

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ILGA World is grateful for the support of its member organisations, staff, consultants and Board and Committee members who work tirelessly to make everything we do possible.

A heartfelt shout-out and thank you goes to all the human rights defenders around the world for the time and energy they commit to advancing equality, equity, recognition and protection for persons with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities

and gender expressions, and sex characteristics everywhere.

We also thank three significant anonymous donors and many other companies. Over 500 individuals made donations in 2023, with an average donation of over 50 CHF, including over 30 donors who donated monthly or quarterly.

Our deepest thanks to those who have committed to financially making our work possible in 2023.



ILGA World could not provide vital support and programming to the global LGBTI movement without the support of donations from individuals like you. Please consider donating to our efforts at:



2023 AT A GLANCE

January To better meet our member organisation's needs and facilitate how they can contribute to shaping the work of ILGA World, we start the year by implementing a new model for our membership fees – based on the financial stability of an organisation, no matter the functioning of its country's economy.

March We launch the ground-breaking ILGA World Database – a free, interactive, and collaborative platform compiling laws, news, and references to human rights bodies and advocacy opportunities related to LGBTI people in 193 UN member States and 47 non-independent territories.

May The world celebrates the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia around the theme “Together always: united in diversity”. For the first time in 2023, ILGA World coordinates the IDAHOBIT Working Group to facilitate the participation of our communities worldwide.

July To ensure LGBTI people are included in discussions around sustainable development, we join the LGBTI Stakeholder Group in the High-Level Political Forum and launch a video series to explain how the Agenda 2030 can help with LGBTI advocacy.

September Working with artists and activists alike, we launch JUNTES – a cross-movement strategic dialogue among feminist and trans advocates that culminates in gatherings and festivals in Brazil and Northern Ireland.

November Criminalising laws target a community but threaten everyone: the latest edition of Our Identities Under Arrest documents the enforcement of such provisions, making the case for decriminalising consensual same-sex relations and providing critical contextual data to legal aid providers and agencies to support asylum cases.

February We redouble our work in the United Nations fora to uplift our community's voices. In 2023, we launched a virtual Treaty Bodies academy, worked with States issuing their first statement recognising legal gender recognition based on self-identification as a human rights standard, and witnessed historic steps forward for intersex people. We also increased our engagement with grassroots groups on strategic litigation and supported them in implementing the recommendations they received from human rights mechanisms.

April Online spaces have always been crucial for LGBTI people to create communities and mobilise. However, there is almost no analysis of how the digital divide is affecting them. To bridge this gap, we inaugurate our global digital divide project, which will fully come to life in 2024.

June Trans activists at the UN raise their voices against the anti-rights pushback and attend one of the largest Trans Advocacy Weeks so far, entering Human Rights Council spaces and receiving support to engage with more than 25 member States.

The road towards the 2024 ILGA World Conference begins: “Kwa umoja we rise!” is the theme of the event that will see our global gathering returning to Africa for the first time since 1999.

August Together with the Global Philanthropy Project, we launch LGBTI Pathways at the conference of our Pan-African region in Mauritius. This is a ground-breaking project that will analyse gaps in the state of global funding for LGBTI issues, allowing the movement to identify shared needs and priorities for their work.

October We asked photographers and video makers to document the stories of our communities and bring to life the power of human rights. Artists from 28 countries worldwide responded: as the month comes to an end, we announce the winners of our first LGBTI photo and video contest.

December We release the Intersex Legal Mapping Report. Our new research shows the worrisome lack of legal protection of intersex people's rights to bodily integrity, autonomy, and self-determination, as well as the limited number of attempts to protect the equal enjoyment of human rights for people with variations in sex characteristics.

Esteemed member organisations, LGBTI people, and valued allies,

We are honoured to share the ILGA World 2023 Annual Report with you, where you will find a summary of a year of remarkable achievements in our work.

But as with all great achievements, in 2023, each step towards progress was met with harsh push-back, and every day we were reminded that change has to be fought for, and cannot ever be taken for granted. Especially for the most marginalised among us, or for those living in areas where war or outrageous human rights violations ensue, resilience is a daily, daunting task.

And yet, despite the prejudice and discrimination we still face, people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics have always been part of every society — each of us a thread in the magnificent tapestry of our shared humanity. Our courage lights the way towards a more inclusive and respectful world for everyone.

The work our member organisations and communities are doing is bringing about change!

In 2023, the Cook Islands and Mauritius decriminalised consensual same-sex sexual acts, while provisions to the same end came into force in Singapore and for military forces in Venezuela. Cyprus, Iceland, and Spain passed laws to curtail 'conversion therapy' practices. Andorra, Estonia, and Slovenia introduced marriage equality, and Nepal issued an interim order to facilitate same-sex weddings. The Australian Capital Territory passed legislation safeguarding the human rights of intersex individuals, and Spain enacted protections for them at the national level. Positive developments for the intersex community also took place in Brazil and Chile. Spain, Finland, and New Zealand made legal gender recognition based on self-determination a reality, and a cross-regional group of 28 countries took the floor at the United Nations urging more countries to do so.

But 2023 was also a year of tragic setbacks. Uganda joined the list of States imposing the death penalty for certain consensual same-sex sexual acts. Rus-

sia banned what it called the "international LGBT public movement" as "extremist". This year alone, provisions to arrest, prosecute, and sentence LGBT and gender-diverse people were enforced in over 30 countries. Legal debates around freedom of expression regarding sexual and gender diversity have become a critical battleground in many States. Every day, around the world, we are reminded that our work is nowhere near done.

While our lives continue to be used as wedge issues to distract, mobilise, and divide, ILGA World provides spaces to unite. In 2024, our global family will be reunited again at the World Conference in Cape Town, South Africa! There will be many opportunities for member organisations to shape the work of ILGA World, including having their say on our new strategic plan and our governance review.

We invite you to join us and make your voices heard. But, before then, let's look back to an extraordinary year one last time, and build on those victories and commit to working on reversing the setbacks, all in global solidarity, towards a better future for all. ILGA World will continue to be there for you, always.



Luz Elena Aranda and Tuisina Ymania Brown
co-Secretaries General, ILGA World



At a time of global pushback, no human rights movement can make it by themselves. LGBTI, feminist, sex workers, sexual and reproductive health rights, and HIV/AIDS activism have always been interconnected: we recognise our shared opposition and face a mutually dependent future.

This year, and in those to come, we build on long-standing movement relationships, while we continue to facilitate access to information, convening spaces, and advocacy opportunities for LGBTI communities on the ground.

2023 has been a truly transformative year for ILGA World: not only have we expanded the scope of our research to equally encompass sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics issues, but we opened new grounds for our community to access information and advocacy spaces.

With the launch of the ILGA World Database, we provided everyone with a free, interactive, and collaborative platform compiling laws, news, and references to human rights bodies and advocacy opportunities with the United Nations related to LGBTI people worldwide. Hundreds of human rights defenders and other stakeholders use this platform daily!

During the year, we also launched the ground-breaking LGBTI Pathways initiative together with the Global Philanthropy Project, aiming to catalyse pathways to increased and improved funding for LGBTI communities around the world.

More ground-breaking research included our first-ever global survey on legal protections for people born with variations in sex characteristics, renewed overviews of how States enforce laws targeting us, and analyses of how international human rights mechanisms are working to protect our communities.

We continued to amplify LGBTI voices from across the world in United Nations spaces, where we strengthened our work on Treaty Bodies — with strategic litigation and a brand-new online academy — as well as on national advocacy engagement, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Advocacy, however, can take different avenues, too. In 2023, we launched JUNTOS, an initiative focused on art and alliances between feminist and trans movements. We joined spaces we had never been in before, as I had the personal honour to address the plenary at the Women Deliver conference in Rwanda. We strengthened our work alongside our communities in the Caribbean and the Pacific. For the first time, we coordinated the global working group for the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia.

