

**Pan Africa ILGA
4th Regional LGBTIQ+ Conference
31st of May – 4th of June 2018**



“our pride and love>our grief and fear”

**CONFERENCE REPORT
June 2018**

The Pan Africa ILGA 4th Regional LGBTIQ+ Conference held in Gaborone, Botswana, 2018 was the largest LGBTIQ+ conference on the African continent.

The Conference, convened by PAI and hosted by Gaborone-based LeGaBiBo (Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana), was attended by 327 delegates from 37 African countries and 17 other countries across the globe.

The Conference provided a safe space to engage, debate, think critically, cry, laugh - and simply enjoy being a part of our vibrant LGBTIQ+ community.

Young LGBTIQ+ activists conversed robustly with older activists, creating very rich inter-generational conversations, on how to take forward the work that has been achieved in the past, and the work that is being done currently.

In spite of the chaos that went along with the Conference, and yes, we have to admit there was chaos, we owned it, we worked through it, and we rose above it!



Reference: Delegates at the Opening Session of the PAI 4th Regional Conference

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

2. Acknowledgements

2.1 Conference Planning Team

2.2 Funders

2.3 Conference Convener Profile: Pan Africa ILGA

2.4 Host Profile: LeGaBiBo

3. Structure of the Conference

3.1 Main Conference and Annual General Meeting

3.2 Pre-Conferences

4. DAY ONE: Opening Session – 2nd June 2018

4.1 Shifting Gears: Development Policy, Human Rights and Current Realities

4.2 Delivering Justice Using Human Rights Mechanisms

4.3 Organising Against All Odds

5. DAY TWO: Plenaries - 3rd June 2018

5.1 Queering Boxes: Intersecting Identities

5.2 Who's Shaping the Agenda? Money, Power and Politics

5.3 Re-imagining the Future and Pre-Conference Feedback

5.4 Pre-Conferences: 31st May - 1st June

6. Parallel Workshop Sessions – 2nd and 3rd June 2018

6.1 Day One – 2nd June 2018

6.2 Day Two – 3rd June 2018

7. PAI Annual General Meeting – 4th June 2018

7.1 The Election Process

7.2 Meet the New Board

8. Challenges and Achievements

8.1 Acquisition of Visas

8.2 Cancellation of South African Express Airline to Botswana

8.3 Logistical Issues at the Hotel

8.4 Meals and Venues

8.5 Programme

8.6 Conclusion

9. Key Themes Emerging from the Conference

10. Conclusion

Abbreviations and Glossary

Appendices

Appendix One: DAY ONE PROGRAMME

Appendix Two: DAY TWO PROGRAMME



Reference: Outgoing Co-Chair Richard Lusimbo and PAI Executive Director Monica Tabengwa celebrate the opening of the PAI 4th Regional Conference

1. Introduction

Pan Africa ILGA's 4th LGBTIQ+ Regional Conference theme, *Empowering LGBTIQ+ Youth: Uniting for an Inclusive Future*, was aimed at facilitating an inter-generational conversation on finding ways to empower LGBTIQ+ youth in the movement. We all acknowledged that empowering youth is integral to building the LGBTIQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Plus) movement across the continent and into the future.

Millions of youth on the continent find themselves unemployed, are often under-educated, and find themselves in very vulnerable socio-economic positions. In the LGBTIQ+ community there is limited ability to access services that the rest of the community easily accesses. Besides the limited access to services, this community is prone to mental health issues, substance abuse, minimal access to policy-making bodies, and very limited economic or employment opportunities.

By focusing on youth empowerment, PAI aims to contribute to:

1. building a more unified LGBTIQ+ youth voice;
2. increasing participation of LGBTIQ+ youth in decision-making, particularly within PAI;
3. establishing clear channels of communication; and
4. developing a unified and clear message from young people with guidelines on youth activism.

For the biennial Regional Conferences, PAI works with a host organisation from the country in which the conference is held. Following the conference in Kenya in 2014, where Ishtar MSM hosted, to the South African conference in 2016 hosted by Iranti-Org, PAI members voted for Botswana after LeGaBiBo (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals of Botswana) successfully lobbied for the conference to be held in their country.

A total of 327 delegates from 37 African countries, representing all five regions of the continent, and 17 other countries across the globe came together for the Conference, making this the biggest LGBTIQ+ conference ever to be held on the African continent. The official PAI Media Team captured the proceedings and conducted a wide range of interviews in order not only to create material for the sector, but also to take the debates into the future on the PAI website and beyond.

On site, participants were encouraged to engage the panelists and to document their experiences on: the PAI Facebook page, via the Conference's smart mobile application, and on Twitter under the hashtags #PAIcon2018, #LeGaBiBo hosts and the @PanAfricaILGA @LeGaBiBoadvo accounts. The following was achieved: #PAIcon2018 saw 500 posts from 118 users, 345,485 people were

reached, there were 812,491 impressions, and @PanAfricaILGA tweets received approximately 54,000 organic impressions. It was most popular in: Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, USA, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Kenya.

Networking has always been central to the PAI Conferences. Our conferences are spaces for people from LGBTIQ+ communities from East, West, North, Central and Southern Africa to meet, interact, debate and overall, celebrate their diversity!

