

ILGA

The International Lesbian and Gay Association



Annual Report 2004

ILGA is a worldwide network of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organisations working for human rights and against sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.

Who we are, what we do

The International Lesbian and Gay Association is a world-wide network of national and local groups dedicated to achieving equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people everywhere.

Founded in 1978, it now has more than 400 member organisations. Every continent and around 90 countries are represented. ILGA member groups range from small collectives to national groups and entire cities.

ILGA is to this day the only international non-profit and non-governmental community-based federation focused on presenting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation as a global issue.

What we do

ILGA's aim is to work for the equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people and their liberation from all forms of discrimination. We seek to achieve this aim through the world-wide cooperation and mutual support of our members.

We focus public and government attention on cases of discrimination against LGBT people by supporting programs and protest actions, asserting diplomatic pressure, providing information and working with international organisations and the international media.

Our organisation

ILGA is basically a network of activists, and our success lies to a large extent in the achievements and progress of our many member groups. Any organisation, business or individual interested in working for equal rights for LGBT persons may apply to become a member of ILGA.

Every two years, members of ILGA gather in a world conference to give guidance to its work. ILGA's work is determined by the rules set forth in its Constitution and Standing rules.

The ILGA World Conference is the highest decision-making body of ILGA regarding legislation, approval of new members and internal and external organisation. Each member organisation

expresses its opinions and concerns and has the right to vote on conference matters.

The ILGA Executive Board

The ILGA Executive Board consists of two Secretaries General (one female and one male: Rosanna Flamer-Caldera and Kursad Kahramanoglu), a Women's Secretariat (Women's Media Circle), and two representatives (one female and one male) from each of the six ILGA regions: Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Africa.

The Secretaries General and the rest of the Executive Board determine and implement policy within ILGA between World Conferences.

The Women's Secretariat

The Women's Secretariat is responsible for collecting information on lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women and promoting

their visibility and equality both inside and outside ILGA. Co-Secretaries General and the Women's Secretariat are elected at the Conference, whilst regional board members are chosen by regional organisations.

In addition to this, the World Conference plays an important role towards the strengthening of communication and mutual understanding among sexual minorities and the mainstream society world-wide. It is the most important networking opportunity for international LGBT organisations.

At the last Conference in Manila, the first ever World Conference of its kind to be held in Asia, ILGA member organisations elected Kursad Kahramanoglu and Rosanna Flamer-Caldera as Co-Secretaries General and the Women's Media Circle in Manila, the Philippines, as Women's Secretariat.

The next World Conference will be held in Geneva in 2006.

*26 years of activism for
the Lesbian,
Gay, Bisexual and
Transgender
community around the
world*

A word from the Secretaries general

Dear friends,

This last year has been a significant one in ILGA's history and the world LGBT movement as a whole. Though Brazil's resolution, the first-ever United Nations resolution addressing sexual orientation as a Human rights issue, was never put to a vote nor discussed on the floor of the United Nations, it has offered us a unique opportunity to count our allies and come together as a movement. ILGA strongly supported the resolution organising a campaign and inviting a team of activists to ensure our voices would be heard at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights last spring in Geneva.

In its time-honoured tradition of offering platforms for activists fighting for equal rights around the world, ILGA organised two regional conferences in 2004. Both Santiago and Budapest were remarkable for their enthusiasm and vitality. Hungary's capital saw the European LGBT movement come together from East to West. It will also be remembered as a proud moment for all of us at ILGA when the European Parliament rejected the nomination of Rocco Buttiglione, Italian Commissioner designated for Justice and Home Affairs, famous for calling homosexuality "a sin" and for his statements on women's place in society. The lobbying efforts of ILGA Europe which pressured the EP to reject homophobia proved to be effective in forcing his withdrawal. As for Santiago, the third Latin American conference was witness to a strong presence of the transgender community. The vitality and enthusiasm of the participants brought hope for this region and ILGA.

Sadly, we had to cancel our Asian conference. Initially planned in Nepal, it has now moved to Cebu in the Philippines and is scheduled for October 2005.

Danger is indeed the common fate of many activists around the world. Let us recall here the murders of Brian Williamson of Jamaica and Fanyann Viola Eddy of Sierra Leone. In spite of mounting odds, they gave themselves unreservedly, and paid a high price for their passion and sense of justice.

The year 2004 culminated in one of the most horrifying disasters with the catastrophic Tsunami. ILGA set up a Tsunami Relief fund for one of its partner organizations in Asia. The outpouring of love and support from the LGBTI community was enormous and we thank everyone who contributed towards this worthy cause.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Hoemig on whose shoulders ILGA rested for many years. Tom retired on 31 December 2004 to enjoy some well-earned free time. We shall miss you greatly Tom.

ILGA is moving forward, growing in confidence and stature. The increase in our staff from two full time posts to four means that ILGA will be here for many years to serve the LGBT community worldwide. It is our desire to see an even stronger LGBT movement worldwide with ILGA at its helm. We are confident that with our team of outstanding staff members, dedicated Board members and our family of organisational and individual members, we will achieve this momentum and make positive changes in the lives of millions of LGBT persons across the globe.

Sincerely,

Kursad Kahramanoglu & Rosanna Flamer-Caldera
Co-Secretaries General
The International Lesbian and Gay Association

The International Lesbian and Gay Association is supported by

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The German Foreign Office





The ILGA Executive Board consists of two Secretaries General, a Women's Secretariat and two representatives (one female and one male) from each of the six ILGA regions, Latin America is an exception as its 2004 regional conference in Santiago decided to increase visibility of transgender people by electing a transgender representative as well. During the last Conference in Manila in 2003, the first-ever World Conference of its kind to be held in Asia, ILGA member organisations elected Kursad Kahramanoglu and Rosanna Flamer-Caldera as Co-Secretaries General and the Women's Media Circle in Manila, in the Philippines, as Women's Secretariat. The next World Conference will be held in Geneva in 2006.



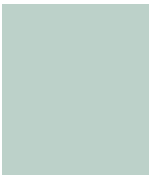
Rosanna Flamer-Caldera
Co-Secretary General



Kursad Kahramanoglu
Co-Secretary General



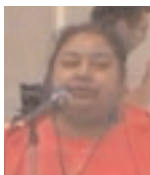
Anna Leah Sarabia/Women's Media Circle
Women's Secretariat



Asia
Lanny Winata
Vivek Anand



Latin America & the Caribbean (ILTGALAC)
<< Patria Jiménez,
< Belissa Andía Pérez
Beto de Jesus >



Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands
< Uma Kali Shakti
Carlos Perera >



North America
< Trinity A. Ordone
Yvan Lapointe >



Europe
< Jackie Lewis
Yves de Matteis >



Africa
Both positions are currently vacant.



To email to any board member, type first name
+ @ilga.org> rosanna@ilga.org



ILGA in 2004

January

Creation of www.brazilianresolution.com

ILGA set up a specific website to provide information on the first-ever UN resolution on sexual orientation and human rights. It features an online petition that people can sign in support of the resolution. 35,000 people responded to the first call for the signing of the petition in a three month period; 2/3 of them left email addresses. A second call for the petition asked those who signed to call on their friends to sign the petition and resulted in an additional 10,000 signatures to the petition. Special emphasis was given to ILGA's position in favour of the inclusion of gender identity in the text. Available in 7 languages, the existence of the site was broadly publicized with an information campaign towards all 400 ILGA members to pass on the news in their countries: to specialised media (LGBT media and websites) and to mainstream media.