Throughout the year, our global family got stronger than ever. Our membership has now reached 1,973 organisations from 170 States and territories. Together with our regions, we continue to work alongside them and provide advocacy and capacity-building opportunities, as well as resources to conduct their work.

All this work would not have been possible without our 19 Board members and 35 committee members who volunteered their time and energy, and without our staff and consultants who put their professional skills and passion at the service of our global movement.

In 2024, our organisation will shape its future with a new strategic plan and a review of our governance structure. We invite our member organisations to have their say and to join our global community and allies at the ILGA World Conference, which is finally returning to Africa after twenty-five years. Together we will continue to translate ILGA World's strategic vision into positive impact and lasting change for the communities that we serve.

Julia

Julia Ehrt

Executive Director, ILGA World





ADVOCACY WITH OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY: STRENGTHENING OUR COMMITMENTS

Compared to more than forty years ago when ILGA World was born, LGBTI activists are now present in nearly every human rights forum. Hearing their experiences has helped UN agencies, regional bodies, and governments recognise the duty to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of our communities.

But change has never happened without pushback, and 2023 has been a year of advances conquered while braving the storm of anti-right actors. To the hostile narratives making inroads also within human rights spaces, we responded by building new partnerships and tightening existing ones within and beyond our movement — uplifting the voices of grassroots communities, supporting emergency interventions, raising awareness of situations for our LGBTI communities that required urgent attention, and defending international human rights standards on women's rights.

Our work in United Nations spaces does not exist in a vacuum. It is a collaborative process with many other actors who recognise the importance

of working in allyship and solidarity across LGBTI, feminist, and sexual and reproductive health rights movements.

At the Human Rights Council, we witnessed a cross-regional group of 28 countries calling for laws and policies that allow legal gender recognition based on self-identification as a human rights standard. We also saw 56 States from all regions of the world urging to “increase efforts to combat violence, harmful practices and discrimination on the basis of sex characteristics”, and intersex civil society starting to advocate for a historic resolution on the matter that would become a reality in 2024.

We continued to constantly engage with ten **treaty bodies**, during a year where the number of concluding observations that mentioned SOGIESC language reached its highest-ever rate. We supported grassroots activists as they submitted reports and delivered statements to these human rights mechanisms, contributed to general comments, and focussed on the critical intersection of disability and

SOGIESC with an event during the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Crucially, we supported eight strategic litigation initiatives of local groups before treaty bodies and advocated a more inclusive language in international human rights mechanisms. As a result of this work, the Committee for Enforced Disappearances chose to use gender-neutral terms in its general comment on migration, and a Human Rights Council resolution referred to “all families” for the first time.

Throughout the year, we supported 34 activists as their countries were about to undergo their **Universal Periodic Review**. Of the 570 SOGIESC recommendations made to all States under review, 222 reflected the language provided by human rights defenders during the three Advocacy Weeks that we organised in 2023.

The support to local communities has also been at the core of our work with **Special Procedures**. In 2023, we increased consultations with human rights defenders, coordinated their engagement during six country visits by mandate holders, and supported them to submit input that is crucial for UN representatives to understand the actual realities of communities on the ground. For the first time, we also co-sponsored a side event focussed on affirming the interdependence of human rights during the Annual Meeting of Special Procedures, supporting mandate holders to apply an intersectional perspective to their work.

2023 also marked the final year of Victor Madrigal-Borloz as the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. As we reflected on the progress that unfolded through the seven years of the mandate, we supported his work on thematic reports addressing freedom of religion and belief and colonialism legacies in the lives of LGBT and gender-diverse people, and we welcomed his successor Graeme Reid to the role: we look forward to continue engaging with this crucial mandate for our communities for the years to come!

Our advocacy in United Nations fora goes well beyond Geneva! In 2023, we were present at the **Commission on the Status of Women** – for the first time as co-convenors of the LGBTI Caucus – seeking

engagement opportunities for lesbian, bisexual and queer women, as well as for trans, gender-diverse and intersex communities and activists. With three side events co-organised with partner groups and extensive networking with missions and feminist organisations, we strengthened partnerships towards an environment that is inclusive of women and gender-diverse people in all their diversity.

Again in New York, our team participated in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), where we co-hosted a side event as part of the LGBTI Stakeholder Group and contributed to the zero draft of the political declaration that was adopted.

Throughout the year, we continued supporting our global community to use the **Sustainable Development Goals** as a fundamental tool for LGBTI advocacy. We launched an educational video series on the topic, and we facilitated the participation in the HLPF of activists from the African region: they attended sessions on various SDGs, took part in Voluntary National Review-related sessions, and attended meetings with States’ permanent missions and ambassadors.

Being **alongside grassroots groups** across the world remains at the core of our advocacy. Thanks to the Free to Be Me programme, we could support the presence of communities of action in the many multilateral spaces that we engage with, and being part of ProtectDefenders.eu allowed us to raise awareness of dire situations affecting LGBTI



human rights defenders and to intervene in case of urgent need for support.

Our **decriminalisation** project truly kicked off this year, supporting civil society across the Caribbean and the Pacific in their advocacy efforts and raising awareness of how criminalising laws continue to threaten our communities.

Throughout the year, we continued to facilitate advocacy work throughout its cycle, from the grassroots level to Geneva and then back home again: from shadow reports to consultations with stakeholders at the national level, through to international human rights bodies and finally to follow-up processes, ILGA World remains alongside LGBTI communities everywhere with practical support.

Making an impact Advocacy and art to change hearts and minds

For ILGA World, 2023 was a year of consolidation, strengthening and cross-movement dialogues. We engaged in a series of strategic partnerships coupled with the launch of new projects to combat anti-gender narratives.

A major initiative in this regard was JUNTES: a space for strategic dialogue among feminist and trans organisations, media actors, and artists focused on countering the harms of the global anti-gender movement.

Thanks to the partnership with [Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy](#), [Risco Festival](#), and [Outburst Arts](#), JUNTES was divided into two events: over 75 feminists, trans advocates, and artists from 35 countries first gathered in São Paulo, Brazil in September 2023 for a week of strategic dialogues. Then, they met again in Belfast, Northern Ireland two months later — unpacking the narratives and experiences of those who perpetrate discourses targeting trans, gender-diverse, and intersex people, and then showcasing some of the artistic creations from the São Paulo festival.

In a moment of extreme hostility and increased polarisation, work that calls for critical reflection, creates a coordinated strategy to gain support from the movable middle, and thinks out of the box to integrate art in advocacy is more vital than ever!



Looking ahead

Throughout our years of advocacy, we have seen significant advancements and historic milestones. We have stood shoulder to shoulder with incredible grassroots activists whose efforts continue to transform the world. However, true equality remains distant for many, and we know we can never take any progress for granted.

Over 2023, ILGA World has successfully campaigned and raised support to establish a strong network and coordinated actions against anti-rights actors. Working in consortiums and with strategic allies is as crucial as ever: we will continue to engage in United Nations and international fora, strengthen our dialogues and alliances with feminist movements, and investigate barriers for our LGBTI communities to access information and participate in democratic processes.



AT A GLANCE

23

statements delivered at the UN Human Rights Council

55

direct diplomatic engagements during our work around the Universal Periodic Review

300

human rights defenders trained in treaty bodies advocacy

18

in-country follow-up initiatives supported

25+

intersex-led organisations engaged around advocacy at the United Nations



BUILDING BRIDGES TO EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES

ILGA World is a convener of our movement, and bringing LGBTI human rights defenders and communities together is at the core of what we do. In 2023, as the world began to emerge on the other side of the Covid-19 pandemic, we kept creating our own new normal —both with our membership and with allies at large.

Harnessing technology to bring the movement together

Historically, technology has been an equaliser as much as a divider, and the pandemic further put any inequality under stress. As of November 2023, 5.4 billion people were using the Internet. Yet, one-third of the world remained without access to the web, despite more than 97% of the global population living in areas with some kind of connectivity.

