The Conference Edition

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And more . . .
I look forward to the day when all the countries of the continent will be represented at such-like conferences. I look forward to a time when cities like Kampala, Abidjan, Niamey, Port Louis, Asmara or even Tunis will welcome us to their cities. It was amazing to be welcomed to Gaborone by an official from the city council, Hon Sergeant Kgosietsile. It is possible.

My heart still warms as I remember the candour of Justice Edwin Cameron, the tenacity of former Botswana cabinet minister Professor Sheila Tlou, the challenges thrown at us by Kenyan human rights defender Maina Kiai and the inspirational words of Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the United Nations’ independent expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression and Sex Characteristics.

But equally as moving was seeing matters of faith being discussed that weren’t coming from a place of hate. There were parents sharing how they learned of their child’s sexuality and how their own journeys evolved. It was a powerful reminder that there are parents willing to support their children.

PAI Botswana was different because it showed me that an inclusive, unapologetic and queer-loving Africa is here. I think there are onions on my keyboard, I need to stop now.

This article first appeared in *The Daily Maverick*.
Announcement of PAI’s Acting Executive Director

Over the past few years PAI has evolved as a fledgling NGO sharing office space, to being located in its own office space in Braamfontein in Johannesburg. From the start, PAI appointed an Executive Director on contract, in a consultancy capacity. As PAI grew, it has attracted skilled and committed staff. The organisation is now entering its consolidation phase, and one of the key elements in this phase of its growth is to formalise its staffing complement.

Given this, the Board has decided on the following:

1. The consultancy contract of the incumbent in the post of Executive Director, Monica Tabengwa, which expired 15 June 2018, will not be renewed.

2. The Financial Manager, Nate Brown, is to fulfil the role of Acting Executive Director for a period of 3 months; and

3. The Human Resource consultant is to engage in a Recruitment and Selection process for the Executive Director function forthwith.

The PAI Board would like to assure all its stakeholders that the former Executive Director was part of deliberations on the consolidation phase that includes advertising the Executive Director function at PAI. PAI looks forward to your support in building a powerful network of LGBTIQ+ organisations and formations on the African continent!

The PAI Board would like to thank Monica Tabengwa for her commitment and support in the initiation phase of establishing the organization and for helping to create a movement that is a force on the continent. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

Thank you,
PAI Board

We will share the application for the post of Executive Director of Pan Africa ILGA within the next few weeks.

From left to right: Former Executive Director, Monica Tabengwa; Acting Executive Director, Nate Brown.
Photo of Monica: PAI Media Team
Announcement of New Pan Africa ILGA Board

26 June 2018

The PAI Staff is pleased and proud to announce a new Pan Africa ILGA Board, and ask you to join us in congratulating them.

The new Board was elected on the 4th of June at the 4th PAI Regional Conference in Gaborone, Botswana, held between the 31st of May and the 4th of June. Of the 10 Board members elected, 3 Board members were re-elected and will be serving their second term.

We are excited to welcome new faces that bring a refreshing energy, a variety of invaluable skill sets and the lived experience of their countries’ LGBTIQ+ communities. The Board members represent the countries of Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Uganda, Togo and Zambia.

The new Board is as follows –

- Naoufal Bouzid and Nnedinma J. Ulanmo (Co-Chairs)
- Jean Paul Enama and Sheba Akpokli (Alternates)
- Barbra Wangare (Secretary)
- Sandra Kwikiriza (Treasurer)
- Frida Wahrania
- Henry Sakala
- Jennifer Henshaw
- Kevin Mwachiro.

We will share the biographies of the current Board soon, introducing you to each of them individually.

PAI would like to extend our deep-felt thanks to members of the outgoing Board for their commitment to PAI; their tireless work; their leadership; and for working with the PAI Staff to achieve the dreams we all share for the organisation and the African continent.

With gratitude, we bid you farewell, but not goodbye:

- Akudo Oguaghamba and Richard Lusimbo (Co-Chairs)
- Caine Youngman
- Isaac Mugisha
- Jay Mulucha
- Kanyanta Kakana
- Star Rugori.