2. Acknowledgments

2.1 Funders

Pan Africa ILGA acknowledges that the Conference would never have been possible without the unprecedented financial support received and advisory role played by our donors. We thank all our donors for their support in enabling the biggest LGBTIQ+ conference on the continent to take place. We acknowledge:

- Anonymous
- Arcus Foundation
- African Queer Youth Initiative (AQYI)
- The Baring Foundation
- COC Netherlands
- The Ford Foundation
- Grindr4Equality
- HIVOS Southern Africa
- International Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Intersex Association (ILGA)
- ISDAO
- MamaCash
- Open Society of Southern Africa (OSISA)
- The Other Foundation
- UHAI



2.2 Conference Team

Pan Africa ILGA would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who worked on the Conference, whose efforts ensured that the Conference was a success.

2.2.1 The PAI Conference Team

Executive Director – Monica Tabengwa

Financial Manager – Nate Brown

Programme Manager – Anthony Oluoch

Communications and Membership Officer – Germaine de Larch

Office Administrator – Delisile Mavuso.

Conference Co-ordinator - Zachary Akani Shimange

Conference Intern - Azania Sengwayo

Conference Media and Communications - Bobby Rodwell

2.2.2 Our Host Organisation LeGaBiBo

Chief Executive Officer - Anna Mmolai-Chalmers

Advocacy Manager - Caine Youngman

Finance and Administration Assistant - Obusistwe Modirapula

Communications and Documentation Officer - Bradley Fortuin

Health Officer - Casper Tshiping

2.2.3 Our Volunteers

The amazing young LeGaBiBo volunteers and interns, who gave their time to assist the team, without whom there would have been a huge gap in the management of the Conference.

2.3 Conference Convener Profile: Pan Africa ILGA



Pan Africa ILGA (PAI) is the largest membership based and democratically organized LGBTIQ+ organization in Africa. We currently have over 150 member organizations throughout the continent working on human rights and equality for LGBTIQ+ people. Our secretariat is based in Johannesburg, South Africa where we managed to secure registration as a Non-Profit Organization.

Vision

A Pan African movement that promotes and respects bodily integrity and equal protection of human rights regardless of culture, faith, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

Mission

To unify and strengthen LGBTIQ+ organising in Africa in order to challenge state legislation that impedes SOGIE-related work.

2.4 Host Profile: LeGaBiBo



LeGaBiBo (Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana) is the first LGBTIQ+ organization in Botswana. It was founded by Ditshwanelo, the Center for Human Rights in 1998.

Vision

Creating a tolerant social environment where diversity is appreciated and celebrated.

Mission

LeGaBiBo is a national NGO that empowers the LGBTIQ+ community and the society on sexual diversity through awareness raising and building a critical mass to promote tolerance.

3. Structure of the Conference

3.1 Main Conference and PAI Annual General Meeting

The main Conference was structured into two Plenary Sessions, held on the mornings of 2nd and 3rd of June. These were followed by Parallel Workshop Sessions in the afternoons, where workshops on a wide range of topics offered delegates the opportunity to attend sessions of their choice.

The third day of the Conference, on the 4th of June, was the PAI Annual General Meeting, which included the election of a new Board for 2018 to 2020.

3.2 Pre-Conferences

PAI Conferences have always included a range of thematically structured Pre-Conferences. These Pre-Conferences are normally hosted by different organizations in different fields, offering an opportunity for invited delegates to focus on specific needs and interests of both their organizations and the demographic they represent.

The 4th Regional Conference had planned seven Pre-Conferences but only six ended up taking place between 31st of May and 1st of June. The deliberations at the Pre-Conferences were reported back during the Plenary Session on the second day of the Conference, and form part of this report. It is important to note that this Conference made history by being the first LGBTIQ+ conference to convene and host a successful and very well attended Inter-Faith Pre-Conference in collaboration with House of Rainbow, as well as the first Intersex Pre-Conference held in Africa.



Reference: Yahia Zaidi (left) one of the founder members of Pan Africa ILGA and André du Plessis (Right) Executive Director ILGA

4. DAY ONE – Opening Session: 2nd June 2018

Richard Lusimbo, PAI Co-Chair (2016-2018) opened the Conference and welcomed the delegates, most of whom had travelled many hours to get to Gaborone. Lusimbo thanked partner organisations, PAI members, visitors, and funders, without whom the Conference could not have happened. The Co-Chair acknowledged that there were some logistical issues being faced by the delegates on their arrival. He assured the delegates that the Conference Team was working around the clock to ensure that everything would be harmonised, and everyone would be settled. He noted that there were colleagues who could not, in spite of all of the Team's effort, make it to the Conference. This included the PAI Co-Chair, Akudo Oguaghamba, who was not able to attend as the Botswana Government did not grant her visa. He stressed that the proceedings would not be hampered by the travel difficulties and visa problems, and that the Conference would go ahead.

The Chair of the Chairing Pool for the Conference, Yahia Zaidi, introduced the Chairing Pool and explained roles and functions of the Chairing Pool to the delegates.

The Co-Chair then welcomed Hon. Sergeant Kgosietsile, who was representing the Mayor of Gaborone, Hon. Kagiso Thutlwe, onto the stage to deliver the official welcome. Hon. Sergeant Kgosietsile welcomed the delegates to Botswana and apologised for the refusal of visas for some of the delegates. Hon. Kgosietsile stated, "as the City of Gaborone council we apologise for that, we are saying ladies and gentlemen we will correct that as a country and next time those who are supposed to be here will be here."

