community. However, this work must be grounded in building more internal capacity. Only by strengthening the organisation and equipping it with the resources and infrastructure required to effectively conduct the work, will ILGA World be in a position to support and build on the existing capacities of its members.



# CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS

## More extensive review of conference bids

At every World Conference, our membership decides where the event will take place next, based on the bids circulated in the pre-conference mailings. The Board will now have a system to assess and decline any bid and recommend up to three locations for consideration by the general assembly.

## An uninterrupted representation of our communities

To ensure more continuity for its work and based on identified needs, the Executive Board now has the authority to co-opt one specialist board member without voting rights. Former board members may be co-opted two years after the end of their mandate at the earliest.

## More voices heard in our elections

Our world conferences are the main governance moment for the organisation. To ensure that more in our membership can have their say, elections may be held either in person or via electronic voting — using a platform that complies with the highest standards of transparency, digital security, privacy, and accessibility.

# IMPACT

We asked participants about their experience at the 2024 ILGA World Conference, and takeaways that will empower their work. Here is what they told us.

*“Being here gives me hope. It gives me models of possibilities to look at.”*



*“The conference was incredibly impactful, and I deeply appreciated the opportunity to connect with diverse participants and learn from their experiences. I am excited to see how future events can build on this strong foundation.”*



*“Coming to the conference, I expected it to be an unapologetically queer space — which it was, and I loved it.”*



*“Bringing this conference back to Africa was a very big win for us. It was a very powerful step to say: ‘Yes, we can do it for ourselves, and yes, we can do it with the rest of the world.’”*



*“Collaboration and unity are key to creating a peaceful and inclusive world. By building partnerships across diverse communities and fostering dialogue, we can promote mutual understanding and address shared challenges.”*

*“I loved everything and would suggest a Pride rally before each conference!”*

*“Coming to ILGA was to reconnect with the global community but also understand best practices I can employ in my work back at home.”*

*“ILGA is a great space to really talk about what are the global trends that are happening, what are the global strategies, and how do we become aligned as an LGBTI movement globally, so that none of us are left out of the picture.”*

*“We have a lot to contribute to, and we believe that when we are talking with one another — and not at each other, and it’s not top-down, or North-South — and listening to each other, only then we can at least begin to conquer this world.”*



*“The overall ILGA experience was eye-opening and life-changing for me and the work I do as an activist. I am very thankful.”*



*“I am so appreciative of this experience and pray this forum continues and grows for years to come. We are not free until we are all free.”*

# ILGA World executive board members resulting from the conference

## CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL



**Kimberly Frost**  
OUTreach  
United States



**Yuri Guaiana**  
Certi Diritti  
Italy

## BISEXUAL COMMITTEE CHAIR



**Hamlet Nkwain**  
Working For Our Wellbeing  
Cameroon

## INTERSEX COMMITTEE CHAIR



**Obioma Chukwuike**  
Intersex Nigeria  
Nigeria

## TRANS COMMITTEE CHAIR



**Alejandra Collette Spinetti Núñez**  
Colectivo Trans del Uruguay  
Uruguay

## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CHAIR



**Angelica Polmonari**  
Arcigay  
Italy

## YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIR



**Gabriel Barahona Escobar**  
Comcavis Trans  
El Salvador

## PAN AFRICA ILGA

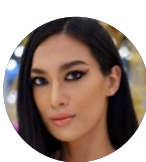


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security concerns



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and country withheld for  
security concerns

## ILGA ASIA



**Chitsanupong Nithiwana (Best)**  
Young Pride Club  
Thailand



**Charbel Maydaa**  
MOSAIC  
Lebanon

## ILGA OCEANIA



**Margherita Coppolino**  
Inclusive Rainbow Voices LGBTQIA+  
People with Disability  
Australia



**Ratu Eroni Ledua Dina (Lady Rhonda)**  
Trans Affirmative Action Guild (TAAG)  
Fiji

## ILGA NORTH AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



**Kenita Placide**  
CARIFLAGS  
Saint Lucia



**Rob Boulet**  
Ontario Public Service Employees  
Union (OPSEU/SEFPO)  
Canada

## ILGALAC



**Ari Vera Morales**  
Almas Cautivas  
Mexico



**Darío Arias**  
Conurbanes por la Diversidad  
Argentina

## ILGA-EUROPE



**Olena Shevchenko**  
Insight Public  
Organisation  
Ukraine



**Rachael Moore**  
Rainbow Nation  
Belgium

ILGA World Board members as of 15 November 2024.  
The composition of the Board has changed since then:  
[please visit the ILGA World website](#) for the latest updates.

A big thank you for all their work over the years to outgoing Board members:  
**Luz Elena Aranda** and **Tuisina Ymania Brown** (co-Secretaries General);  
**Ian Lawrence-Tourinho** (Bisexual Steering Committee); **Ale Lopez Bensch**, **Crystal Hendricks** (Intersex Steering Committee); **Tashnuva Anan** (Trans Steering Committee);  
**Martin Karadzhov** (Youth Steering Committee); **Barbra Wangare** and **Star Rugori**  
(Pan Africa ILGA co-Chairs); **Renae Green** (ILGA North America & the Caribbean  
co-Chair); **Ken Moala** (ILGA Oceania co-Chair).

# THANK YOU

An event of this magnitude is not possible without the tireless work and the generous support of many. A heartfelt shout-out and thank you goes to the Iranti and GenderDynamix, our volunteers, and Event Management Solutions - as well as to the Chaining Pool, our Board members, and

ILGA World staff, consultants, and junior consultants who kept the conference engines running smoothly. Most of all, our thank you goes to all the LGBTI activists around the world for the time and energy they commit to advancing LGBTI equality everywhere. We are in this together!

### HOST ORGANISATIONS



### EVENT CO-MANAGEMENT



Our thanks to the following organisations whose financial or other contributions made the 2024 ILGA World Conference possible:

### SUPPORTERS



### MEDIA PARTNERS



The 2024 ILGA World Conference report was coordinated, written, edited, and translated into Spanish by **Daniele Paletta**  
Supervised by **Julia Ehrt**  
Data analysis: **Oscar Fitzpatrick**  
Design and typesetting: **Roberta Bruno** – roberta.comics@gmail.com and **Anita Magnani** – anita.magnani@gmail.com  
All photos (unless otherwise stated) by Jodi Windvogel for ILGA World  
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Head to our [YouTube channel](#)  
to watch the conference documentary, and...

see you in Buenos Aires for the 32nd  
ILGA World Conference!



**ILGA World - The International Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association**

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1202 Geneva, Switzerland

For more information about our work,  
or to download our publications,  
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or contact us at [info@ilga.org](mailto:info@ilga.org)