This technological gap impacts people differently according to their location, gender, age, income, and more parts of their identities and backgrounds. This is a cross-cutting, intersectional issue and a significant cause of inequality.

Over the last couple of years, ILGA World has aimed to harness the potential of technology to bridge the gap in global advocacy and to include more voices from the Global South. With this aim, we undertook several initiatives in 2023, some of which are included here.

Capacity strengthening

In 2023, ILGA World expanded its capacity-strengthening programs and outreach by offering offline, in-person, and hybrid support. We launched the first ILGA World Online Academy, a 14-week virtual training program on treaty bodies attended by human rights defenders from Ghana, Mongolia, Nigeria, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, and Uganda. In the future, this virtual academy will become a platform offering education and training opportunities to even more human rights defenders.

In 2023, we continued to co-host advocacy weeks for activists to engage with United Nations human rights mechanisms – both with treaty bodies and in the Universal Periodic Review, and on trans people's human rights. We also held dedicated national-level advocacy in Morocco and Nigeria around international human rights mechanisms.

Tackling the LGBTI digital divide to tell our stories

For LGBTI people, online spaces have been crucial to creating communities and providing tools for mobilising. However, there is a lack of specific literature on the digital divide that LGBTI populations experience.

Our digital divide research project launched in 2023 to further investigate this topic. Throughout the year, we worked with The Engine Room, a transnational not-for-profit supporting civil society to use technology and data, on a research report based on both data and storytelling, to be released in the first quarter of 2024.

To further tell the stories of our communities in their own voices, in August 2023 we announced our first LGBTI photo and video contest. In only a few weeks, we received over 50 submissions from 28 countries worldwide, each of them bringing to life the power of human rights through ethically-sourced images!

ILGA regional conferences: strengthening membership

Returning to in-person convening, Pan Africa ILGA, ILGALAC, and ILGA-Europe all held their regional conferences, bringing together hundreds of LGBTI defenders. From the headquarters, we were proud to leverage technology to strengthen our governance work and facilitate the engagement of our membership in five voting processes, both online and in-person, throughout the year.

In the run-up to the Pan Africa ILGA conference in Mauritius, we worked with our branch to host the first-ever virtual training on governance processes dedicated to our members in the region, answering their questions to help them prepare for regional elections.

Additionally, the membership team held multiple online and/or in-person sessions with Charing Pool members, ensuring that engines kept running smoothly during general meetings at the ILGALAC and Pan Africa ILGA conferences.

One of the ten winning photos of our contest: "Fighting for freedom and inclusion", by John Hyacinth



Collaborative actions

In the current climate of venomous anti-rights pushback, working together is the only way forward for organisations and movements. Throughout the year, we continued to build on the common vision of a more just future for all as we worked with like-minded partners and strategic allies.

The 2023 global IDAHOBIT campaign

As of 2023, ILGA World took a more active role in the global campaign on the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (or IDAHOBIT) by coordinating the Working Group and hosting its Secretariat.

This is a day marked by our communities and allies worldwide! Events were held in over 56 countries under the theme 'Together always: united in diversity', emphasising the power of solidarity and allyship in fostering an inclusive society that respects and celebrates the rights of all individuals. The campaign generated over 115,000 tweets during the week between 15 and 22 May alone, with almost 180,000 impressions across @May17org social media channels.

Strategic communications

Through its work with mainstream media, partners, members, and critical allies, in 2023 our communications team focused on ensuring the inclusion of voices not often heard in that space.

Some of our key campaigns for the year meant to highlight the importance of lesbian visibility, to cast a light on bisexual people's lived experiences, and to explain why legal gender recognition based on self-determination is so important. We spotlighted stories of people sharing their first Pride experiences and how they shaped their advocacy journey, and raised awareness of LGBTI people with disabilities both in our first-ever Disability Pride Month campaign and in a statement reaffirming our commitment to disability justice – including for people of diverse SOGIESC living with disabilities.

At a time in which they are called on to show their true colours as allies to our communities, we successfully engaged with corporate partners for over 20 Pride month campaigns, as well as trained thousands of their employees on diversity, equality and inclusion issues.



Making an impact Connecting LGBTIQ youth worldwide

The Global Queer Youth Network (GQYN) stands as a united force, championing the cause of LGBTI youth worldwide.

Formed with the support of ILGA World in October 2020, and governed collaboratively by a panel of dedicated global LGBTI youth rights defenders, the Global Queer Youth Network has engaged with more than 2,500 youth activists over the years, and has built a digital communication network of advocates engaged in mailing lists, group chats, and platforms.

The Global Queer Youth Network prides itself on being a youth-led, youth-empowered, and youth-focused LGBTI network.

During 2023, the network organised a series of over 35 virtual gatherings, online panels, conferences, and a town hall meeting – including to empower young activists to use the ILGA World Database for their advocacy. For the second consecutive year, then, a member of the network delivered opening remarks at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, raising the voices of LGBTI youth in such a prestigious international event.

The network's influence within the global advocacy landscape continues to grow, showcasing an increasing collective commitment to advancing the rights and representation of the LGBTI community at large.

Looking ahead

In June 2023, ILGA World announced the date and theme of its next World Conference, which will be held from 11-15 November 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa.

For the first time in 25 years, ILGA World will return to Africa for the largest global gathering of LGBTI changemakers, hosted by two local organisations – Iranti and Gender Dynamix – who work specifically for lesbian, trans and intersex persons.

United under the theme 'Kwa umoja we rise!', we look forward to welcoming hundreds of LGBTI human rights defenders and allies.

We received over 1,000 scholarship applications to attend the event, and our team is diligently working to shape the programme thanks to the hundreds of session proposals that our global community submitted. At the conference, we will also call on our membership to shape the work of ILGA World for the years ahead, as our new strategic plan will be approved. Register now: we cannot wait to meet you again in person!

AT A GLANCE

200,000

people reached with our campaigns
on social media

35

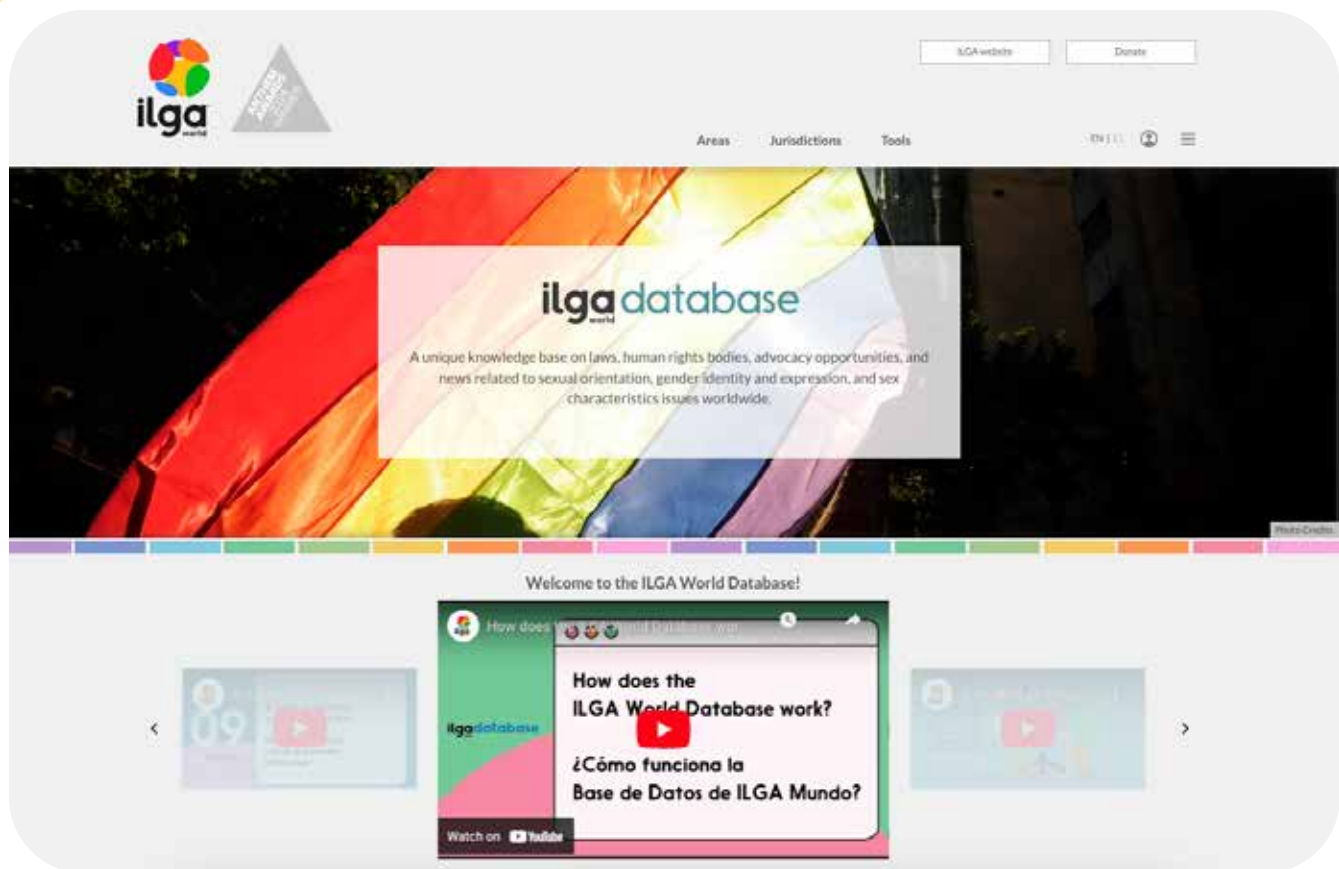
events held by the Global Queer
Youth Network