Most importantly, Hon. Kgosietsile pledged the support of the elected representatives of the nation's capital city to work towards ending criminalization and discrimination of the LGBTIQ+ community. He highlighted the importance of unity and spoke to the gains Botswana has made in legislature with regard to LGBTIQ+ rights in the country. He emphasised that no one in Botswana can have their employment terminated on the basis of their sexual orientation or can be refused employment for who they are, urging other African countries to learn from this example.

Hon. Kgosietsile highlighted the case where the hosting organisation, LeGaBiBo, won the right to register officially as an LGBTIQ+ organisation in 2016. He further pointed to the cases in 2017, where transgender people were granted the right to change their names and genders on official documents.

Hon. Kgosietsile stated that he is proud of the milestones that Botswana has achieved. He acknowledged further that having the 4th Regional PAI Conference in Botswana was very

important and indicated that the Gaborone City Council had given its full support to the Conference.

Furthermore, Hon. Kgosietsile said that the Gaborone City Council pledged support for the current legislative process that is currently being undertaken for the decriminalisation of same-sex conduct. Botswana's High Court is currently hearing a case challenging a law which bans same-sex relations and prescribes a prison sentence of up to seven years. LeGaBiBo's CEO, Anna Mmolai-Chalmers, said that this is the most ideal time and environment to be challenging this law in court: "If we win, it will be a milestone achievement."

Hon. Kosietsile went on to say that, "I today renew my call on the Parliament of Botswana to decriminalise same-sex sexual conduct. My comrades and I at Gaborone City Council have joined the voice of the former president, His Excellency, Festus Mokahe, in calling out for decriminalisation. This is a broad step that our country must take, and there is broad support for this".

In conclusion, Hon. Sergeant Kgosietsile, welcomed each and every delegate to the City of Gaborone.



Reference: Hon. Sergeant Kgosietsile welcomes delegates to the City of Gaborone

4.1 Shifting Gears: Development Policy, Human Rights and Current Realities

MODERATOR: ALICE MOGWE

**PANELISTS: VICTOR MADRIGAL-BORLOZ: UNITED NATIONS SOGI EXPERT
MAINA KIAI: FORMER UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR OF FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY
& ASSOCIATION
PROF. SHEILA TLOU: CHAIR OF GLOBAL HIV PREVENTION COALITION**



Reference: Victor Madrigal-Borloz, United Nations Independent SOGI Expert

The session was opened by Victor Madrigal-Borloz, United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. He started his presentation by warning delegates about the deliberate shrinking of civil society across the globe. He indicated that that was a worry but also noted that the situation regarding violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression is gradually getting better across the continent.

Madrigal-Borloz indicated that while many international laws are in place, implementation has been slow, especially in some African nations: “It is important for organisations to relate to their states and to understand the differences in their legislative and political systems, particularly where laws violate international human rights standards,” said Madrigal-Borloz. He argued that civil society is best placed to help the African region move towards the human rights development goals. Madrigal-Borloz added that he was grateful that despite immense opposition, African LGBTIQ+ organisations fought to establish the mandate of the independent expert.

Professor Sheila Tlou is the Co-Chair of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition and former Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa. Prior to this, she served as a Member of Parliament and Minister of Health of the Republic of Botswana from 2004 to 2008. During this time, she said, she addressed issues of sex workers and would smuggle condoms into prison despite what the legislation said about the legality of these two activities: “Just because certain conduct is illegal does not mean that it isn’t happening,” said Tlou. She emphasized the need to empower the youth and to work with them because of their digital astuteness. Tlou emphasised her commitment to promoting access to sexual reproductive health rights for all individuals.

Maina Kiai, Former Un Special Rapporteur of Freedom of Assembly and Association reminded the delegates of the gains made thus far and that they should acknowledge how laws in Africa are changing: “In the past, even mainstream civil society in South Africa did not want to talk about LGBTIQ+ rights. The idea is to keep going, to reach out to mainstream organisations and bring them into the work we do.” Kiai asked the delegation to think about how to mainstream LGBTIQ+ rights within all development organisations.

Kiai spoke of the latent agenda to close civic space and that this must be safeguarded against. A great deal has been achieved through civil society over the past 15 years in this continent, and these are gains that cannot be lost. “The things we thought impossible are now possible.” Human Rights organisations and civil society are now professionalized and skilled institutions. What still needs to be strengthened is grassroots organisations and activists.

The panel agreed that the human rights approach cannot be separated from the developmental approach as they feed into one another.



Reference: Maina Kiai speaks on the Opening Panel

4.2 Delivering Justice Using Human Rights Mechanisms

MODERATOR: LESEGO NCHUNGA

**PANELISTS: JUSTICE EDWIN CAMERON: SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT
NJERI GATERU: NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
TASHWILL ESTERHUIZEN: SOUTH AFRICAN LITIGATION CENTRE**

The panel highlighted the importance of justice delivery systems and how judges can effectively use the existing human rights mechanisms to give legal protection to LGBTIQ+ persons. The question was asked - how do past and current methods promote justice delivery, and how can these methods be adopted to ensure that individual rights are fulfilled by creating access and promoting these rights?

Panelists discussed strategic approaches to using the judicial system at domestic, regional and international level, to ensure that human rights protections for LGBTIQ+ persons, which are enshrined in national constitutions and international law, are realised and fulfilled. The discussion also explored access to justice and what expectations to have when taking up issues with the courts.