We commit ourselves to continue working towards our vision for PAI with the current Board, guided by the inspiration and wisdom of the outgoing Board, as we begin this new chapter in serving the LGBTIQ+ communities across the continent.

The PAI Team

Annonce D’un Nouveau Directoire De Pan Africa Ilga

Le personnel de PAI a le plaisir et la fierté d’annoncer le nouveau Directoire de Pan African IGLA, et vous prie de nous rejoindre pour féliciter les nouveaux membres du directoire;

Le nouveau Directoire a été élu le 04 juin dernier à la 4e Conférence Régionale de PAI tenue à Gaborone au Botswana. Cette conférence s’était étendue du 31 mai au 04 juin 2018 ; des 10 membres de l’ancien Directoire, 3 ont été réélus et vont servir l’organisation pour un deuxième mandat;

Nous sommes enthousiasmés de souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux visages qui ramènent une énergie rafraîchissante, une variété de compétences inestimables et l’expérience des communautés LGBTIQ+ vécue de leurs pays respectif. Les nouveaux membres du directoire représentent les pays suivants: l’Algérie, le Cameroun, le Kenya, le Libéria, le Maroc, le Nigéria, l’Uganda, le Togo et la Zambie.

Le nouveau directoire se présente de la manière suivante:

- Naoufal Bouzid et Nnedinma J. Ulanmo (Co-Présidents)
- Jean Paul Enama et Sheba Akpokli (Substitus)
- Barbra Wangare (Secrétaire)
- Sandra Kwikiriza (Trésorière)
- Frida Wahrania
- Henry Sakala
- Jennifer Henshaw
- Kevin Mwachiro.

Nous publierons bientôt les biographies de ces nouveaux membres du Directoire, pour vous les présenter individuellement.

PAI voudrait exprimer ses sincères remerciements aux membres du Directoire sortant pour leur engagement envers la plateforme; leur travail inlassable; leur leadership; et pour avoir travaillé dans une collaboration étroite avec le personnel de PAI afin de réaliser les rêves que nous partageons tous pour l’organisation et le continent Africain.

Avec gratitude, nous prenons congé de vous, mais ce n’est pas un au revoir; voici ci-dessous le Directoire sortant:

- Co-Présidents Akudo Oguaghamba et Richard Lusimbo
- Caine Youngman
- Isaac Mugisha
- Jay Mulucha
- Kanyanta Kakana
- Star Rugori.

Nous nous engageons à continuer de travailler sur notre vision du PAI avec le Directoire actuel, guidés par l’ inspiration et la sagesse du Directoire sortant, alors que nous commençons ce nouveau chapitre au service des communautés LGBTIQ+ à travers le Continent.

L’Equipe de PAI
4th Regional PAI Conference, Gaborone, Botswana: A Reflection

With the long awaited 4th PAI Regional Conference, from May 31 to June 04, in Gaborone, Botswana, completed – it is now time for reflection.

PAI made history. This was the largest LGBTIQ+ conference on the African continent, attended by over 327 delegates from 34 African countries, and 11 non-African countries. It was an incredible feat!

Announcement of Host City for the 2020 Conference

In a unanimous decision, Accra in Ghana was voted to host the 5th Regional Pan Africa ILGA Conference in 2020.

The opening session saw delegates welcomed by Hon. Sergeant Kgosietsile from the Gaborone City Council, who pledged that despite the ongoing criminalisation of same-sex sexual relations in Botswana, the elected representatives of the country’s capital would do what they could to stand with the LGBTIQ+ community. Together with LEGABIBO (Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana), the host organisation to the conference, which just last year won the right to register as a nonprofit organisation, Kgosietsile said the Council would work towards decriminalisation and ending discrimination.