56

countries holding publicly-announced
IDAHOBIT events

68

newsletter messages
directed to our membership



RESEARCH: CLOSING THE DATA GAP TO LET THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT US

Every day, the lives of LGBTI people are used as wedge issues to distract, mobilise, and divide. In times like these, having reliable evidence of the laws worldwide affecting our communities is more important than ever.

Unfortunately, data about our communities has historically been hard to find. After more than two years of meticulous preparation, we changed that in 2023 with the launch of the ILGA World Database: a free, interactive, and collaborative platform compiling laws, news, and references to human rights bodies and advocacy opportunities with the United Nations related to LGBTI people worldwide. The platform is constantly updated and systematises 4,300 legal sources and more than 7,000 references from United Nations mechanisms, allowing

everyone to track current progress and backlash around SOGIESC issues in 193 UN member States and 47 non-independent territories.

In recognition of the impact of our work, the ILGA World Database was among the winners of the 2023 Anthem Awards, one of the most important social impact awards globally - receiving a Silver Anthem in the Human and Civil Rights category for "Best Use of Data".

Beyond the acknowledgement, we are proud to know that hundreds of human rights defenders and other stakeholders use this platform daily! In the first 50 days since the launch alone, there were 19,279 unique visitors to the platform from 176 countries and territories worldwide.

Using the database regularly has actively supported strategic programming and enhanced decision-making, both within and outside the organisation. To facilitate knowledge-sharing with key allies and stakeholders, we also granted complimentary access to the [ILGA World Monitor](#) to over 350 users — including ILGA offices, various CSOs, think tanks, State Agency employees, researchers, journalists, students, and UN staff.

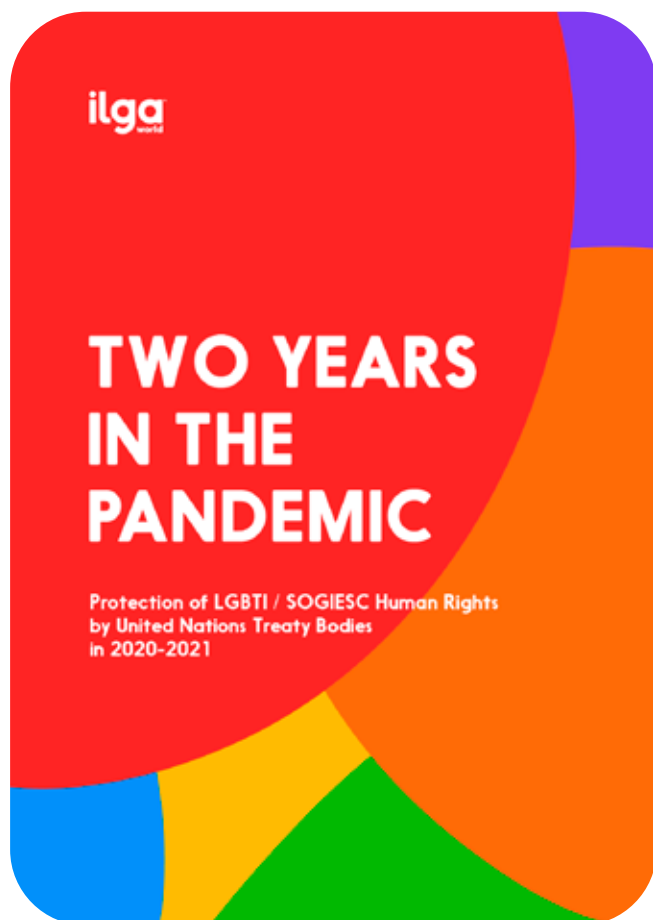
Our tracking tools also continue to inform our research publications. With the [Intersex Legal Mapping Report](#), we released a much-needed first: a global survey on legal protections for people born with variations in sex characteristics, offering a comprehensive overview of developments in the protection of intersex people's human rights.

The second edition of [Our Identities Under Arrest](#), looking at how criminalising laws are wielded

against LGBT and gender-diverse persons worldwide, identified 421 new cases of enforcement in the past two years and noted unpredictable spikes in prosecutions. The report has become the critical and go-to source for stakeholders working on asylum issues, especially since it provides key data for research on 'country of origin information'.

Our research also included overviews of [three years of LGBTI and SOGIESC references by the UN treaty bodies](#), noting how these mechanisms increasingly release ground-breaking decisions about our communities, and more strategic [thematic publications](#).

Building upon four decades of experience, our research continues to document legal landscapes, facilitate access to information, and empower everyone committed to working together to advance equality worldwide.



Making an impact LGBTI Pathways

Across the world, our LGBTI organisations are in dire need of funding to continue their work. However, the needs of the movement are not uniform everywhere, and a better, community-sourced understanding of priorities must be the baseline for any support to be truly effective.

This is why ILGA World partnered with the Global Philanthropy Project for a truly transformative initiative: launched in August 2023 during the Pan Africa ILGA conference, LGBTI

Pathways is an innovative new global research project that will extend for more than three years to develop credible, reliable, and accurate evidence on the needs, priorities, and funding landscape of the international and regional LGBTI movements.

Regional surveys and analyses will be led by regional organisations and advised by regional advisory groups selected through an open-call process.

Bringing together civil society and donors, this initiative is setting out to transform the quality and quantity of resources for LGBTI people worldwide in a way that is truly informed by the needs of grassroots communities!



Looking ahead

The ILGA World Database marked a significant evolution in the way we present our research to the world. In 2024, we will complete this giant leap by introducing our new flagship report: Laws on Us will follow in the footsteps of our historic State-Sponsored Homophobia and Trans Legal Mapping Report to equally look at legal developments impacting lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex communities.

Marking the culmination of a process to broaden the scope and depth of ILGA World's legal documentary research, the report will look into global progress and backtracking on the grounds of our sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.

Meanwhile, our Database will continue providing real-time updates on laws and regulations at the national or subnational level, international treaties, United Nations human rights mechanisms, and UN voting records. More new publications will help inform advocacy efforts, shape public discourse, and guide policy interventions, providing resources to all those seeking reliable information to advocate the rights of our communities.