South African Litigation Centre's Tashwill Esterhuizen pointed out that, "When it comes to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, in Southern Africa, it is questionable whether international human rights instruments and mechanisms impact on the lives of the marginalised."

Esterhuizen added that LGBTIQ+ activists get more recognition at international fora than in the regional context. He pointed out that when regional engagement with government fails, activists resort to litigation as a strategy to promote the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons. High courts are more eager to engage in LGBTIQ+ matters than the lower courts. For this reason, much work needs to be done with magistrates, prosecutors and police. Commenting on the change that has happened in Botswana over the recent years, Esterhuizen stated that these achievements must be attributed to the civil society organisation, LeGaBiBo, and the sustained advocacy from civil society and LGBTIQ+ activists.

In his address, South African Constitutional Court Justice Edwin Cameron indicated that he appreciated the resilience and commitment of LGBTIQ+ activists and human rights defenders: "It is true that often the courts are the last hope for the long suffering of LGBTIQ+ activists who are

regularly subjected to human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.” Justice Cameron indicated that he is proud that under the South African Constitution, many LGBTIQ+ matters have been brought to the Constitutional Court and adjudicated fairly.

Njeri Gateru, of the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission of Kenya, indicated that it is important to define the concept of ‘justice’ in order to have a conversation about delivering justice using human rights mechanisms. She stated that justice has been defined as the appearance of fairness. “Then who is the beneficiary of justice if justice is just an appearance?” she questioned.

Gateru spoke about the importance of the beneficiary ‘feeling’ that justice was delivered, not merely the appearance of it. She stated that despite the criminalisation of homosexuality in Kenya, its constitution has a sound Bill of Rights that promotes fair hearing, as a right that cannot be limited.

Gateru indicated that her organization had made a great achievement in the past year in Kenya, when it sued the state and won, resulting in the court handing down the ruling which makes forced anal examinations illegal. “Holding my government accountable is how I deliver justice to my community,” Gateru concluded.

The session engaged with the role of courts in effecting social change. The point was emphasised that courts ratify but do not lead social change. It is for this reason, said Justice Cameron, that “the law has the capacity to deal with the hardest conflict and histories through human reasoning - and through humanity and civil society recognising that the change must come.”

4.3 Organising Against All Odds

MODERATOR: RICHARD LUSIMBO

**PANELISTS: YAHIA ZAIDI (ALGERIA), FRANK MUGISHA (UGANDA)
MARVELOUS TAMBWE (TANZANIA), RICKY NATHANSON (ZIMBABWE),
SUDANESE ACTIVIST**

Moderator Richard Lusimbo opened the session by engaging the panelists on the fact that in their various contexts, they are often *organizing against all odds*. Lusimbo spoke to the difficulties of organising in spaces where culture, religion, and legal recourse push back against activism for

LGBTIQ+ individuals. We exist, and we are doing everything possible to organize for who we are. In doing so, it is also important to identify allies.

Ricky Nathanson, Executive Director of Transgender Research, Education and Training in Zimbabwe said living the way she does in her society is in itself a form of advocacy. For Nathanson, at some point the law does become the only recourse for transgender advocacy because transgender people are still identified as gay or lesbian in Zimbabwe.

The Sudanese activist spoke about how in Sudan, homosexuality is punishable by the death penalty. The fact that she is participating in a conference of this nature as a Sudanese lesbian, automatically means that she is organizing against all odds. She said she is an anomaly in her own country and would face serious legal consequences if her government was aware that she was here. She indicated that she is very isolated in the work she does and it is often her responsibility to ensure the safety of other activists who form part of the LGBTIQ+ movement in Sudan and Egypt.

Marvellous Tambwe critiqued the hypocrisy of the Tanzanian cultural inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people. One such practice, is that transgender men often initiate brides into marriage, and this is an accepted practice. "So how are we accepted culturally but are excluded in other spaces?" Tambwe asked.

Yahia Zaidi of Algeria emphasised the need for diversity, wholeness and transparent discussion in the movement to strengthen solidarity. He said building networks across the Maghreb, for example, is the most effective way to ensure that work continues despite the challenges that arise in the process.

Frank Mugisha spoke about the difficulty of organizing in Uganda. He said that it felt as if the LGBTIQ+ movement was struggling to survive against all odds because any new developments could be undone indiscriminately. Mugisha noted that the work has not stopped despite the challenges because there is a very vibrant community in Uganda. They will continue to organize, occupy spaces and increase their visibility.

5. DAY TWO – Plenary Sessions: 3rd June 2018

5.1 Queering the Boxes: Intersecting Identities

MODERATOR: BARBRA WANGARE

**PANELISTS: ACTIVIST FROM ZAMBIA JEAN-ERIC NKURIKIYE (BURUNDI/SOUTH AFRICA)
IMMA REID (KENYA) NTHABISENG MOKOENA (SOUTH AFRICA)**

Moderator Barbra Wangare introduced the topic of Queering the Boxes, highlighting the fact that while there are intersections that exist between the identities represented by the LGBTIQ+ acronym, these identities hardly ever stand alone and are intersectional.

The panelists' different identities that are political and directly attached to the minority they organise with are influenced by factors other than what they embody including race, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, age, ethnicity education, class and so on. It was argued that language is important for political purposes, without which some identities are often obscured by the experiences of others.

