Human Rights Conference: «FROM SAFE HARBOURS TO EQUALITY»

A CHANGING LGBT’S WORLD: TRANSITIONS AND MIGRATIONS

Changes in the configuration of international LGBT rights in recent months including marriage in France, USA, Uruguay, New Zealand and Argentina; changes in African Commonwealth countries as well as in Eastern Europe have provided some breathing room for LGBT people. A conference in this new context cannot simply focus on the past, it must become a gathering which puts forward solutions to people fighting and struggling everywhere on our planet.

Together with the Antwerp Human Rights team, The Radisson Blu venue in the centre of Antwerp welcomes you to the Human Rights Conference from 31 July to 2 August 2013.

The Antwerp Conference has come to the conclusion that networking between LGBT’s groups around the World, in order to achieve equality, taking into account the social and cultural differences that may exist, is the most important task to achieve. In the so called North we must realize that some of our attitudes are not relevant to really give a hand to others in the South or in the East. And the emerging countries need more actions than words. Implicate persons with influence – LGBT or allies – to push on politics, on organisations, on churches and unions as well, is a way to do more and better. This should not mean renounce to the universality of human rights, but instead to understand that difficulties in the difficult path of equality may vary from a context to another. And that the tasks and pathways that may be adequate in a context may be totally inadequate in others.

After Montréal in 2006, founding ground of GLISA’s OUTGAMES, and Copenhagen in 2009, strengthening our march, Antwerp has the dream to make realistic guidelines which has to be a kind of, not easy but real, « work in process» for everybody in our community.

Prominent speakers, activists and specialists on human rights, will share their knowledge, visions and experiences in four key panels with participants from more than 35 countries.
FORMAT of the Programme

JULY 31 ST 2013

8 to 10 AM: REGISTRATION

OPEN SPACE: exhibitions, poster presentations, photo activism, video abstracts, meet & greet: Marion Oprel (France) – Hein Knapen (Belgium) with 3 asylum seekers (Uganda, Nigeria) – Mavendra Singh (India) - Amnesty International (Flanders, Belgium) - 7 miles (Belgium) – EGLSF Exhibition; against the rules – Mark Sergeant (Belgium, Sensoa) – Mohammad Rafiqul Islam (Bangladesh) – Paul Antonio Martinez Quiroz (Chile) – Dev Narayan Chaudhary (Nepal) – Enrico dos Santos (Brazil)

10 to 12 AM: Plenary Opening Session
- Opening by the GLISA co-chairs: Julia Applegate (USA) & Daniel Vaudrin (Canada)
- Welcome speech by the Conference co-chairs: Tamara Adrian (Venezuela) & Jean-Yves Duthel (Canada)
- Presentation of the Antwerp Guidelines «From Safe Harbours to Equality»

12 AM to 1 PM: lunch

1 to 1:45 PM: Great Opening speech by Alice N’Kom (Cameroon) or Jean Wyllys de Matos Santos (Brazil)

1:45 PM to 4 PM: P&V COUCH SESSION: 'PATHS TO EQUALITY'

ANIMATOR: Nathalie Delporte (Belgium)

PARTICIPANTS: Tamara Adrian (Venezuela) – Koen Van Mechelen (Belgium)– David Testo (USA)– Kenita Placide (Santa Lucia)- Karen Hultzer (South Africa)(or Claire Harvey)

4:30 to 5:30 PM:

Same sex wedding ceremony hosted by spiritual leaders
**6 PM:** cocktail (for everybody) in Restaurant Appelmans

**8 PM:** Outreach dinner in Restaurant Appelmans

**AUGUST 1ST**

**8 to 8.30 AM:** REGISTRATION

**OPEN SPACE:** exhibitions, poster presentations, photo activism, video abstracts, meet & greet: Marion Oprel (France) – Hein Knappen (Belgium) with 3 asylum seekers (Uganda, Nigeria) – Mavendra Singh (India) - Amnesty International (Flanders, Belgium) - 7 miles (Belgium) – EGLSF Exhibition; against the rules – Mark Sergeant (Belgium, Sensoa) – Mohammad Rafiqul Islam (Bangladesh) – Paul Antonio Martinez Quiroz (Chile) – Dev Narayan Chaudhary (Nepal) – Enrico dos Santos (Brazil)

**8.30 to 9 AM:** Breakfast speech: Bernard Landry (Canada), former Prime Minister of Québec: the political decisions on LGBT rights.

**9 to 12 AM:** Panel Discussions

**Panel 1  Migration and safety**

Right of asylum, freedom of movement, non-discrimination based on race, ostracism based on the sexual orientation, the international solidarities, the freedom of speech etc..

It is a question of comparing situations with the aim of finding tools favouring the change and the progress of the rights.