Thereafter, PAI’s guest of honour, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGIE), addressed the conference participants, and made a very critical point on the importance of shifting gears’ when it comes to the ways in which people think about LGBTIQ+ activism. “We don’t need to go faster in the direction we are going. We need to change the direction we are going. We need a paradigm shift in the way we think about the issues we face” said Madrigal-Borloz. “We always hear that civil society spaces are shrinking, but they are being shrunk!” he continued, citing the importance of pushing back against the wave of anti-democratic sentiment that has overtaken much of mainstream politics globally. Madrigal-Borloz was not alone voice on the topic of advocacy and the how we need to move forward.

On the panel with him, speaking to strategies to engage human rights and human rights mechanisms, in the interests of developing safe ground for LGBTIQ+ people on the continent, were Maina Kiai the former UN Special Rapporteur of Freedom of Assembly and Association; and Professor Sheila Tlou, Chair of Global HIV Prevention Coalition. Prof Tlou’s passionate rhetoric was well-received by fellow activists, as she stated that her colleagues within the Botswana government would tell her, “God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve”, to which she would respond, “but Steve is here, and he is our child too!”
The panel on Delivering Justice Using Human Rights Mechanisms highlighted the importance of justice delivery systems, especially judges, being able to effectively use the existing human rights mechanisms to protect LGBTIQ+ persons. In his address, South African Constitutional Court Justice Edwin Cameron indicated his appreciation for the resilience and commitment of LGBTIQ+ activists and human rights defenders. Cameron said, “The pride, determination and assertiveness of those at #PAICon2018 are much greater than our grief and suffering - but both are important”. It is true that often the courts are the last defenders. Cameron said, “The pride, determination and assertiveness of those at #PAICon2018 are much greater than our grief and suffering - but both are important”. It is true that often the courts are the last hope for the long suffering LGBTIQ+ activists who are regularly subjected to human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. This remains an important issue for PAI to address, going forward.

The wide range of sessions over the course of proceedings brought tremendous engagement and a great many opportunities for delegates to learn from and network with one another. The panel entitled Organising Against All Odds saw delegates from across Africa speak on the dangers and difficulties their communities face when trying to fight for equality. One delegate spoke only through an audio broadcast to protect their identity, hammering home the severe risk that many delegates go through every day in service of the LGBTIQ+ community and human rights.

The LGBTIQ+ community in Africa is stronger now than it was at the 2014 PAI Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and stronger than two years ago in Johannesburg, South Africa. As one delegate said, “The people you see at the conference are warriors - they have survived - and are not going away!” Our movement is strong!

May we be even stronger in 2020 for our conference planned for Accra, Ghana.
Left: Leigh Davids from SWEAT (Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Taskforce) and Jholerina Brina Timbo from Wings to Transcend Namibia attending the Transgender Pre-Conference.

Below: Richard Lusimbo (outgoing co-chair of the Pan Africa ILGA Board) and Monica Tabengwa (Executive Director of Pan Africa ILGA).

Images: PAI Media Team

Left: Iranti-org’s Jabu Perreira speaking about mental health and wellness within the community.

Images: PAI Media Team

Right, from left to right: In conversation at the Interfaith Pre-Conference, organised by GIN-SSOGIE (Global Interfaith Network) and House of Rainbow. Rev. John Tyler Connel, Davis Moe Phathla, Madelenne Isaacks, Rev. Dumi Mmualefe, Charlene van der Walt and Ecclesia de Lange.

Image: PAI Media Team

For more news and images from the conference.
Interview with Victor Madrigal-Borloz: Video


Topics covered include:
- his mandate, his commitment to the mandate and how he carries out his mandate;
- Human Rights Mechanisms and the importance of furthering international consensus on the rights of LGBTIQ+ people;
- the importance of the Conference;
- his work within individual countries;
- the importance of the interfaith dialogue at the UN and within the LGBTIQ+ movement, and the inter-relation between religion and politics in determining countries’ stances on LGBTIQ+ issues;
- uniting all spheres of state and non-state actors in working towards the end of violence and discrimination.