The intersectionality conversation forces us to be aware about where power lies at any given moment. Looking at identities as singular has affected organising and reproduced hierarchies of power in the LGBTIQ+ movement. An activist from Southern Africa introduced himself and explained his identity saying, "I don't identify as a transgender man, I am a man that was assigned female at birth [...] I am not moving from anything to anything. I have always been this person."



Reference: Imma Reid presenting in Plenary session Queering the Boxes

Jean-Eric Nkurukiye went on to ask the plenary, “Do we have words in our mother tongue to be able to label ourselves? If not, are these identities ours or are we forced to conform to them?”

Nthabiseng Mokoena highlighted the importance of these labels and choosing to locate yourself at particular intersections, “we are all human and we need to leave the boxes. Yes, I do agree we need to disrupt these boxes. But when we say we are all human, we begin to blanket everything and think that everyone is getting equal access to resources which is not true [...] language matters and it is political.”

This panel had a heated debate on querying the boxes and agreed that there is a lot that still needs to be done in interrogating how all our identities intersect, when examining the LGBTIQ+ label under which all these alternative and diverse identities sit. This larger conversation needs to be carried forward.



Reference: Panel on *Querying the Boxes*

5.2 Who's Shaping the Agenda? Money, Power and Politics

MODERATOR: PAUL JANSEN

PANELISTS: CLEO KAMBUGU, RITS NKETIAH, KIM MUKASA, J. ANDREW BAKER, BOTHO MARUATONA

Moderator Paul Jansen led the discussion to look more closely at the role power and politics play on how money is distributed in the movement and what role funders and civil society play in human rights development.

Panelists raised concerns about the hierarchy of philanthropy and power dynamics between the funder and the grantee. There was a strong sentiment that social movements need to think more about social entrepreneurship rather than relying on donor funding. A discussion on the impact of funding patterns on the daily lives of LGBTIQ+ people ensued, and the various alternative avenues to navigating alternative funding patterns was shared.

Kim Musaka, Programme Officer of the International Transgender Fund (ITF), which has a mandate to fund transgender and non-binary communities, said that the ITF is currently focusing on reaching out to people from underrepresented and hostile areas, particularly where governments refuse registration of LGBTIQ+ organisations: "Movements are not just about registered organisations, they are about collectives and groups." The ITF grant-making panel is comprised of transgender activists because they understand their grantees' issues better. As an international fund, the ITF consults with groups and movements around the world on how best to simplify the application process. As it stands, the fund accepts video applications, and invites grantees to apply in five languages. On shaping the agenda and the importance of language, Mukasa emphasised the need to work broadly to include people from different communities.

Cleo Kambugu, Programme Officer for Grant Making and Administration at the East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative (UHAI), explained that UHAI does not have funding priorities because they are aware that applicants are not always well informed. "We have a loose description of the identities we work with, we acknowledge that LGBTIQ+ identities are not complete, and they could morph. We just focus on sexual and gender minorities, as well as sex workers," she added.

Rita Nketiah is an interim governing body member for Initiative Sankofa de'Afrique de'IOest (ISDAO), that funds and supports LGBTIQ+ activists in West Africa. This indigenous based fund plans to shape the West African agenda. The fund is run by a group of activists who understand the challenges of organising in the West African region. "We want to create a culture of

philanthropy to fund our own movements. We hope to talk to ITF and UHAI on what the best practices are in their respective regions,” said Nketiah. ISDAO is working on creating structures and hopes to issue its first grant in the first half of the year.

Botho Maruatona said money creates a hierarchy and funders are often interested in their own objectives. Maruatona said it was important to set up our own processes to document our achievements and challenges, within the movement. “Our movements are still based on the agendas that are brought in by others,” she said.

J. Andrew Baker, Senior Development Officer for ILGA, indicated that at ILGA, the agenda is being shaped from different platforms, but establishing regional funds at local level is how the funding framework is being positioned. “ILGA creates a space for organisations to engage in the international advocacy framework. Funding is always a challenge. Regions should grow and become more sustainable,” he added. He also emphasised the need to find ways to collaborate, strengthen the movement, and build relationships beyond dialogue.

5.3 Re-Imagining the Future and Pre-Conference Feedback

MODERATOR: ANTHONY OLUOCH

PANELISTS: RICHARD LUSIMBO (PAI), ANNA MMOLAI-CHALMERS (LeGaBiBo)

REPRESENTATIVES: PRE-CONFERENCES

Richard Lusimbo reminded the delegates about the need to strategize on how PAI can work within the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights with its continental membership. He reminded the plenary of the importance of focusing on the youth and ensuring that they hold influential positions. He noted that the language of PAI was not just English but French as well and that more steps needed to be taken to make it a more inclusive space. This requires resources and unfortunately, due to the fact that PAI does not have adequate resources, this would require employing more people, acquiring more partners and procuring more resources.

Anna Mmolai-Chalmers said there is a serious need to build a mass-based movement rather than to focus on the needs of a few individuals in their Botswana based LGBTIQ+ community. Movement building requires resources and an active community. It is especially important to have as many individuals and organisations as possible speaking on LGBTIQ+ rights as possible. She suggested the very pertinent need to fund research programmes that are credible, noting

that most of the available research opportunities are often used to victimise the LGBTIQ+ community in the region.