The right to be free to travel, in and out our own countries, the right to be safe in our societies.

**ANIMATOR:** Uffe Elbaek (Denmark)

**PANELISTS:** Kees Waaldijk (The Netherlands, Justice) – European Aids Treatment Group (EATG, Belgium-Health) – Alberic Akiteretse (Burundi, Migrations) – Mellouki Cadat (French Algerian, the Netherlands, Security) – Bruno Selun (Belgium, Migration of ideas).
Panel 2  Transitions and best practices (sponsored by King Boudewijn Foundation)

Exchanges between *South and North, East and West, South and South* groups must be on a long term strategy which originates from THEIR needs and action plan. Marriage, for example, which has become an issue in some countries, is far away from the needs or the real feasibility of this achievement of justice in other countries ..........

What kind of help do we all need in education, economic development, empowerment etc..

ANIMATOR: Joke Swiebel (The Netherlands)

PANELISTS: Linda Bellos (UK, North)- Christian Rumu (Burundi, Africa) – Hiroyuki Taniguchi (Japan, Asia)- Juan Carlos Rodriguez (Mexico, Latin America)- Kursad Karamanoglu (Turkey, Middle East) – Zeljko Blace (Croatia, Eastern Europe).

12 AM to 1 PM: Karen Atala Riffo (Chile), energising speech

1 to 2 PM: lunch

2 PM to 5 PM: Continuation of the Panel Discussions

Panel 3  The role of “progressives” in diverse changing societies

How to act in the same direction, in different political, cultural or social situations. The support and the actions of the already more advanced societies to the groups living in less tolerant countries.

Words versus action, labour unions and women’s movements, activist movements, progressive religions........

ANIMATOR: Pascal De Bel (Belgium, international Unions confederation) & Jide Macaulay (Nigeria)

PANELISTS: PSI - Georgina Bayer (trans) – Muhsin Hendricks (South Africa, Islam) – Ken Moala (Samoa, Spirituality)- Surat Rathgeber Knan (UK, Liberal Judaism)- Wim Peumans (Belgium, intercultural)
Panel 4  
**Sport and Culture as vehicles of the rights**

Sport and right of association, Sport and sharing of the same discriminations, the sport as a mean of pride, non discrimination in traditional sport........

The progress of the LGBT’s rights was often connected to the implication in sports groups. How to increase this link.

Are the cultural values different from a continent in the other one real obstacles? On which common cultural bases can we sit our fights.

Sport and cultural, differences, common bases, and personal pride

ANIMATOR: Robert Wintemute (UK)

PANELISTS: Dulcimar Antonio Grando (Brazil, Sports in developing countries) – Ryan Clark (USA, Sports in the US) – Ivan Denis (Belgium, pride in sports) – Joel Berio Sastre (Cuba, culture and rights) – Anisul Islam Hero (Bangladesh, dance and rights).

5 to 7 PM: P&V COUCH SESSION: 'THE REAL OUTREACH'

ANIMATOR: Nathalie Delporte (Belgium)

PARTICIPANTS : Hivos Netherlands – Renato Sabbadini (Italy, ILGA)– Jack Mackenroth (USA)- Kristof De Busser (Belgium)– HeJin Kim (South Africa, Korea)

7 PM:  Rounding off the day....
AUGUST 2ND

8 to 8.30 AM: REGISTRATION

OPEN SPACE: exhibitions, poster presentations, photo activism, video abstracts, meet & greet: Marion Oprel (France) – Hein Knapen (Belgium) with 3 asylum seekers (Uganda, Nigeria) – Mavendra Singh (India) – Amnesty International (Flanders, Belgium) - 7 miles (Belgium) – EGLSF Exhibition; against the rules – Mark Sergeant (Belgium, Sensoa) – Mohammad Rafiqul Islam (Bangladesh) – Paul Antonio Martinez Quiroz (Chile) – Dev Narayan Chaudhary (Nepal) – Enrico dos Santos (Brazil)

8.30 to 9 AM: BREAKFAST SPEECH by a representative of EGLSF

9 to 12 AM: P&V COUCH SESSION: 'WHERE DO WE GO FROM NOW ON’?

ANIMATOR: Nathalie Delporte (Belgium)

PARTICIPANTS: Phyll Opoku (UNI UK and Ghana) – Adebisi Alimi (Judge Mr GayWorld, Nigeria) – Alice N’kom (Cameroon) – Ant Dawson (South Africa) – Bart Abeel (Belgium, Chairman of WOGA 2013) – Philip Heylen (Belgium, City of Antwerp).

12 AM to 1 PM: lunch

1 to 3 PM: Plenary Adoption of guidelines «From safe Harbours to Equality»

3.30 PM: Closing speech in presence of prominent politicians and ambassadors

4.30 PM: Closing cocktail