World Social Forum / Mumbai

ILGA Co-Secretary General, Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, attended the World Social Forum in Mumbai. Here, with the assistance of our Asia member groups, she organised a significant presence at the Forum with an ILGA-Asia booth as well as numerous workshops on LGBTI rights. Rosanna was able to network with funders HIVOS and the Global Fund for Women and make many contacts with women who have been making enormous progress in women's issues worldwide.



ILGA's petition in support of the resolution gave an official opportunity to meet the Chairman of the Commission, Australian Ambassador Mike Smith at the beginning of the UNCHR session in order to have a better understanding of the situation regarding the Brazilian resolution.



Fannyann (left), Rosanna Flamer Caldera (center) and other fellow participants at the All African Symposium on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in Johannesburg

Foreign and Commonwealth Office / London

ILGA's male co-Secretary General, Kursad Kahramanoglu attended a meeting in London of the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office as part of our efforts to lobby for the Brazilian Resolution at the UN.

February

All African Symposium on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights / Johannesburg

Both Rosanna Flamer-Caldera and Kursad Kahramanoglu were invited to participate in a groundbreaking All-African Symposium on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Both promoted ILGA and pressed for a regional conference and regional representation. Although this has yet to be established, it laid the foundation for having the conference in Africa sometime in the near future. It also established key players in the Region from Zimbabwe and Namibia who are allies of ILGA and long standing members.



ILGA in 2004



ILGA organised a team of a dozen activists in Geneva in occasion of the 60th session of the UNCHR.

February

Launching of ILGA's website, www.ilga.org, available in four languages.

March/April

United Nations Commission on Human Rights / Geneva

See our article from page 6 to 14

Printemps des associations / Paris

Kursad Kahramanoglu attended the "Printemps des associations" in Paris and had a meeting with the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights. He was also invited to participate in a meeting of Inter-LGBT, a major French LGBT Federation.

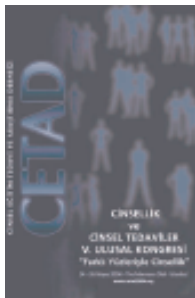
May

Regional Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Gender / New Delhi

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera was invited to New Delhi for the Regional Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Gender hosted by UNAIDS and UNIFEM. This meeting highlighted the lack of resources for women, and the threat of a widespread epidemic in countries like India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan amongst many in the region. ILGA's presence at this meeting was crucial as it emphasized the need to focus on women, especially those who identify themselves as LBT. ILGA was the only LGBT organization represented at the meeting.



Alain Piriou (Inter LGBT), Kursad Kahramanoglu, Antoine Bernard, executive director of FIDH, the international Federation for Human Rights.



CEDAT (The Society for Sexual Education, Treatment and Research) Conference / Istanbul

Kursad Kahramanoglu addressed the "5th National Congress of Sexuality and Sexual Treatments" in Istanbul, an important conference for the Turkish LGBT movement because for the first time is focused the attention of the Turkish medical profession on LGBT issues.





ILGA team at the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights Spring 2004

Thanks to the support of the German Foreign Office, 12 activists were able to join ILGA and other NGOs in Geneva to work in what has been the biggest-ever LGBT coalition at the Commission on Human Rights. We would also like to thank the German Lesbian and Gay Federation for facilitating the funding application and the local Genevan association 360° for making us feel at home throughout our stay. Activists came to support the Brazilian resolution, lobby their national delegations, give speeches at the UN, participate in panels, but most of all to represent the LGBT community in an international forum which persists in ignoring us and our rights. We would like thank them for their work and dedication. Please meet...



Pedro Anibal Paradiso Sottile - Argentina

Pedro Anibal Paradiso Sottile, 31, activist for the Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA), member of the Board and Coordinator of the Legal Department. CHA has been working in Argentina for twenty years. Among its most important victories is the passing of the Civil Union Law in Buenos Aires, the first piece of law of in Latin America that grants rights to LGBT couples.



Gloria Careaga - Mexico

Gloria Careaga-Perez is a feminist and social psychologist. Since 1979 she has been a teacher at the Faculty of Psychology in the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a Co-coordinator of El Closet de Sor Juana. In the last years she has focused her work on gender issues. She introduced a sexual diversity studies area at the university in 1998. El Closet de Sor Juana is one of the older lesbian groups in Mexico.



Philipp Braun - Germany

Philipp Braun has been involved with LGBT activism since the early 1990s. After working with the Lesben- und Schwulenverband in Deutschland (LSVD, Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany) on various projects since 1994 and as the representative of LSVD on the ILGA-Europe EU Co-ordination Network since 2002, he joined the board of LSVD in March 2003. In October 2003 he was elected to the executive board of ILGA-Europe, which has 200 member organisations in 40 countries. LSVD is Germany's biggest Gay and Lesbian Federation.



Beto de Jesus - Brazil

Beto de Jesus, 41, educator, is one of the founders of the LGBT Pride Parade in Sao Paulo, and was its Coordinator from 1999 to 2002. Presently he is the General Secretary of the Instituto Edson Neiris(1) in Sao Paulo, and Director for the Southeast Region of the Brazilian Association of Gays, Lesbians and Transgenders - ABGLT. In September 2004, Beto was elected as male representative on the board of ILTGALAC.



Yves de Matteis- Switzerland

Language teacher by profession, Yves works as Information Officer for the City of Geneva. After defending LGBT rights for 15 years (especially partnership law), he has expanded his interests to



other issues: defending people with disabilities, the fight against racism, etc. Delegate to ILGA World conferences, he founded the Gay International Group, a structure gathering gay foreigners from 90 countries. Responsible for the political aspect of a few Prides, he got involved in local politics as a member, at the municipal level, of the Green Party Board which he also represents in the Foundation Council of the Geneva Opera. He volunteers at association 360° and has been re-elected in Budapest as European representative on ILGA world Board.

and homophobia. His involvement with trade unions and work as professional trade unionist makes him a rather unusual LGBT activist.



Rosanna Flamer-Caldera - Sri Lanka

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera is the current Co-Secretary General of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA). In the 2 years preceding her election to the Co-Secretary General's post Rosanna was the Female Representative of Asia to the ILGA Executive Board. She was instrumental in organizing the first ever ILGA Asia Regional Conference in Mumbai, India in 2002. Rosanna was born in Sri Lanka and is a Burgher (of Dutch descent). After having lived in the USA for over 15 years she came back to her roots and began her activism in Environmental Conservation many years ago. Her focus shifted to LGBT activism when she joined a group of women interested in forming a Lesbian organization in Colombo. Rosanna is one of the founding members of the Women's Support Group – the only LBT organization in Sri Lanka. Five years later, after working as the coordinator of the group, Rosanna felt the need to start a new organization named EQUAL GROUND – the only mixed LGBTIQ organization in Sri Lanka.