Watch the full interview.

In late 2017 the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed Mr. Madrigal-Borloz as UN Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity for a three years period starting on 1 January 2018. In this capacity, he assesses the implementation of international human rights law, raises awareness, engages in dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, and provides advisory services, technical assistance, capacity-building to help address violence and discrimination against persons on the basis of the sexual orientation or gender identity.

Victor Madrigal-Borloz, a Costa Rican jurist, serves as the Secretary-General of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), a global network of over 150 rehabilitation centres with the vision of full enjoyment of the right to rehabilitation for all victims of torture and ill treatment.

A member of the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture from 2013 to 2016, Mr Madrigal-Borloz was Rapporteur on Reprisals and oversaw a draft policy on the torture and ill-treatment of LGBTI persons. Prior to this he led technical work on numerous cases, reports and testimonies as Head of Litigation and Head of the Registry at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and has also worked at the Danish Institute for Human Rights (Copenhagen, Denmark) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (San José, Costa Rica).

Mr Madrigal-Borloz is a founding member of the Costa Rican Association of International Law (ACODI), a founding Board member of the International Justice Resource Centre (IURC), and a founding Board member of Synergia-IDH.

Acknowledgements

The Pan Africa ILGA Team would like to thank the following groups and individuals therein for their contributions to the Conference:
- Our donors.
- Our member organisations.
- Organisers of the Pre-Conferences.
- Speakers, panelists and moderators.
- The outgoing PAI Board.
- Conference Delegates.

Pan Africa ILGA extends our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and participation in the work that we do. Without your support, the most successful conference we’ve had to date would not have been possible.

Convening 327 African LGBTIQ+ activists from 39 African countries in a safe space for the exchange of ideas, the strengthening of solidarity and uniting our individual causes to mobilise the African LGBTIQ+ movement with the support of global activists is a powerful statement to African governments that discrimination against our people and communities will no longer be tolerated.

As Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the SOGIE Independent Expert to the United Nations said at the conference: “Africa is full of pain, but also full of joy.” This conference was testament to that, and we at Pan Africa ILGA and LeGaBiBo will continue to fight for both, stand up against the intolerance, and celebrate the strides that continue to be made each day.

We can continue to do that and enable the voices of Africa to be heard, thanks to you. In gratitude, solidarity and our continued relationship.

Our Donors
- Arcus Foundation
- African Queer Youth Initiative (AQYI)
- The Baring Foundation
- COC – Nederlands
- The Ford Foundation
- Grindr4Equality
- HIVOS Southern Africa
- International Lesbian, Gay, Tran and Intersex Association (ILGA)
- ISDAO
- MamaCash
- Open Society of Southern Africa (OSISA)
- The Other Foundation
- UHAI
Our Co-Hosts

We’d like to extend our sincere gratitude to our hosts in Botswana – LEGABIBO: Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana, without whom this conference would not have been possible. Thank you for sharing the generosity and spirit of the Batswana people with us, and for the unforgettable evening featuring Tswana dancers, where even Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the Independent Expert on SOGIE reporting to the UN, couldn’t help but shake his groove-thang.


And to the Batswana volunteers – your hard work and commitment was invaluable. We see you and honour you.

Interview with PAI’s Anthony Oluoch: Decriminalising LGBTIQ+ on the African continent

An interview with PAI Programme Manager, Anthony Oluoch. By Alex Garner from Hornet.

LGBT communities across Africa face all sorts of challenges. Pan Africa ILGA is an organization dedicated to supporting LGBT organizers and activists across the continent. In fact, Pan Africa ILGA just brought together nearly 300 LGBT activists at their regional conference in Gaborone, Botswana. We had the opportunity to speak with Anthony Oluoch, one of the conference organizers, about the struggle for LGBT equality across Africa.

Africa is an enormous continent with diverse LGBT experiences. What is Pan Africa ILGA doing to advance LGBT rights across the continent?