AT A GLANCE

84,000

ILGA World Database unique users

421

new cases of enforcement
uncovered in the 2023 *Our
Identities Under Arrest* report

350

ILGA World Monitor registered users

357

SOGIESC-inclusive references
between 2020 and 2022 mapped in
our treaty bodies research



OUR ILGA FAMILY: KNITTING US CLOSER

As of December 2023, 1,973 member organisations from 170 countries and territories spread across six regions are part of ILGA World. This year, a total of 115 organisations joined our global family after a careful assessment of their application by the Executive Board.

Sliding scale fee

During the 2022 ILGA World Conference, our general assembly approved the resolution regarding the adoption of a new fee structure. Taking into account the will of our members, in 2023 ILGA World started to implement a new membership fee model, consisting of a sliding scale of fees based on the organisation's annual budget.

In a much-welcomed move, each member organisation can now choose the fee that best fits its financial status, no matter the functioning of their country's economy or any division between high or low-income countries.

Communications

Throughout the year, we continue to involve our member organisations in global awareness campaigns and inform them about engagement opportunities with human rights bodies. In 2023, we streamlined this flow of information, making all communications more targeted and relevant to organisations in specific countries and regions.

To balance advocacy-related communications, which amount to the majority of messages the membership receives from ILGA World, in 2023 we also launched the *ILGA World Members' Digest*, a dedicated quarterly newsletter featuring job and funding opportunities, capacity-building tips, and a mental health and well-being corner.

Strengthening our ways of working

2023 marked a year of growth and adaptation for ILGA World in our programmes, Board and staff. This year, we had five new team members and 16 junior consultants join us.

ILGA World invested in remote work infrastructure and has been working on adapting the organisation's policies to speak to emerging changes. Moving largely remote, we currently have staff members working from 13 countries across the globe. Five strategic policies were reviewed or implemented as part of a larger policy enhancement process.

Funding

Over 2023, ILGA World secured more sustainable funding for itself and increased funding for the LGBTI movement generally. During the year, we successfully secured 14 project and core funding grants and ten corporate donations for current and future year work.

The organisation has continued to diversify its funding sources to include two new government donors and two reactivated foundation partners. The organisation completed an ethical fundraising assessment on all donors who gifted amounts over 10,000 CHF and continues to build and maintain relationships with over twenty corporate partners.

Strategic partnerships

Our strategic partnerships go beyond advocacy work and cooperation with feminist and sexual and reproductive health rights movements. Throughout the year, we ensured that LGBTI issues were high on the agenda in the world of sports, thanks to our work with the [Sport and Rights Alliance](#), the [Centre for Sport and Human Rights](#), and the [LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Sports Coalition](#).

Our presence in the [Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality](#) has meant that we kept advancing equal rights in the business world, and we trained hundreds of corporate employees on diversity and inclusion issues. We were able to encourage and influence five corporations to consider adopting the UN Business Standards on LGBTI Inclusion.

ILGA World has actively participated in the [Equal Rights Coalition](#) and it was chosen to host its secretariat as of 2024. This mechanism will facilitate the work of the intergovernmental body of 43 member States and civil society worldwide dedicated to the protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons and the promotion of inclusive development.

Looking ahead

Our member organisations shape the direction of our world and indicate the priorities of our movement. Work has already begun to develop our new strategic plan for 2025 onwards, and to revise our governance as mandated by our general assembly.

Meanwhile, we will continue to wave threads with allies and like-minded organisations and networks, strengthening our cross-movement collaboration in particular with feminist, women, and SRHRJ movement actors — sexual and reproductive health, HIV and LGBTIQ rights interconnected. Stay tuned!

OUR ILGA REGIONS

The full list of ILGA member organisations is available at ilga.org (as of 31st December 2023).

1,973

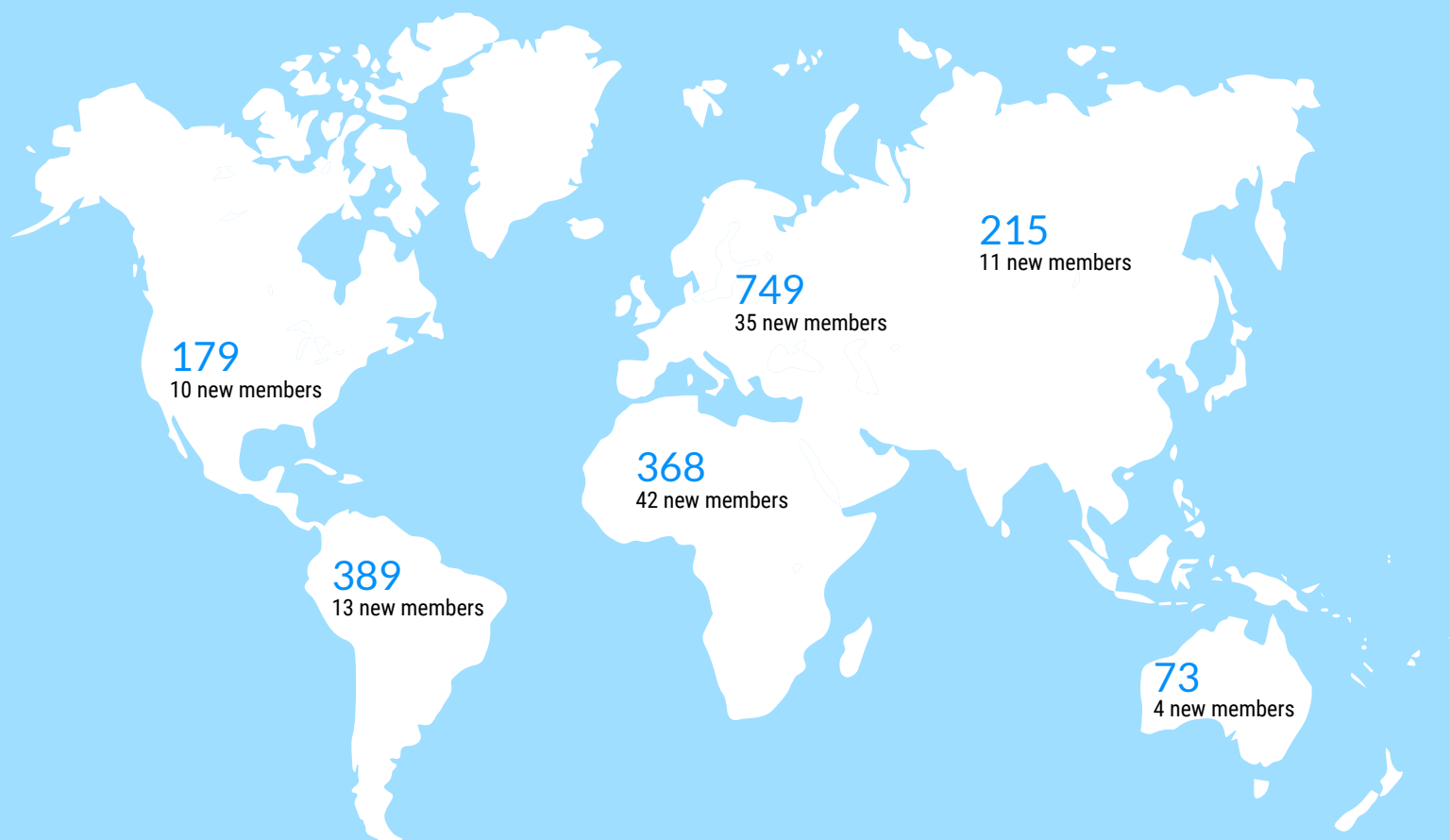
member organisations
in

170

countries and territories
within

6

regions



Africa

In 2023, Pan Africa ILGA hosted its first in-person regional conference in Mauritius since the Covid-19 pandemic. The event was a significant milestone, with over 350 attendees, making it one of the region's largest gatherings despite the prevailing anti-gender narratives and anti-rights actors.