Lusimbo reminded the plenary that empowering the youth is not just about giving young people room to speak on a panel but that it is about getting young people directly involved in the work of an organisation. “It is about ensuring that their work and contribution is noted and noticeable,” he concluded.

The PAI Pre-Conferences took place between 31 May and 1 June, two days before the main Conference. Delegates met in six satellite venues to engage in thematic workshops. Each Pre-Conference was hosted by a collaboration of different organisations and invited delegates in their respective sectors. Participants shared personal experiences, best practices and discussed their distinct responsibilities under the diverse coalition of Africa’s LGBTIQ+ movement. The Pre-Conferences have always been a critical part of the PAI Conferences as they provide an opportunity for individuals to meet in their respective sectors and share experiences that may be lost within the larger conference.

5.3.1 Human Rights Mechanisms Pre-Conference

In the Human Rights Mechanisms Pre-Conference, participants reflected on their experiences in using global and continental human rights mechanisms to advance African LGBTIQ+ objectives. The invited delegates had previously engaged in several separate trainings on human rights mechanisms held in Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa. Such mechanisms include the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process under the United Nations Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR).

As a result of these trainings, developments were made in certain regions. In Uganda for instance, a manual/guide for persons living with HIV and research with findings was developed. In South Africa, Chapter 9 institutions and higher education echelons of government were engaged. A shadow report was prepared in Zimbabwe and presented in Geneva during the Universal Periodic Review process. In Botswana, due to the engagement of the activists who attended the training, the state considered two out of 30 recommendations on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, touching on non-discrimination and gender marker changes.

Of concern was the lack of knowledge on the UPR, however, international organisations like PAI have built a bridge that fosters training, drafting of shadow reports and bringing organisations together. It was agreed to that NGOs be part of the UPR process as it is the only space where states can address issues as they report back to international communities. The UPR has been successful in widening the number of NGOs working on LGBTIQ+ matters and is a very important tool for holding states accountable before, during and after building coalitions and working on these issues.

Victor Madrigal-Borloz noted that the UPR led to more engagement between African governments and LGBTIQ+ organisations on the continent. As a result of this, both sides have entered into dialogues and expanded their joint scope of work. He went on to elaborate on the role of his office and the issues he will explore further during his term, such as reparations for the systematic rights violations and discrimination faced by LGBTIQ+ people.

Participants expressed their frustrations on the difficulty of dealing with too many human rights mechanisms. It was argued that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are much simpler as they have already been incorporated in national plans. What made the SDGs even more attractive was the political will and talk by the states to implement them. The SDGs provide an entry point because the language is accessible and relevant to development. The goals are engineered towards eradicating inequalities or injustices and not toward 'working on them'. The reframing of the LGBTIQ+ movements' work through the SDGs provides new opportunities that are relevant for everyone, although regional coordination and feedback must continue as different regions require different approaches.

After separating into working groups, the participants discussed their capacity/training needs and their strategic agendas going forward.

The Southern African region noted a need to engage more on mechanisms closer to home. This included the African Union and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The region also agreed that an understanding of the UN Mechanisms and instruments was necessary considering the fact that the Africa block presented the strongest resistance on any discussion on SOGIE issues. Since sovereignty has always been a consistent issue in the region, a strategy needed to be set on ways in which to navigate the space and how best to speak on a practical level.

The Eastern African region focused on the need for capacity in campaigning, media engagement, security date and liaising with gatekeepers such as the police. The anti-homosexuality bill in Uganda was revoked through meaningful engagement and solidarity with civil society coalitions. In Tanzania, it was noted that most work is done online due to safety issues with state police. A strategy agenda was discussed to make use of available regional networks to engage with government. It was mentioned that the Equal Opportunity Commission is quite open to issues of LGBTIQ+ individuals and minority groups.

Those in attendance were advised to get sub-regional and regional support involved in the process should they wish to submit reports. They were encouraged to build a campaign as it helps the collective to focus on specific areas. Delegates were also advised to diversify and link issues beyond the LGBTIQ+ movement toward demonstrating how the public is directly impacted.

5.3.2 Interfaith Pre-Conference



Reference: A vibrant Inter-faith Pre-Conference took place

The Global Interfaith Network (GIN) led the Interfaith Pre-Conference where participants reflected on the key questions that shape the faith of LGBTIQ+ Africans. LGBTIQ+ youth in particular face tremendous difficulties in the transgender formation from childhood to adulthood. Laws, language influencing thought, social expectations and internal phobias about faith are major contributors to these challenges. In communities where access to education on human sexuality is limited, the interpretation of religious texts leaves little room for diversity. It is religious leaders who carry the responsibility not to cause further harm.

Inclusive and Affirmative Ministries (IAM) addresses these challenges from within the religious community. The scope of their work includes fighting ignorance, promoting more inclusive interpretations of scripture, and working to overcome internalised homophobia in the LGBTIQ+ community. However, African governments are often suspicious about the sources which fund LGBTIQ+ human rights campaigns. Since most funding is procured from the global North, state actors suspect that the funding serves the agenda of the global North, which is said to be destructive to African culture.

Thabisile Msezane is a member of the Women's Manyano at a Methodist Church and a former senior Vice President of the South African Council of Churches who started a campaign to assist black lesbian women who have been raped or live in fear of violence because of their sexuality. In her keynote address, Msezane spoke about the hypocrisy of certain churches. "It becomes a problem when the same church that I took my child to when they were born is the same church that turns around and calls my child a demon," she added. As church women, Msezane and the Women's Manyano attend the court trials of victims of hate crimes dressed in their church uniforms. She says their presence in these courts has resulted in higher sentences for perpetrators. The Women's Manyano engages in this work because they want to tell parents to stop rejecting their children and to join them as they pray, laugh and protect their children.