Being an organization with membership across the continent, we at Pan Africa ILGA understand the diversity of social, economic and political contexts that exist in the continent. The issues people face in North Africa with regard to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression are completely different from those faced in Eastern and Southern Africa. The way to deal with these issues also differs from context to context. Knowing this, Pan Africa ILGA works with member organizations on the ground who know what they need done and how best to do it. We’re focused on increasing the ability of activists on the ground to better advocate for their rights with regards to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression at national, regional and international levels. We train activists on human rights mechanisms including the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the United Nations Human Rights Council and Treaty Bodies. We give them information on how best to use these mechanisms to fight for their rights and ensure non-discrimination on any ground, including LGBTI status. We also create spaces in which activists can meet each other and learn from best practice while exchanging ideas on the work they do in their various regions.

What are the biggest issues facing LGBT people across Africa currently?

In most African countries, same-sex conduct has been criminalized. It’s a form of state-sponsored discrimination. The issue of security leaves LGBTI vulnerable to violence and harassment, as it is implicitly sanctioned or approved by the government. Also, people may not know what their rights are. Training LGBTI to better understand their rights is very important.

What advice do you have for LGBT activists across Africa who want to do more?

Listen to people on the ground and discover what can be done. Listen and act. Don’t just assume they know what the issues are.

What do you think it will take to change anti-LGBT policies in countries like Uganda?

A lot of work. It has to involve a lot more than just changing the laws. We need to focus on the mindset of the community and culture to create long-term change. That can include media advocacy and sensitization among police and other government officials, religious leaders, the health sector and the judicial system.

What are some specific actions people can take to support the efforts of LGBT activists around the issue of decriminalization?

Support activists on the ground. African activists need to be able to lead while global activists assist from behind by sharing resources and offering support, so as not to reinforce the belief of “western import” of LGBTI.

This article was first published on Hornet.com.

Anthony Oluoch is a Kenyan lawyer who has worked within the LGBTIQ+ movement since 2011. He worked as the Legal and Human Rights Officer at the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya where he was instrumental in the design and initial implementation of what was then, a strategy towards decriminalization of adult consensual same sex conduct. He then joined Gay Kenya Trust, an organization that works towards equality and non-discrimination for all including gay and lesbian individuals in Kenya. He sits on the advisory panel of the Queen’s Young Leaders Award and the board of the IDAHOT Committee. Tony joined PAI in 2017.
Pan Africa ILGA is the largest membership based and democratically organised LGBTIQ+ federation in Africa. PAI currently consists of over 150 African organisations and 40 international organisations working on human rights and equality for LGBTIQ+ people.

How to become a member:
Please be aware that only organisations (not individuals) can apply for membership. At its next meeting, the Executive Board of ILGA will review your membership and you will receive communication as to the status of your application.

The membership fee is €60 for two years. Apply for membership.

Become a Member

As a member organisation of PAI, your organisation would benefit from news we share via email about:
• calls for papers, local and international conference invites, announcements from donors and other opportunities we share with you;
• capacity-building programmes and training;
• the opportunity to create a network with other organisations across the African continent in order for our movement and the work each organisation does to have maximum impact, and creating a platform for your organisation to make its voice heard; and,
• access to knowledge and experience from our members and ally organisations that will grow your organisation and its influence within your country and the continent.
• As a member organisation you will be able to contribute to the strategic direction of Pan Africa ILGA through being able to vote at the bi-annual AGM for a new PAI Board, the host country for our bi-annual Regional Conference, and on changes to our Constitution.

Pan Africa ILGA is the largest membership based and democratically organised LGBTIQ+ federation in Africa. PAI currently consists of over 150 African organisations and 40 international organisations working on human rights and equality for LGBTIQ+ people.

For enquiries and any news you want to share with us for our newsletter: admin@panafricailga.org

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87 De Korte Street, Heerengracht Building, 9th Floor, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel: +27 11 339 1139 Email: admin@panafricailga.org Website: www.panafricailga.org
NPO Number: 155-669