During the conference, the general assembly elected the new Board Members and discussed the proposals to amend the governing documents.

During this time, significant events took place for our communities. This included the first in-person Pride Afrique and the launch of the LGBTI Pathways project. Two months after the conference, Mauritius decriminalised consensual same-sex sexual acts, as the country's highest court highlighted that the ban was based on colonial-era values rather than indigenous ones.

Asia

Over 2023, ILGA Asia enhanced engagement with UN mechanisms to advance LGBTI people's human rights across Asia. The region's participation in the 2023 High-Level Political Forum was truly historic, with its call for global unity echoing the UN LGBTI Core Group's 15-year commitment to ending discrimination and violence against our communities.

The region's research on the death penalty formed the basis for a campaign in Iran to overturn a verdict against an LGBTIQ activist. Working in partnership with others, ILGA Asia also supported intersex advocacy and campaigning work among its members in the region, and its Afghanistan program emerged as an anchor for LGBTIQ individuals after the Taliban takeover. ILGA Asia optimised its use of existing digital platforms, significantly amplifying our advocacy and engagement. In addition, the team worked across the four regions of Asia and 20 countries and launched its plans for the next regional conference to be held in Nepal in February 2025.

Europe and Central Asia

For ILGA-Europe, 2023 has been a year of growth and consolidation. In October, the region adopted a new Strategic Framework for the years 2024-2029, as well as welcomed Chaber as its new Executive Director and bid farewell to Evelyne Paradis after 18 years – 14 of which were spent at the helm of the organisation.

There have also been several crises developing in the region that required ILGA-Europe's close attention and involvement to support activists on the ground and actively seek out additional resources to make available for the movement.

ILGA-Europe continues to strengthen the bonds with supportive governments across its region, which became visible in the strong support from EU member states in the infringement case against the Hungarian anti-LGBTI law by the European Commission, as well in key cases at the CJEU on family rights, freedom of movement and trans rights. In 2023, the region also supported important legal advances such as reforms of the legal gender recognition laws in Finland and Germany, and together with OII-Europe continued to push for the first Council of Europe Committee of Ministers recommendation on intersex human rights.

Latin America & the Caribbean

For ILGALAC, 2023 was the moment of rebuilding strategic alliances and defining guidelines for the years ahead, while a completely new team continued the region's operations.

Its Latin American and Caribbean Training School welcomed 619 human rights defenders from across 18 countries to raise their capacity in strategic litigation, communication, advocacy and fundraising.

Finally, the whole region gathered in La Paz, Bolivia for the first time since the pandemic: the IX ILGALAC Conference brought together over three hundred LGBTI activists under the theme "Decolonising our struggles, Depatriarchalising our bodies." It was a powerful moment to confront the conservative and neoliberal backlash in the region and join forces with other social movements!

North America & the Caribbean

2023 was a year of growth and movement for ILGA-NAC. The organisation prioritised enhancing its operational capacity, laying the groundwork for future growth and impact. This included the hiring of staff, network engagement, initiating the development of the 2025-2029 strategic plan, and a comprehensive communications and marketing strategy.

As part of the Global LGBT Decriminalisation by 2030 initiative, ILGA-NAC engaged in critical meetings and discussions with members in the region, particularly those from the Caribbean. These interactions provided guidance and support ahead of their engagement with the Equal Rights Coalition, fostering stronger collaboration and engagement with government entities. In addition, ILGA-NAC began planning its 2024 Regional Conference convening key stakeholders around critical issues, programmatic best practices, and movement building. Robust advocacy efforts within regional and international human rights mechanisms, including active participation in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and various United Nations bodies continued. Through these engagements, ILGA-NAC continues to champion human rights and drive meaningful change within international legal and policy frameworks.

Oceania

Bringing together civil society leaders working in the region, ILGA Oceania hosted a Sydney WorldPride pre-conference focused on decriminalisation, while important collaborations grew between the ILGA World decriminalisation project and the work of the Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network (PSGDN).

ILGA World and ILGA Oceania also collaborated with the University of French Polynesia and Cousins Cousines de Tahiti to host a human rights conference in Tahiti under the theme "Our Voices, Our Choices, Our Pacific Way."

This conference was the first in the region to openly discuss (homo)sexuality – including by religious leaders – and to be officially endorsed by the government. The event underlined the importance of ensuring that every individual can lead a life free of discrimination and violence, and expressed the wish for an inclusive Pacific dialogue on meaningful participation of our communities in society across the Pacific.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

These are the organisations that have joined the ILGA World membership in 2023.

Africa

ALGERIA

- 1 anonymous organisation

BURUNDI

- Together For Women's Rights

CAMEROON

- Affirmative Action

CONGO, REPUBLIC OF THE

- Affirmative Action Congo
- Association des Personnes Vulnérables du Congo

CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE

- Youth for The Peace in Great Lake (*associate member*)

GHANA

- Alliance for Protection of the Vulnerable and LGBT
- Western Equality Zone

KENYA

- Innovators 4 Climate Action Foundation
- Jinsiangu Kenya
- Kenya Youth Development Education Support Association
- Men Against AIDS Youth Group
- Variable Care Society
- Voice of Bisexuals (VOBi+254)

MADAGASCAR

- Queer Place

MALAWI

- Angaza Foundation
- Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (*associate member*)
- Ivy Foundation

MOROCCO

- Platform LAYALAT
- SAQFE Organization
- L'Union Féministe Libre

NIGERIA

- African Queer Youth Initiative
- Center For Health Education and Vulnerable Support
- Equality Access to Health and Rights Initiatives
- Response to Health and Right Initiative
- Sustainable Impact for Youth Awareness Foundation
- The Rainbow Alive Hub Initiative
- Think Positive Live Positive Support Initiative

RWANDA

- Hope and Care organization

SOUTH AFRICA

- Forum for the Empowerment of Women
- Rainbow Refuge Africa

TANZANIA

- Bandari Salama Youth Group
- Tanzania Trans Initiative
- 1 anonymous organisation

UGANDA

- Advocates for Health and Rights of Women and Youth Initiative
- ArtVism
- Rainbow House Foundation Uganda
- Rights 4 Her Uganda
- Stonewall Women Empowerment Initiative
- Uganda Minority Shelters Consortium

ZIMBABWE

- Centre Stage Media Arts Foundation (*associate member*)
- Health Fonds Trust Zimbabwe (*associate member*)

Asia

BANGLADESH

- Asexual Pride Asia
- Shacheton Hijra Odhikar Jubo Shangha
- 1 anonymous organisation

CAMBODIA

- Beautiful Life Organisation

CHINA

- LGBT Rights Advocacy China

IRAN

- Pride Commission of Iran

NEPAL

- Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal
- Sudur Paschim Samaj

PHILIPPINES

- Philippine Anti-Discrimination Alliance of Youth Leaders (PANTAY) Inc.

THAILAND

- Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

VIET NAM

- It's T Time

Europe and Central Asia

ARMENIA

- "DiverCity" Social-Cultural, Human Rights Defender NGO
- 1 anonymous organisation

AUSTRIA

- Afro Rainbow Austria
- Minbar.Wien

CZECH REPUBLIC

- ARA ART, z. s.