Carlos Perera - Fiji Islands

Carlos is the Coordinator of Fiji's only LGBT project, called the Sexual Minorities Project under Women's Action for Change (WAC), and apparently the only LGBT registered project in the South Pacific (excluding Australia and New Zealand). Carlos is also member of ILGA's World Board as Regional Representative for Oceania.



Carlos Sanchez - Chile

In the end of year 2000, Sánchez participates in a Conference in Rio de Janeiro, attended by more than 150 ILGA groups, and is voted as Regional Secretary for Latin America and Caribbean. In the beginning of 2001 he joins the Left-Wing Committee for Sexual Diversity. As a consequence of such initiative he is candidate to the Parliament for the Santiago Commune as a member of the Communist Party of Chile. In the year 2002 he participates in the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre (Brazil), and publishes "Outside the limelight", an essay about politics and homosexuality. Carlos Sánchez is President of the Worker's National Union Luis Gauthier and the organiser of ILGA third Latin American Conference in Santiago de Chile in September 2004.



Armand Hotimsky - France

Armand's involvement in the struggle for the rights of sexual minorities dates back to 1980 when he participated in the CUARH Anti Homosexual Repression Urgency Committee. Since 1991, he organised the first transgender meetings in Paris. Finally, in 1995 Armand created the CARITIG (Aid, Research and Information Center on Transsexuality and Gender Identity), which is the first organisation entirely dedicated to the transgender community in France.



Chung To - China

Chung is the founder and chairperson of Chi Heng Foundation, a charitable organization based in Hong Kong. Founded in 1998, Chi Heng and its predecessor has been promoting equality for LGBT (lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender) through political advocacy, public education, media campaigns and community building. Activities organized in the past included the First and Second Media Awards on Tongzhi Coverage, advocacy campaigns on legal reform, sponsorships of LGBT events, and regular visits to secondary schools and universities. During the past four years, Chi Heng expanded its scope of services by moving into mainland China, focusing on AIDS prevention among the MSM population and care of AIDS patients and orphans in Central China.



Kursad Kahramanoglu - Turkey

One of the best-known Turkish Human Rights activists in the world, elected for the first time as the secretary general of ILGA at the end of 1999 at ILGA's Conference in South Africa, Kursad lives in Istanbul. After studying Industrial Engineering in Turkey and Philosophy in UK, Kursad campaigned for equal opportunities for more than two decades. He led and actively participated in many local and national campaigns in UK against racism





LGBT Voices from Geneva's Palais des Nations

UN 2004 - NGO Statement on LGBT rights

Geneva, April 2004. Following are two of the speeches given by LGBT activists at the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in support of a resolution both on sexual orientation and gender identity. The first one was given by Pedro Anibal Paradiso Sottile and Cesar Cigliutti of the Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA). On the following page, we reproduce the speech given by Fanny Ann, who was brutally murdered in Sierra Leone later that year.

Dear President and Members of the Commission,

As a member of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, the Homosexual Argentinean Community and the International Lesbian and Gay Association, I would like to draw your attention to the violation of human rights we are experiencing on the grounds of our sexual orientation and our gender identity.

Many nations in the world are now in the process of granting the same civil, legal and human rights to homosexual people as to the rest of their populations. Nevertheless, certain countries continue to discriminate against gay, lesbian, transvestite, trans-sexual and bisexual people.

This discrimination manifests itself in persecution and, in some instances, murder. In many cases, the state encourages intolerance which denies us the right to health, housing, education and work, making us "invisible" and susceptible to insults in our daily lives.

We need official support and protection to help stop these abuses and to make sure the abusers do not go unpunished. We believe that it is only a matter of time before our rights are recognised. Fundamentalist religions, doctrines, and politics cannot sustain the shame of the inequality suffered by people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

We call upon the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to affirm



Cesar Cigliutti from CHA, in the UNCHR plenary room.

the universality of the right for adults to be themselves and to be free to love each other.

This year, a large and diverse delegation, from all parts of the world, has joined with international groups, including ILGA (the International Lesbian and Gay Association, a federation of over 400 organizations from 90 countries), to ensure that our voices are heard here in Geneva.

We represent all ethnicities, all social backgrounds, all cultures and all religions. We ask you to recognise our right to be protected from discrimination on the grounds of our sexual orientation and gender identity in the same way as we would be protected if we suffered from discrimination on the grounds of our race, political views or religion.

The President of Argentina supports and recognizes

universal human rights for all, irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Argentinian civil society has also expressed its support for us through human rights organizations, trade unions and social groups. As members of this Commission, you have the power to change and improve our situation and history. Equality, justice and freedom are intrinsic values that cannot be negotiated. We, and millions

Fundamentalist religions, doctrines, and politics cannot sustain the shame of the inequality suffered by people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

of people around the world, look to you for your support in our struggle for justice.

Only education and respect for diversity can guarantee the dignity of people and civilizations: the foundation of the struggle of gay men, lesbians, transvestites, trans-sexuals and bisexuals for their dignity is the basic human desire for freedom.

"At the origin of our fight is the desire for freedom". Thank you.

"Silence creates vulnerability. You, members of the Commission on Human Rights, can break the silence".

UN 2004 - NGO Statement on LGBT rights

Speech given by Fanny Ann who was invited by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission at the UNCHR. Fanny was brutally murdered in Sierra Leone later the same year.

Distinguished members of the Commission,

My name is Fannyann Eddy and I am representing MADRE I am also a member of the Sierra Leone Lesbian and Gay Association.

I would like to use this opportunity to bring to your attention the dangers vulnerable groups and individuals face not only in my beloved country, Sierra Leone, but throughout Africa. My focus of interest is the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, which most African leaders do not like to address. In fact, many African leaders do not want to even acknowledge that we exist. Their denial has many disastrous results for our community.

We do exist. But because of the denial of our existence, we live in constant fear: fear of the police and officials with the power to arrest and detain us simply because of our sexual orientation. For instance, recently a young gay man was arrested in Freetown for being dressed as a woman. He was held in detention for a full week without any charge being brought. Though I personally was able to argue with the authorities to release him, most people like him would have been held indefinitely because there are very few of us who are able to speak up.

We live in fear that our families will disown us, as it is not unusual for lesbian, gay bisexual, and transgender people to be forced out of their family homes when their identity becomes known. Many people who are forced from their homes because of their sexual orientation or gender identity are young with nowhere else to go, and thus become homeless, have no food, and resort to sex

work in order to survive. We live in fear within our communities, where we face constant harassment and violence from neighbors and others.

Their homophobic attacks go unpunished by authorities, further encouraging their discriminatory and violent treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

When African leaders use culture, tradition, religion and societal norms to deny our existence they send a message that tolerates discrimination, violence and overall indignity.

This denial has especially disastrous results in the context of HIV/AIDS. According to a recent research study published in December 2003 by the Sierra Leone Lesbian and Gay Association in collaboration with Health Way Sierra Leone, 90% of men who have sex with men also have sex with women, either their wives or girlfriends. Of that group, 85% said that they do not use condoms. Clearly the message of sexual education and transmission of HIV is not delivered to these men in Sierra Leone. It is clear that many men get married not because that is what their inner being desires, but because that is what society demands because they live in a society which forces them to fear for their freedom or their lives because of their sexual orientation. The silence surrounding them the refusal to acknowledge their existence or address their health care needs endangers not only them but their wives and girlfriends.