Msezane hopes to run a halfway house where people can come if they have nowhere else to go. She also hopes to expand her work beyond the borders of South Africa to help parents who are struggling to accept their children. “And we do this in the name of religion,” she concluded.

Virginia Magwaza from The Other Foundation moderated a panel on the need to develop strategic allies into public advocates for equality, dignity and social inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people. Magwaza posed an important question, “Why does South Africa have the highest hate crimes incidents reported yet it has the most beautiful legislative framework?” In answering her own question, Magwaza said a lot of work was still needed to change the attitudes and perceptions of people when it comes to LGBTIQ+ people. This session was set to answer four main questions; a) how can the LGBTIQ+ community best amplify the voices of authentic allies? b) can allies be found in an increasingly bureaucratic system that seek to exclude people? c) how can our allies be protected from stigmatization and d.) why are LGBTIQ+ people reluctant to embrace theological provocations?

Marlow Valentine from Positive Vibes in South Africa warned against the potential allies who tend to cause more harm when speaking on matters of the LGBTIQ+ community. “Allies are catalysts for change sometimes in spaces that we cannot access. But it must be said what we require of allies from the onset. Allies tend to take over and make up their own stories about queer people,” said Valentine. TP of the People’s Matrix Association in Lesotho said creating a safe space for people to share and learn with their allies is one way to alleviate this problem. “We need to provide the right information in order to penetrate through other movements,” he added. It was stated that the Direct Aid Society in Malawi said they have sex education programmes aimed at destigmatized LGBTIQ+ and allies through citing opportunities and creating new norms. He said it was important for allies to be informed, organized in their efforts, avoid emotions and controversy, get the media to report factually and to liaise with religious and opinion leaders.

Magwaza agreed and spoke about the work of Parents and Friends of South African Queers (PFSAQ). The organisation is run by LGBTIQ+ people who walk their allies through their open personal experiences and share information with them. The allies are then given platforms to speak in the presence of parents and other allies of the community. It was agreed by the panellists that more work was needed to address the excommunication of LGBTIQ+ persons from churches and to restore the faith that has been lost in the process.

One important lesson is for donors to appreciate the power of religious leaders and their communities. As a result, resources should not only be focused on activities of organisations but should also consider the resources that can assist African LGBTIQ+ people to champion our own narratives.

5.3.3 Intersex Pre-Conference

The first ever Intersex Pre-Conference was hosted this year at the 4th Pan Africa ILGA Regional Conference. This Pre-Conference brought together 24 intersex individuals from across the continent. The organisers of the Pre-Conference were Iranti-org, Intersex South Africa (ISSA) and SIPD. The Pre-Conference was a follow-up to a meeting of African intersex organisations in 2017, which was an initiative organised by Iranti-org who brought together activists and members of the intersex community in the first large scale engagement with government on matters of intersex genital mutilation, infanticide, healthcare procedures and standards of living. The Pre-Conference built on that meeting to develop and discuss a five-year programme of action to address the lack of visibility of intersex representation in LGBTIQ+ organising.

Over the next five years, the participants agreed to engage in systematic, national-level research to establish the challenges of intersex people in their country context. There is a need for a comprehensive study to be conducted because there is little to no data on intersex infants at birth. Access to this data will assist to develop legal advocacy models against gender definitive surgery. This approach will appropriately reflect the diversity of experiences, challenges and legal situations across the continent.

With a focus on education, legal frameworks and healthcare services, an Africa-wide report will then make recommendations that will guide the work of Africa's intersex organisations in French, English and Swahili. This is one step towards conceptualizing vernacular terminology as meaning is often lost in translation. It is important, for this reason, to Africanise the intersex prerogative in order to make relevant issues understandable to Africans instead of relying on inaccessible terms in foreign languages. The participants also used the PAI Conference to publicise a joint statement to facilitate the growth and forward momentum of the African intersex movement. The statement is based on the public statement by the Third International Intersex Forum (known as the Malta Declaration) and extends the demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people in Africa, to ensure the right of bodily integrity, physical autonomy and self-determination.

5.3.4 LBQ Women's Pre-Conference

This Pre-Conference created a space for engagement and debate about women's leadership, inclusive feminism and marginalization of transgender women within women's organising. Participants shared stories about the most defining moment in their sexuality that led them to activism. Attendees worked through what it meant to organize from a place of trauma as individuals that were assigned and identified as female, the population that suffers from the most victimization in society at an economic, social and political level.

Concerns were expressed about the stagnation in particular contexts based on their sexual orientation and the shrinking LBQ movement more broadly. This has made organising more

difficult due to people disassociating themselves from individuals that are at the forefront of organising. The room came to an agreement that feminist organising and LBQ women's organising is interchangeable within most spaces. It was recommended that organisations share best practices to strengthen the feminist movement because LBQ women are less visible than before in activism spaces due to the global shift in funding. Funding priorities seem to focus on HIV and MSM organising as WSW (women who have sex with women) are not seen as part of the key population. Participants passionately discussed the membership of their group, which demographics were represented, and they also went into the degree of openness towards cisgender, transgender women and queer men being part of these spaces. It was suggested that part of feminist theoretical and political education requires LBQ women to be unapologetic about who is included and who is excluded from the group. Although it is important to build an inclusive movement, it was widely accepted that masculine representing lesbians are often given more currency which often reproduces structures of inequality. This makes it difficult for LBQ women to penetrate spaces and access to funding. New mechanisms need to be developed to address the hierarchies that develop in women's organizing.