GERMANY

- The Black Sex Worker Collective-Berlin
- EQUAL PostOst e.V. (European Queer Alliance of PostOst Community)
- International Women* Space

GREECE

- Intersex Greece

IRELAND

- LGBT Ireland
- ShoutOut

ITALY

- Arcigay Firenze Altre Sponde APS
- Comitato Provinciale Arcigay Palermo APS
- Magen David Keshet Italia

KOSOVO

- Sekhmet Institute

NETHERLANDS

- COC Limburg
- Stichting Love Planet
- 1 anonymous organisation

POLAND

- Fundacja Wrzenie/ The Boiling Point Foundation
- Warsaw House Foundation

ROMANIA

- Incluziune pe Bune

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- 4 anonymous organisations

SLOVENIA

- Ljubljana Pride Association

SPAIN

- Ahora Donde - le refuge
- Asociacion Somos LGTB+ Aragon
- CooperAcció (*associate member*)
- Laboratorio de Identidades

TURKEY

- Inter Solidarity Turkey
- May 17 Association
- The Rainbow Association Against Discrimination

UNITED KINGDOM

- International Transport Workers' Federation (*associate member*)
- National Student Pride

Latin America and the Caribbean

ARGENTINA

- Mocha Celis
- Orquidea Intersexual

BRAZIL

- Coletivo LGBTI Via Campestina Brasil
- Grupo Diversidade Niterói

CHILE

- Asociación Red Diversa de Emprendedores de Chile
- Intersexualeschile
- Organización No Gubernamental Diversa Patagonia

COLOMBIA

- Fundación Ayllu Familias Transmasculinas

CUBA

- Red HSH-CUBA

MEXICO

- Corpora en Libertad

PUERTO RICO

- True Self Foundation

VENEZUELA

- Intersex Venezuela
- Nunca Dejes de Soñar

North America and the Caribbean

CANADA

- Professional Employees Association (*associate member*)
- Fierste North Bay / North Bay Pride

GUYANA

- SASOD Guyana

UNITED STATES

- Athlete Ally
- Chemonics International (*associate member*)
- GLAAD
- New Moon Network
- Queens Center for Gay Seniors
- SameSame
- True Colors United

Oceania

AUSTRALIA

- Drummond Street Services

FIJI

- Trans Affirmative Action Guild

NEW ZEALAND

- Rainbow Hub Waikato
- Safe Space Alliance

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL



Tuisina Ymania Brown
Pacific Human Rights Initiative
Samoa



Luz Elena Aranda
Teatro Cabaret Reinas Chulas AC
Mexico

BISEXUAL COMMITTEE CHAIR



Ian Lawrence-Tourinho
Bi Foundation
United States



Crystal Hendricks
Iranti / Intersex South Africa
South Africa

TRANS COMMITTEE CHAIR



Tashnuva Anan
Inclusive Bangladesh
Bangladesh



Angelica Polmonari
Arcigay
Italy



Martin Karadzhev
Consortium of LGBT+ Voluntary
and Charitable organisations
United Kingdom

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CHAIR

PAN AFRICA ILGA



Barbra Wangare*
EATHAN
Kenya



Star Rugori*
MOLI
Burundi

ILGA ASIA



Chitsanupong Nithiwana (Best)
Young Pride Club
Thailand



Charbel Maydaa
Mosaic MENA
Lebanon

ILGA-EUROPE



Olena Shevchenko
Insight Public Organisation
Ukraine



Yuri Guaiana
Associazione Radicale Certi Diritti
Italy

ILGALAC



Ari Vera Morales
Almas Cautivas
Mexico



Darío Ramon Arias
Conurbanes por la Diversidad
Argentina

ILGA NORTH AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



Renae Green
TransWave Jamaica
Jamaica



Kimberly Frost
OUTreach
United States

ILGA OCEANIA



Margherita Coppolino
Invictus Health
Australia



Ken Moala
BIMBA
Kiribati

ILGA ASIA – ALTERNATES



Tashi Tsheten
Queer Voices of Bhutan
Bhutan



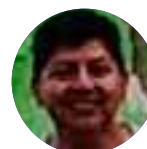
Jennifer Lu
Taiwan Equality Campaign
Taiwan

ILGA-EUROPE– ALTERNATE



Yves Aerts
Çavaria
Belgium

ILGALAC – ALTERNATES



David Aruquipa | Danna Galán
Comunidad Diversidad
Bolivia



Marlin González
Hombres y Mujeres Nuevos de Panama
Panama

Board members and alternates as of 31 December 2023.
[Follow this link to access the latest members of the Board.](#)

In 2023, following regional conferences and governance changes, ILGA World said goodbye to a few Board members and alternates. A big word of thanks for their service to:

Board members: Esan Regmi (ILGA Asia co-Chair). As of 31 December 2023, **Barbra Wangare** and **Star Rugori** (Pan Africa ILGA co-Chairs) were still representing the region, awaiting the nominations of new representatives.

Board alternates: Pan Africa ILGA alternates **Líria Victoria Miguel de Castro** and **Rukundo Isaac Mugisha**.

OUR STAFF

as of 31 December 2023



Julia Ehart
Executive Director



Gurchaten Sandhu
Director of Programmes



N. V.*
Director of Finances
and Support Services



K. K.*
UN Programme Manager



Gabriel Galil
Programme Coordinator
(UN advocacy, Human
Rights Council and UPR)



Guillermo Ricalde
Senior UN Programme
Officer (Special
Procedures and SDGs)



G. M.*
UN Programme Officer
(National Advocacy
Engagement)



Denn Ix Gontow
Programme Manager –
Gender Identity, Gender
Expression, and Sex
Characteristics (GIESC)



Lily Dong Li Rosengard
Senior Officer – Gender
Identity and Gender
Expression



Lucas Ramón Mendos
Research Manager



Stephanie Leitch
Senior Consultant -
Decriminalisation project and
ILGA regions engagement



J. Andrew Baker
Manager –
Fundraising and MEL



Madhu J.
Senior Monitoring,
Evaluation and
Learning (MEL) Officer



Daniele Paletta
Communications Manager



Suelle Anglin
Communications
Consultant



Camila Galdino
Operations Manager



Demet Gümüş
Membership and
Admin Officer



Polyxeni Kallini
Finance Manager



Vasilis Balasis
Finance Officer



Rusalina Ivanova
Audit & Reporting
Assistant



Karla Ávila Becerril
Human Resources
Manager

**full name withheld for security reasons*

Also with us in 2023:

A special shout-out also to the 16 junior consultants who worked with us this year:

UN PROGRAMME



Alejandra Fierro Castro



Amélie Waters



Andrea Baldwin



Ilia Hionidou-Mooney



Pedro Ivo Oliveira

GIESC PROGRAMME



(name withheld for security concerns)



Amanda Kamanda



(name withheld)



Macarena Murugarren

RESEARCH



(name withheld for security concerns)



Sebastián Martínez



Taha Laroussi

COMMUNICATIONS



Luca Bermejo



María Alejandra Gonzales Silva

EVENTS AND LOGISTICS



Veronica Walsh



Oishi Sengupta

During 2023, our team has continued to expand. We welcomed **Lily Dong Li Rosengard** to redouble our efforts on gender identity and expression issues, **Madhu J.** to ensure a strong monitoring, evaluation and learning component to our work, **Camila Galdino** and **Karla Ávila Becerril** to manage our operations and human resources respectively, and **Rusalina Ivanova** to assist our audit and reporting work.

We also said goodbye to **Chamindra Weerawardhana** and **Eli Rubashkyn**, who were part of our Gender

Identity & Expression and Sex Characteristics Programme, and to **Paula Klik** in our operations department.