Remembering Fanny Ann. Activists gathered in Geneva in December to plan for the coming UNCHR 2005 session.

Yet, despite all of the difficulties we face, I have faith that the acknowledgement by the Commission of the inherent dignity and respect due to lesbian, gay people can lead to greater respect for our human rights. As evidenced by the liberation struggle in South Africa, where the constitution bars discrimination based on sexual orientation, respect for human rights can transform society. It can lead people to understand that in the end, we are all human and all entitled to respect and dignity.

Silence creates vulnerability. You, members of the Commission on Human Rights, can break the silence. You can acknowledge that we exist, throughout Africa and on every continent, and that human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity are committed every day. You can help us combat those violations and achieve our full rights and freedoms, in every society, including my beloved Sierra Leone.





ILGA - Supporting the Brazilian resolution

22nd ILGA World Conference in Manila



November 2003, Manila (the Philippines). During their World Conference, the members of ILGA, decided to support the Brazilian resolution and praised it as an historic move. The conference voted for the notion of "gender identity" to be included in the final version of the resolution to be proposed by Brazil at the UNCHR next March. Claudia Roth, Member of Parliament and Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid at the Foreign Office, Germany was present in Manila, met with LGBT activists and gave the final speech of the Conference.

Networking with a coalition of LGBT and Human Rights groups

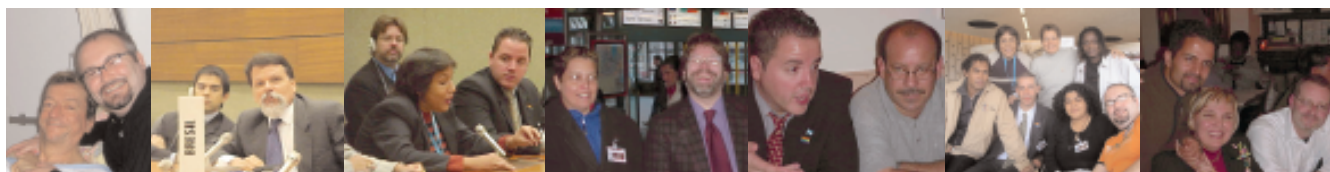


A strategy meeting was organized by ARC International and ACPD in Rio de Janeiro in December 2003. International LGBT organisations such as IGHLC and ILGA met with national LGBT organisations from the Southern hemisphere and international human rights organisations (ACPD, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International). A common campaign to support the Brazilian resolution emerged. The "coalition" worked well ahead of the UNCHR session in order to lobby nations sitting in Geneva. In 2004, a stronger and larger coalition met again in Geneva in early december. Picture: Spring 2004, LGBT activists meet in the offices of Genevan association and ILGA member 360°

Argentina



Following the Rio NGO strategy meeting, ILGA Co-Secretary-General Kursad Kahramanoglu spent a week in Argentina in order to organize lobbying along with local activists and meet leading Argentinean politicians. With local ILGA member CHA (Comunidad Homosexual Argentina), he met with Dr. Rodolfo Mattarollo, the Head of the Cabinet for the Secretary for Human Rights to the National Minister of Justice, Security and Human rights and then with Dr. Rafael A. Bielsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Both assured the Argentinean government would support the resolution.



Supporting the Brazilian resolution

Action-site: www.brazilianresolution.com

A website was set up to communicate specifically on the Brazilian resolution and on ILGA's position regarding the inclusion of gender identity. Available in 7 languages, it was broadly publicized with an information campaign towards all 400 ILGA members to pass on the news in their countries, specialised (LGBT media, including websites) and mainstream media. A new version of the site re-launched the petition in 2005 and tried to draw even more attention to the resolution.

The petition

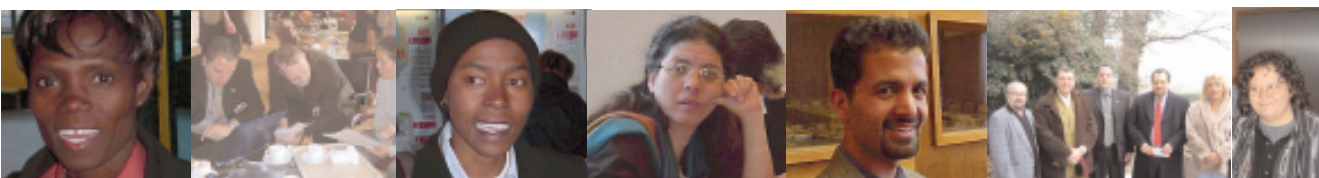


The action site also called on people and organizations to sign a petition in favour of the Brazilian resolution or of any text that would specifically mention sexual orientation and gender identity as human rights in the United Nations. 35,000 answered the first call for the petition in a three month period. 2/3 of them left email addresses. A second call for petition asked those who had signed to call on their friends to sign the petition and resulted in an additional 10,000 signatures to the petition. The petition also gave an official opportunity to meet the Chairman of the Commission, Australian Ambassador Mike Smith at the beginning of the UNCHR session in order to have a better understanding of the situation regarding the Brazilian resolution. It was then decided to leave the petition open until the following year.

ILGA team in Geneva



ILGA organised a team of activists to come to Geneva in order to attend the 60th session of the UNCHR. Thanks to a grant from the German Foreign Office, a dozen activists from countries as different as the Fiji Islands, Sri Lanka, China or Brazil were able to directly get in touch with their national delegations within the UN. ILGA's team was part of a broader LGBT presence, resulting in the biggest LGBT group ever to be present at an UNCHR meeting. ILGA was officially invited by the GRULAC, the UN Latin American and Caribbean group: thanks to an invitation by Minister Sergio Cerda, head of the Argentinean delegation at the UN, a panel of activists led by ILGA had the opportunity to expose their concerns on human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. Rosanna Flamer Caldera, co-Secretary general of ILGA officially asked the members of GRULAC to consider co-sponsoring the resolution next year. ILGA wishes to thank long time Swiss activist Yves de Matteis and the Geneva-based group 360° for their help throughout the Commission.





PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic**, Denmark**, Finland**, France, Germany, Greece**, Ireland, Italy**, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg**, Netherlands**, Norway**, Portugal**, Spain**, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution. Croatia, Cyprus, New Zealand, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia and Switzerland subsequently joined. *Reissued for technical reasons.** In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling that recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Reaffirming that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein without distinction of any kind,

Affirming that human rights education is a key to changing attitudes and behaviour and to promoting respect for diversity in societies,

- 1. Expresses deep concern at the occurrence of violations of human rights in the world against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation;**
- 2. Stresses that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, that the universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question and that the enjoyment of such rights and freedoms should not be hindered in any way on the grounds of sexual orientation;**
- 3. Calls upon all States to promote and protect the human rights of all persons regardless of their sexual orientation;**
- 4. Notes the attention given to human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation by the special procedures in their reports to the Commission on Human Rights, as well as by the treaty monitoring bodies, and encourages all special procedures of the Commission, within their mandates, to give due attention to the subject;**
- 5. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to pay due attention to the violation of human rights on the grounds of sexual orientation;**
- 6. Decides to continue consideration of the matter at its sixtieth session under the same agenda item.**

The Brazilian resolution

UNITED NATIONS
Economic and Social Council
E/CN.4/2003/L.92*
17 April 2003
2003/... Human rights and sexual orientation

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 17

Brazil postpones debate over resolution on sexual orientation

Official communiqué / 29.3.04 - Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations

"Brazil attaches great importance to the defence, promotion and protection of human rights and has always opposed the politicisation of the debates in the Commission on Human Rights. Brazil considers that the treatment of any issue in the Commission should not lend itself to exploitation of a political nature nor should it generate controversies with communities and countries with which we hold deep links of friendship.

In a manner consistent with the unfolding of the internal debate on the issue and with its international activities, the Brazilian Government presented to the Commission on Human Rights last year a draft resolution on non-discrimination and sexual orientation, with the co-sponsorship of 26 other Member and Observers of the Commission. Following procedural debates which did not address the substance of the issue, the Commission on Human Rights decided to postpone the consideration of the draft resolution.

Since November last year, we have been consulting with delegations of several countries on the text. We have not yet been able, however, to arrive at a necessary consensus. By its very nature, a subject such as non-discrimination and sexual orientation presupposes the search for consensus. The objective of the initiative is to strengthen the system of protection and promotion of human rights; not to condemn anyone. It is the understanding of Brazil that the relevance of the initiative derives from its capacity to contribute to the dissemination of values and social practices most likely to lead towards harmony and tolerance.

In light of these considerations and bearing in mind the importance of preserving the purposes and objectives of the draft resolution, to which Brazil remains fully committed, the Brazilian Government has decided to keep it under consultation and to request the Commission to postpone its consideration."

Summary executions: resolution mentioning sexual orientation adopted

Geneva, April 19th. The resolution on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions was adopted by a solid majority at the Commission on Human Rights. This is the only resolution adopted at the CHR which contains an explicit reference to "sexual orientation".

This is the only resolution adopted at the CHR which contains an explicit reference to "sexual orientation". Similar references have been adopted three times in the past (2000, 2002 and 2003), but this is the first time that sexual orientation has been included in a year in which the Special Rapporteur's mandate is up for renewal.

In the revised resolution, OP6 "reaffirms the obligation of States to protect the inherent right to life of all persons under their jurisdictions and calls upon concerned States to investigate promptly and thoroughly all killings committed in the name of passion or in the name of honour, all killings committed for any discriminatory reason, including sexual orientation, [etc]".

The Chair announced that there were 17 additional cosponsors (the leading sponsor being Sweden, and opened the floor to General Comments. Pakistan on behalf of the OIC (The Organisation of Islamic Conferences) opposed the listing of vulnerable groups in OP6, calling the list "contentious and non-exhaustive". Without specifically naming "sexual orientation", Pakistan expressed concern that it included "some categories" while excluding others, such as persons killed under foreign occupation. Pakistan therefore indicated that the OIC was calling for a vote on OP6 and the resolution as a whole, and would vote against OP6

and abstain on the resolution itself.

Ireland spoke on behalf of the EU, expressing the EU's "full support for, and co-sponsorship of the resolution", including maintaining a list of those often targeted for extrajudicial executions. Sweden reaffirmed that unfortunately the groups listed continue to be targets of such killings, and that "the message should be repeated until the day when these executions no longer occur".

The Chair then called a vote on OP6, which was adopted by a vote of 30 States in favour, 7 opposed, with 14 abstentions and 2 States not voting. This represents a modest increase in support from last year, when 27 States voted in favour, 10 opposed, with 15 abstentions and 1 State not voting.

Following the paragraph vote, the US expressed, amongst other things, its view that the Special Rapporteur has no mandate to oppose the death penalty. The Chair then put the whole resolution to a vote, and it was adopted by a vote of 39 States in favour, 0 opposed, 12 abstentions, and 2 States (Mauritania and Cuba) not voting.

John Fisher
Arc International, United Nations, Geneva, April 2005

ILGA in 2004

June

NOVIB Global Programs workshop / Nairobi

ILGA was invited to participate in the NOVIB Global Programs workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. It was put together to exchange experiences and ideas with NOVIB's global network partners/grantees on assessing and measuring the results and impact of their work. The general objective of the workshop was to develop a greater understanding of values and functions of global networks and the ways to plan and effectively measure the results. It was a valuable meeting and Rosanna Flamer-Caldera was able to network with and raise awareness on LGBTI issues among other "mainstream" global networks.

1st World Outgames Montreal 2006 / Montreal

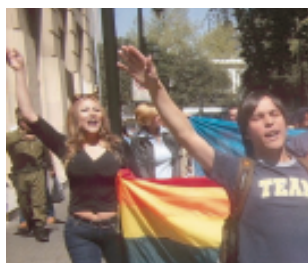
The expert committee organizing the Human Rights Conference to held in conjunction with the 2006 Montreal Outgames, met in Montreal to begin planning the conference. Kursad Kahramanoglu attended the meeting as a member of the committee.



July

Public Services International (PSI) and Education International (EI)

In July, Kursad Kahramanoglu was the keynote speaker at the "GLBT Forum" organised by Public Services International (PSI) and Education International (EI), two international secretariats of trade unions, in conjunction with EI's Congress. These two organisations have over 50 million members between them.



September

ILGA LAC Regional Conference / Santiago de Chile

Kursad Kahramanoglu and Stephen Barris, ILGA's media officer were both present at the conference. This third Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference of ILGA decided to change its name to ILTGA-LAC to ensure more visibility for transgender people within its board and structure. A scholarship program favoured the presence of women at the conference, setting new standards for future ILGA conferences. See page 16.

German Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Berlin

On September 6th, ILGA Co-Secretary General, Kursad Kahramanoglu, was invited by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to participate in a panel discussion entitled "New Challenges in international human rights policy: Countering the discrimination of societal minorities". The discussion was moderated by Human Rights Commissioner Claudia Roth. Increasingly, ILGA's expertise is being sought by the diplomatic community as it was in this year's Conference of German Heads of Mission in Berlin. Read it page 18. Kursad's visit had been facilitated by the lobbying work of the German Lesbian and Gay Federation.



Santiago de Chile: ILGA's III Latin American Conference

ILGA-LAC renamed ILTGA-LAC

Secularisation, civic duties, and the inclusion of gender identity in the LGBT rights movement were the main themes of the 3rd Latin American and Caribbean conference of ILGA in Santiago de Chile

The third in a series, the ILGA-LAC (Latin American and Caribbean) conference, held in Santiago de Chile September 14th-17th was witness to a strong lesbian and transgender presence, in line with the wishes of its main sponsor, the Netherlands Novib-Oxfam foundation, and the organising committee, a coalition of Chilean associations, led by Carlos Sanchez of the Luis Gautier National Workers Union.