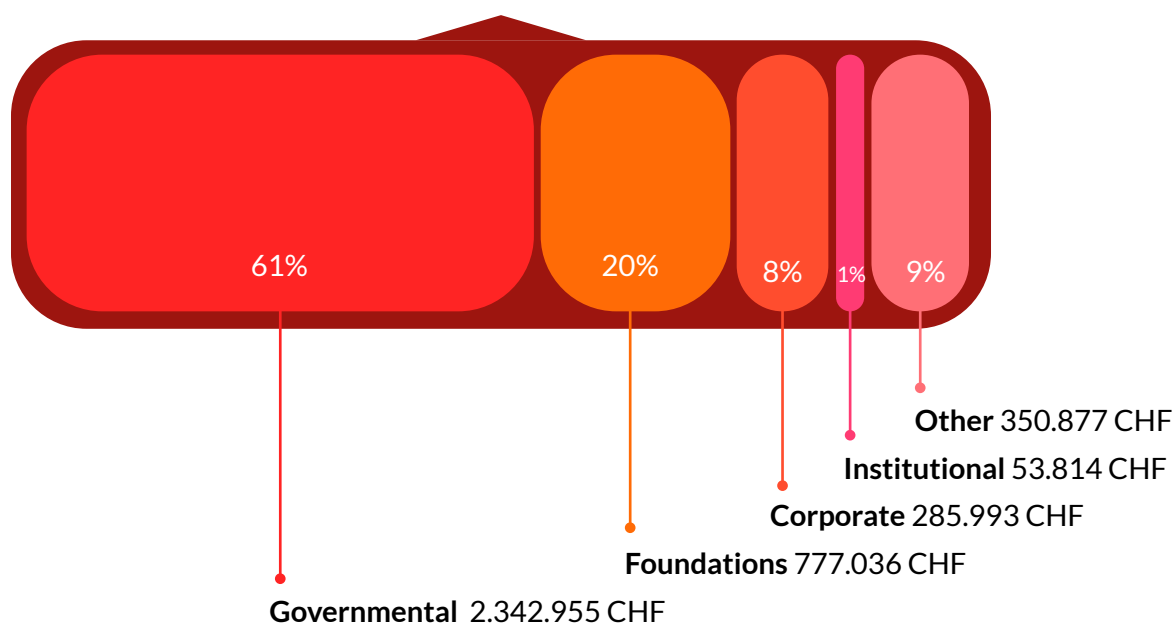
Our deepest thanks go to all the consultants who have made our work possible!

Throughout 2024, our team will continue to grow – you may already have e-met some of them during the past few months. Together, we will continue making sure to serve our communities as best as we can.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who contributed generously to our work throughout the year.

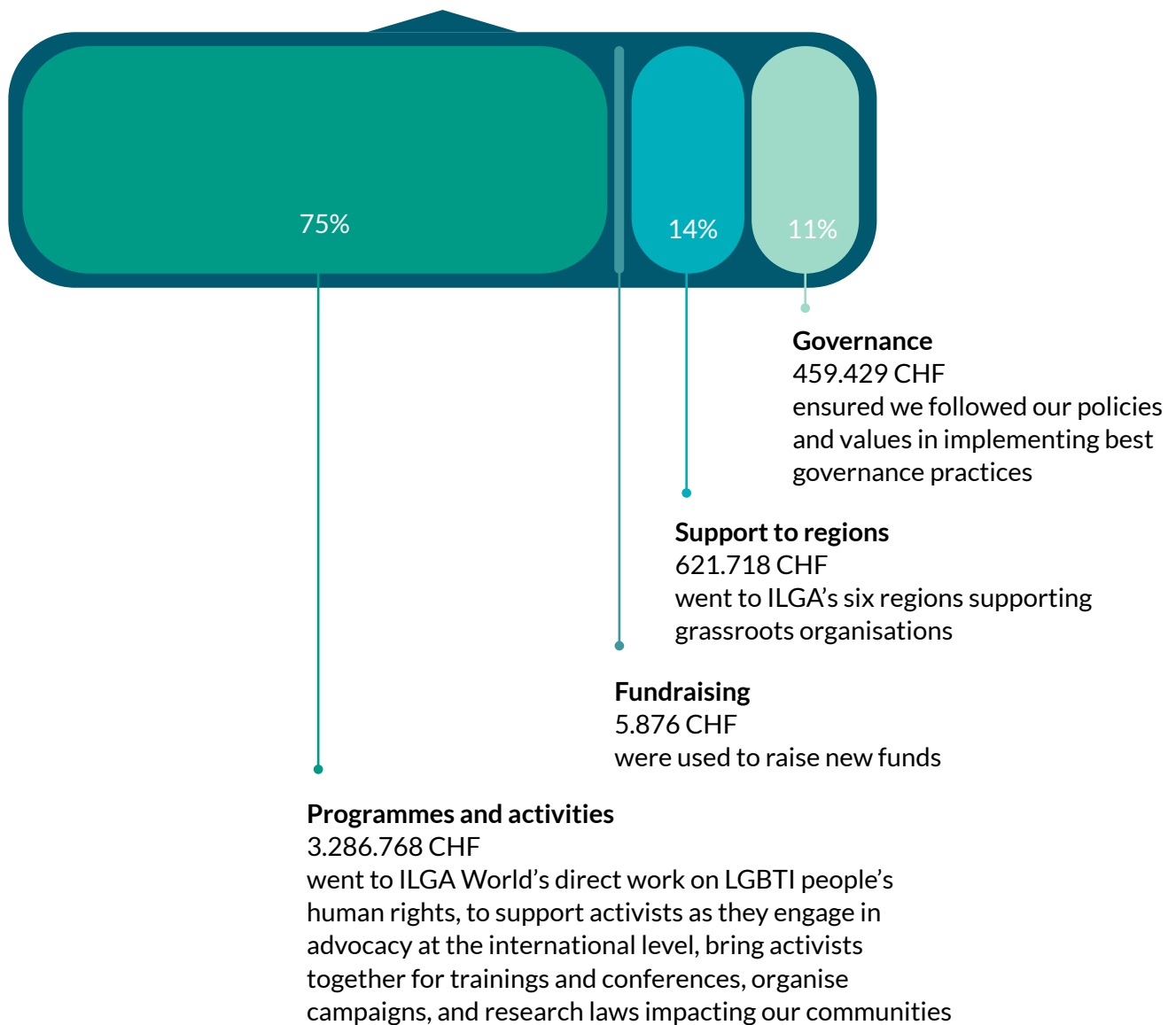
Total income 2023 3.810.675 CHF



How do ILGA World engines keep running smoothly? ILGA World is led by – and works with – its member organisations worldwide to advance LGBTI human rights. This work would not be possible without the

support of individuals, foundations, governments, member organisations, and other institutional funders. We are grateful to everyone who generously contributed to our work throughout 2023!

Where does the money go? 4.373.791 CHF



HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

Becoming a member of ILGA World provides access to the global and regional network of over 1,900 organisations working towards a stronger LGBTI movement.

We elevate the voices of our communities in multilateral international spaces, including the United Nations, and we support our member organisations in their advocacy efforts through capacity building. When possible, representatives from member organisations are sponsored to attend in-person UN events such as the Human Rights Council, treaty body mechanism sessions, and the High-Level Political Forum.

Our members receive dedicated communications and have the opportunity to be involved in the awareness campaigns that we run.

Our member organisations can benefit from reduced rates to attend events; eligible representatives are prioritised when assigning scholarships or reserving seats for events with limited capacity. In-person and virtual gatherings, both at the regional and global levels, are essential components that help us build strength for our fight for equality worldwide.

But that's not all: full members play a vital role in formulating the direction and work of ILGA World by proposing changes to its governing documents, casting their votes to elect (nominated) candidates, choosing the next World Conference host, and holding office in the highest governing body of ILGA World. Join us: together, we are stronger!

Photo by Ariel Gutraich for Agencia Presentes





Donate!

With a donation, you will help ILGA World continue to support LGBTI communities worldwide working for a better future: supporting activists as they speak at the United Nations and other international spaces to call for equal rights; backing our research into laws and attitudes affecting LGBTI persons

around the globe; making our conferences, training programmes and advocacy campaigns sustainable.

We know that change is unstoppable when we're united!

We are here to do our part: will you chip in?



ILGA World's 2023 Annual Report was coordinated and edited by **Daniele Paletta**
Texts by **Madhu J., Daniele Paletta, and J. Andrew Baker**
Data elaboration: **Demet Gümüş, Polyxeni Kallini, and J. Andrew Baker**
Spanish translation: **Daríá Poncio**
Design and typesetting: **Roberta Bruno** – roberta.comics@gmail.com and **Anita Magnani**
– anita.magnani@gmail.com

This annual report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

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ilga.org