Throughout the week, approximately 120 delegates – including for the first time 2 activists from Cuba – coming from some of the 110 ILGA-LAC member groups debated the work and action plan for the region

***ILGA members
supported their transgender
colleagues in their decision to
include and make more visible
the “trans” presence in
ILTGA.***

for the years to come. The results of these negotiations were then discussed and voted on point by point in plenary session during the conference.

The importance of inclusion quickly became one of the main rallying points for the delegates. Confronted with the intolerance that anyone outside of “the heterosexual norm” faces, participants in the conference took a systematic approach to reviewing all ILGA LAC documents to make them as inclusive as possible, with a special view



on transgender persons. They asked that the terms lesbophobia, and transphobia be explicitly added to homophobia in the future in all documents issued by the regional secretariat. The importance of ethnicity, the need to improve connections with youth groups and the need to better apprehend the history of the LGBT movement were also brought up at the conference.

The adding of a “T” for transexual/transgender individuals to the “ILGA” part of “ILGA-LAC” will be without a doubt the most memorable decision of the conference; ILGA-LAC has therefore disappeared to be replaced by “ILTGA-LAC.” The other ILGA members present in Santiago supported their transexual/transgender colleagues in their decision to include and make more visible the “trans” presence in ILTGA. Following this logic, three representatives (instead of two), one gay, one lesbian, and one trans, were elected for each of the 5 sub-regions of ILTGA-LAC (the Andes, Southern region, Brazil, Mexico, Central America). Delegates at the conference have also made known that they will submit a proposal at the next ILGA world conference in 2006 in Geneva calling on participants to make the same name change for the entire ILGA.

Latin America and the Caribbean are now represented by 3 regional delegates: Belissa Andia from the Runa Institute for Gender Studies in Peru; Beto de Jesus from the Edson Neris Institute in Brazil; and Patria Jiménez the El Closet de Sor Juana group in Mexico. This last group’s head quarters in Mexico City will also serve as the office for ILTGA-LAC secretariat.

Kursad Kahramanoglu, Co-Secretary General of ILGA, present at the conference, brought home the importance of keeping up the efforts to support the Brazilian resolution on sexual orientation in the United Nations. He also reminded the delegates of ILGA’s determination to see gender identity added to the language of the resolution. “The Latin

American LGBT movement must act together to ensure that Brazil reintroduces its text next year and that other Latin American countries officially sponsor the text as well." The Secretary general used this occasion to promote the Brazilian resolution by meeting Venezuela's Ambassador to Chile and the Director of Human Rights of the Chilean Government.

Mr. Kahramanoglu also took advantage of his presence at the conference to promote the idea of a worldwide day against homophobia.

As the title of the conference "Homosexualities, globalisation, and social movements in Latin America" indicates, the delegates did not limit their agenda to only LGBT issues. Renewing and reviving past alliances with feminist movements and consolidating relations with other social movements were at the heart of the debate. The participants were particularly adamant that the concept of civic rights not only include basic human rights for sexual and racial minorities, but also economic and political rights for these groups as well. Local LGBT activists underlined the importance of the debate on globalisation and its direct impact on the ability of LGBT people to

exercise their civic rights. The action plan coming out of the conference explicitly mentions the AFTA (American Free Trade Area) treaty that is currently under consideration, and its possible effects on access to medical care in the region.

Delegates also brought up the issue of the participation of LGBT groups in the recent social forums in the region (Chile, Porto Alegre). While the majority of the participants expressed their happiness that sexual diversity has gained a special place in previous forums, others made clear their desire that LGBT groups be present in all the working groups so that sexual diversity be represented in all areas of discussion.

Finally, the conference wanted to make clear what it considers primordial for the promotion of LGBT rights in the region, secularism. Indeed, the rise in power and increased political activity of various Churches and other fundamentalist religious organisations in Latin America is a worrisome development for LGBT groups in the region and the delegates call on the entire LGBT community to remain vigilant.

ILGA's European conference in Budapest a success!

On 27-31 October 2004, more than 220 activists from all over Europe gathered in Budapest for the 26 th ILGA European Conference. The conference theme was "Coming Out to the EU".

Europe has witnessed fundamental changes over the past few years. Undoubtedly one of the key developments has been the enlargement of the European Union and strengthening its relationships to neighbouring regions. To highlight these developments the conference was organised in Hungary in cooperation with the Hatter Support Society for LGBT People. Ms Kinga Göncz, the Hungarian Minister of Equal Opportunities and Mr. Joop Verboom, representative of the Dutch EU Presidency greeted the conference.

During more than 30 workshops, caucuses and open sessions, the delegates discussed a whole range of issues such as reporting human rights violations and the Brazilian resolution,

the future of EU anti-discrimination legislation and policies and the specific needs of members in Eastern Europe, ILGA-Europe Strategic Plan and development, fundraising and capacity building, addressing homophobic violence and transgender issues.

The conference took place during a historical event of the European Commission President Mr Barroso withdrawing his proposal for the Commission from the approval vote by the European Parliament.

The conference took place during a historical event of the European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso withdrawing his proposal for the Commission from the approval vote by the European Parliament. The delegates overwhelmingly expressed their support for Mr Barroso's decision by

signing a petition addressed to Mr Barroso as well as Mr Borrell, President of the European Parliament, heads of political groups at the European Parliament and heads of the EU member states.

The conference has also elected a new ILGA-Europe Board: Maxim Anmeghichean (GenderDoc-M, Moldova), Vera Cimpeanu (Accept, Romania), Riccardo Gottardi (Arcigay, Italy), Tatjana Grief (SkuC-LL, Slovenia), Deborah Lambillotte (Holebifederatie, Belgium), Jackie Lewis (UNISON, UK), Pierre Serne (Commission LGBT des Verts, France), and Nigel Warner (Stonewall, UK). Reserve Board members elected are Philipp Braun (LSVD, Germany), Vanja Hamzic (Q Organisation, Bosnia Herzegovina), Inge-Lise Paulsen (LBL, Denmark), and Maya Salvado (APGL, France). The conference also confirmed Jackie Lewis (UNISON, UK) and Yves De Matteis (360, Switzerland) as representatives of ILGA-Europe on the Executive Board of ILGA. Reserve representatives of ILGA-Europe on the Executive Board of ILGA are Grada Schadee (AOB Homoseksueel Onderwijspersoneel, Netherlands) and Janfrans Van der Eerden (COC Nedeland, Netherlands).

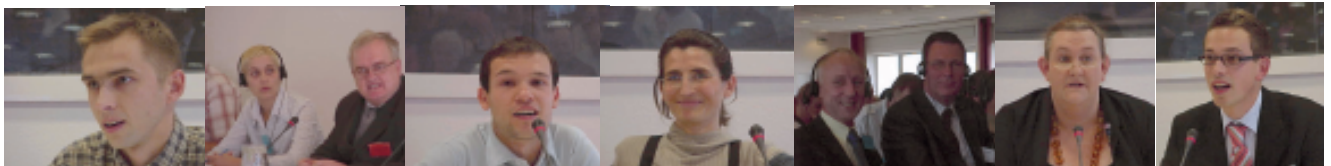
The full conference report is available on ILGA Europe's website: www.ilga-europe.org



Eastern, central and western european activists will meet again next year in Paris. Voting time.

The next ILGA European conference in 2005 will take place in Paris, France and the conference voted to have the 2006 conference in Sofia, Bulgaria.

ILGA Europe



ILGA Co-Secretary General speaks to meeting of German Ambassadors in Berlin

ILGA and German Diplomacy

On September 6th, ILGA Secretary General, Kursad Kahramanoglu, was invited by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to participate in a panel discussion entitled "New Challenges in international human rights policy: Countering the discrimination of societal minorities". The discussion was moderated by Human Rights Commissioner Claudia Roth. The following speech was part of a workshop given in the framework of this year's Conference of German Heads of Mission in Berlin. The workshop focused on new developments in the field of minority rights, on the one hand, and current discussions regarding anti-discrimination policy, on the other. In the latter context, special emphasis was given on discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation." We would like to thank LSVD, the German Lesbian and Gay Association for facilitating this opportunity.

Commissioner Roth, Commissioner Beck,
Honourable Ambassadors, Distinguished Guests

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to address you.

I also would like to thank the German Foreign Office for inviting me to this important gathering and including the issue of sexuality as an important human right to its program.

My name is Kursad Kahramanoglu, and I am the Secretary General of

the International Lesbian and Gay Association, better known as ILGA. ILGA is the only worldwide non-profit federation of local and national groups dedicated to achieving equal rights for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people (LGBT). Founded in 1978, ILGA now has more than 400 member organisations, representing 90 countries on all continents. Its aims are to work for the equality of LGBT people, to liberate them from all forms of discrimination and to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

> text continues on page 20

ILGA in 2004



Former Member of the European Parliament, Joke Swiebel receiving recognition for her work from Robert Wintermute at the ILGA-Europe conference in Budapest

October

European Social Forum / London

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera was invited to speak at the European Social Forum in October 2004. ILGA's continuing presence at the social fora is meant to be a building block for future participation and support by other struggling "mainstream" organizations and individuals.

Rainbow Attitude

Andrew Pilgrim and Stephen Barris organised a stand at Rainbow Attitude/Paris, an LGBT lifestyle trade show. Stephen participated in a debate on Human rights and sexual orientation and gave an interview to BBC Spanish Language Service for Latin America and France 2, one of France's national TV channels.

HIVOS symposium on HIV/AIDS / Amsterdam

Tom Hoemig, Rosanna Flamer-Caldera and Kursad Kahramanoglu attended the Hivos symposium in Amsterdam. The event was also an opportunity to say farewell to Frans Mom who was retiring. HIVOS has been a funding partner of ILGA for the past 7 years. This event was a good opportunity to show our recognition and appreciation to Mr. Mom and HIVOS' valuable contributions to the cause of the LGBT movement in general and ILGA in particular.

ILGA-Europe Regional Conference / Budapest

See picture above and our article page 17.

November

Patricia Curzi, Women's Project officer – Roberto Rodríguez, Manager

November saw the recruitment of two new members of staff: a manager and a women's officer. ILGA is now fortunate to have a team of four workers working full-time in Brussels.



ILGA staff: Tom Hoemig, Andrew Pilgrim, Patricia Curzi, Stephen Barris and Roberto Rodriguez



December

International Dialogue on Sexual Orientation and Human Rights / Geneva

In December, ILGA once again went to Geneva, this time for a conference held by our coalition partners and ILGA member ARC International of Canada. UNCHR strategy was discussed at length with new strategies and plans being formulated for 2005. A more proactive approach was agreed upon and the process rejuvenated the activists attending to carry on the fight to the UNCHR in 2005.

> Text comes from page 18 When we talk about “New Challenges in International Human Rights”, I want to make it clear from the beginning that we are not talking about according any sort of new rights. Instead, we are simply reaffirming the principles that lie at the core of international human rights treaties, and supporting numerous decisions and reports by treaty bodies, UN Special Rapporteurs and the UN Commission on Human Rights itself.

“Human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated”. The Vienna Declaration provides that “human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments” and that “the universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.”

The principles of universality and non-discrimination are intrinsically intertwined. The integrity of the whole body of human rights is undermined if human rights can be denied to any marginalised group. The drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stated explicitly that they considered the non-discrimination principle to be the basis of the Declaration.

LGBT people come from all races, cultures and religions. They are entitled to protection against discrimination on the ground of their sexual orientation to the same extent as on the grounds of their race, gender or religion. Like human rights, human identity is indivisible, so we cannot talk about “human rights” if a core component of human identity is left unprotected.

ILGA argues that all are entitled to live in a society that includes (rather than excludes) their experiences, to see themselves as part of (rather than as an outcast) culture, knowledge, and society, to live free from discrimination and abuse based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Regrettably, not all States accept the universal application of human rights principles to LGBT people. This lack of recognition creates a climate in which such intolerance and abuse can thrive unchecked. It is essential for those who understand and respect human rights principles to affirm that human rights cannot be denied on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. This is precisely why it is important that the Ambassadors to those countries stand against the violations that are often concealed in stigma and silence — but also to uphold the basic principle that human rights must be enjoyed equally by all people.

Despite substantial progress towards recognition of equal rights both internationally and in countries around the world, LGBT people are

subject to persistent human rights violations because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Throughout the world, LGBT people experience harassment, humiliation, verbal and physical abuse. More than 80 countries still maintain laws that make same-sex consensual sexual relationships between adults a criminal offence, and in at least 7 countries the maximum penalty is death. In other countries, vaguely-worded and sweeping laws against “public scandals” or “indecent behaviour” are used to penalise people whose only crime is looking, dressing, or behaving differently from rigidly enforced social norms.

In many countries, people detained on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity are tortured and ill-treated in police custody. Many people face violence in their own communities and families because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Additionally, some countries treat homosexuality as a medical or psychological disorder; and lesbians and gay men have been targeted for medical experimentation and forced psychiatric treatment designed to ‘cure’ their homosexuality.

*There is no
hierarchy of oppression.
We cannot talk about
“human rights” if a core
component of human
identity is left
unprotected.*

These persistent human rights violations have been well documented by UN Special Rapporteurs. The report on torture by Special Rapporteur Sir Nigel Rodley for example details specific allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment perpetrated against LGBT people; including rape by police or prison authorities, state indifference to mistreatment by members of the general prison population; forcible confinement in medical institutions; “aversion therapy”, including electroshock treatment; and threats by authorities to disclose sexual orientation or gender identity as a means to intimidate LGBT people and deter them from pursuing their legal or constitutional rights.

The findings of these and other reports like that of Amnesty International are consistent with human rights abuses in every region and country in the world... in muslim countries like Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Egypt, in Latin American countries like Peru, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Chile and Ecuador, in countries such as Nepal, Russia and Zimbabwe... But also in so called civilised countries as the UK, the USA and recently France.

What is an ambassador? – and what good is he or she in a foreign country where prejudice and homophobia are rife? I had to ask this question to myself and think about it before I came to this meeting. After all a diplomat is just a guest in another country; and he or she does not have the power to change things, especially prejudice which is deeply rooted in many societies? **> Text continues on page 21**

ILGA in 2004

Throughout the year

Preparation of next ILGA World Conference / Geneva

During 2004, the work to prepare the ILGA World Conference in Geneva April 2006 continued. Kursad Kahramanoglu and ILGA European Board Member Yves de Matteis, finalised the venue and a small but dedicated team of workers have already started to work on the conference in Geneva.

Staff meetings

Throughout the year, ILGA held management meetings every six weeks in order to implement ILGA's plan of action and facilitate day-to-day business. Kursad Kahramanoglu and in some occasions Rosanna Flamer-Caldera chaired those meetings with the help of a delegation from long-time Dutch ILGA member, COC. We wished to thank Roland van Benthem, Janfrans van der Eerden and Peter Zijlema for their continued support.

> **Text comes from page 20** Indeed, you know the answer to this rhetorical question much better than I. An ambassador, especially a German Ambassador, can be a formidable force for good on human rights in many countries in the world.

Take my home country – Turkey. For historical, political and economical reasons the German Ambassador in Turkey is high in influence and in this respect may make a big difference. On January 29 2004 Turkey's Parliamentary Justice Commission voted to alter the "discrimination" clause in the Penal Code to include "discrimination based on sexual orientation" as a crime. Homosexual activists praised the legislation that would result in criminal charges against a person who refuses anyone service, housing or employment on the basis of sexual orientation. If the law had been passed, Turkey could have become the first predominantly Muslim country to pass such a law.

But on July 6, 2004 The Parliamentary Justice Commission took up the discrimination clause and decided to replace it with the one that exists in the Constitution. According to the tenth Article of the Turkish Constitution, discrimination based on language, race, skin colour, gender, political opinion, religion, denomination and similar reasons is prohibited, but it does not directly refer to sexual orientation. This process has been decided by the parliamentary committee of the Turkish Parliament, and the debate is just now starting in the full parliament. A friendly word from the German Ambassador to the ear of the Turkish Government can make a big difference in their thinking when they are so keen to be a member of the EU!



German Foreign Office in Berlin

Another example is Nepal. Nepal is currently experiencing very serious instability as you all know. Reports from an ILGA member from Nepal clearly state how the situation also recently became very radical and violent for LGBT people, both institutionally and physically, in day to day life. In spite of this, ILGA is considering holding its Asian Conference in Nepal to make a stand. German diplomats in Nepal can be a great source of strength and protection if and when we go ahead with this conference.

Last year, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights saw the biggest ever LGBT presence, with 40 activists coming from all parts of the world. ILGA itself was able to organise a team of 12 activists. They came to support the resolution on "human rights and sexual orientation" better known as the Brazilian resolution.

> **Text continues on page 22**

ILGA speaks to German Ambassadors

> **Text comes from page 21** It claims that sexual diversity is an integral part of Universal Human Rights. As you know, this unique resolution has again been postponed. I need not tell you that, if ever passed, it will be very useful in fighting homophobia in many corners of the world. I invite you to use this historical opportunity to raise the issue of sexual diversity with governments in countries where LGBT people and their rights are ignored. But many countries might very well be sympathetic to our cause: we need your help to secure the broadest co-sponsorship possible, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. This will also be fundamental, as the resolution cannot appear to be a "western initiative".

I could give you more examples; but I hope the message is clear: an Ambassador can be a great human rights activist, provided that he or she has the knowledge, willingness and commitment to human rights... On our website we have the legal situation as far as we know in almost all countries. My suggestion for you would be to take a look at the reports of Amnesty International and our legal survey for the country you are based in and include the position both legal and social of LGBT people in the dialogue you have with the governments AND with the NGOs you work with and support.

Fighting against all these widespread and recurring human rights abuses is the aim of ILGA. We have been fighting against and articulating the plight of the world LGBT community for 26 years. It is,

however, one of the "New Challenges in International Human Rights Policy" for you.

There is no hierarchy of oppression. If we want a world free from discrimination, oppression on the grounds of sexuality is as important as the other forms of discriminations. I say this because this is the first ever meeting at an ambassadorial level in a country which is considering how its representatives abroad can tackle discrimination on the grounds of sexuality.

I thank you very much for this initiative and for inviting me here today.

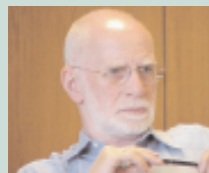
Kursad Kahramanoglu
Secretary General of ILGA
The International Lesbian and Gay Association

6 September 2004



This 2004 Annual Report is a publication of ILGA, the International Lesbian and Gay Association. To send comments or suggestions, email to ilga@ilga.org or visit www.ilga.org under section get involved. Editor:

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To Tom for your dedication. Long time volunteer, Tom was ILGA's sole staff for many years. He retired on 31 December 2004 to enjoy some well-deserved time off.

INTERNATIONAL DAY Against Homophobia

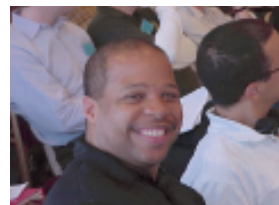
Louis-Georges Tin, editor of the *Dictionnaire de l'homophobie* (Presses Universitaires de France, 2003) is campaigning for a World Day against Homophobia, for an international recognition of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered People. ILGA has been supporting this initiative throughout the year, hosting its petition and promoting it in its conferences. The first International day against homophobia will be on May 17th with local LGBT groups acting at once in more than 30 countries all over the world.

Objectives

1/ - provoke action: debates, exhibitions, radio programs, screenings, short story competitions, awareness campaigns, etc.

2/ - coordinate and increase the visibility of efforts of LGBT groups involved in actions on May 17th. If all our efforts happen the same day, they will be all the more visible and efficient. And as the day will become an annual meeting, the media and public opinion will be all the more attentive to the questions brought up. Moreover, those who coordinate this day in each country will report back the results of the efforts and inform journalists.

3/ - to place this day on the national calendar in a maximum number of countries, and then, why not, to have it adopted on an international level. Obviously, this is a long term objective, if not an ideal. But official recognition is not just a symbol, even if symbols have real power, as we all know. Recognition will contribute to the persistence of the fight. It will also make it possible to show that the fight against homophobia is not only the business of LGBT people, but that it is the full responsibility of public authorities and the will of the society as a whole.



Louis-Georges Tin

Why May 17th?

On 17 May 1990, the General Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) removed homosexuality from their list of mental disorders. This action served to end more than a century of medical homophobia. From now on, following this historic decision, we wish that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Commission for Human Rights will also condemn homophobia in its political, social and cultural dimension by recognizing this International Day Against Homophobia. The decision of the WHO constitutes a historic date and powerful symbol for members of the LGBT community. It is important for 3 reasons:

- it is an international, not a national symbol, so every country may refer to it.
- as we refer to a symbol of the WHO, we will ask them to do for transgender people what has been done for gays and lesbians;
- when we ask the United Nations for an international recognition, it will be less difficult if we are all under the umbrella of a WHO symbol.

Contact Louis-Georges Tin tin@idahomophobia.org



*Working to achieve equal rights
for the lesbian, gay, bisexual
and transgender community
for the last 28 years*

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