Non-hierarchical organising which deviates from the mainstream NGO organising has emerged in response to funding patterns in attempt to generate their own funds and for all to be equally accountable. These can create spaces that LBQ women see as missing in the LGBTIQ+ movement on the continent. In such spaces, women's mental health needs that is a direct result of layered oppression (as women and overlooked members of the LGBTIQ+ movement) and physical health needs can be prioritised. This, however, requires not just funds but also intentional internal effort.

5.3.5 Transgender and Gender Diverse Pre-Conference

The Transgender and Gender Diverse Pre-Conference, led by Gender DynamiX and Access Chapter 2, explored the experiences of transgender individuals on the continent more broadly, speaking to not just identity but also sexual orientation. It brought together a diverse group of transgender activists to engage on issues of violence, movement building, health and legal recognition. In many countries on the continent, there is a lack of organisations that specifically focus on transgender and gender diverse communities. Amending your gender marker on your legal documents is only institutionalised in one country on the continent – South Africa. Not being able to amend your gender marker has many implications on transgender individuals including but not limited to access to healthcare, education and employment. LGBTIQ+ organisations often relegate the needs and requirements of transgender and intersex people to the background, which has made legal reform and visibility for these demographics more difficult.

One of the most pressing challenges for transgender individuals in most African countries is access to competent general and gender-affirming healthcare services. Healthcare providers have seen gender-affirming healthcare for transgender individuals as not just cosmetic but as a

chance to experiment on these bodies, leaving transgender individuals feeling like projects and studies. This affects their ability to protect themselves when it comes to sexual reproductive healthcare due to the fear of being stigmatized. Finding a doctor that sees transgender individuals as nothing more than a human being that would like to access the same healthcare benefits that the general population is all too often an insurmountable hurdle.

Transgender and intersex organising remain the least funded within LGBTIQ+ movement, which makes it difficult to build long-term institutional capacity. It is also important to think about how to make transgender organising less ableist in our activism: languages need to be adopted that do not exclude transgender people living with disabilities as they are continuously marginalised even within the transgender movement.

Another very important point that was raised was the high level of unemployment among transgender individuals and how this is the result of missing protections against discrimination in the workplace as much as it is social stigma. A number of transgender individuals are kicked out of their homes at a young age, making it difficult for them to access education and therefore formal employment, putting them at a lifelong disadvantage. Important questions were raised in closing: “What does succession planning look like?” “Is it important to think about alternative sustainability models?” “How does the transgender community equip younger transgender leaders in a financially vulnerable movement since project-based funding is very unsustainable?” Although these questions were not answered, they gave all the activists in the room something to think about that affects transgender and gender diverse organising on the continent.



Reference: Jabulani Perreira of Irantí Org presenting at the Transgender and Gender Diverse Pre-Conference

5.3.6 Key Populations Pre-Conference

The Key Populations Pre-Conference was hosted by African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHeR) who presented the work they have been doing to bring African voices to the forefront and create positive narratives of LGBTIQ+ stories across Africa. This work has been made possible with technical and financial support from AMSHeR partners who reach beyond men who have sex with men (MSM) to the broader LGBTIQ+ community to engage in grassroots advocacy, engagement and policy change. This is a 3-year project known as KPReach (Key Populations Research Education Advocacy through Change in Health Care) that does work within the entire southern region of Africa.

Young activists often face challenges when it comes to accessing spaces and resources. It is important to orientate demographics that have been included within key populations on UN processes and violence around sexual orientation and gender identity. Networking and understanding what other organisations are doing is a vital step in transferring skills within the continent.

AMSHeR spoke to specific countries and their experiences in working with them. Mainly Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. In Zambia, young people and their stories are supported by having their voices heard through multiple platforms such as social media, radio and television. In Zimbabwe, the organisation supports activism to combat the double stigma faced by former prison inmates living with HIV after their release and has found a way to incorporate LGBTIQ+ organising within this seeing that their context does not allow them to directly do LGBTIQ+ activism.

Another Zimbabwean project promotes the inclusion of transgender men in menstrual health discussions – their needs are often overshadowed by a focus on cisgender women. And in Zambia, LGBTIQ+ people work to overcome the underrepresentation of women in a movement that often focuses only on MSM due to funding disproportions. The social pressure due to cultural practices on young lesbians to marry and have children, and the sexual violence this perpetuates is frequently overlooked due to social stigma.

In Mozambique, efforts are underway to build a stronger sense of African transgender identity. Many transgender women – due to challenges in accessing health services, education and employment – come to see sex work as their only option and find the acceptance in the sex worker community that they miss in the broader LGBTIQ+ movement due to the particular intersections they exist at.

These challenges are not unique to these countries and seem to require different interventions based on the laws and policies that exist in certain contexts that are challenges that the KPreach programme aims to rectify and therefore use these learnings in other countries. AMSHeR with all its partners (Gender Dynamix, Coalition of African Lesbians [CAL] and African Sex Workers Alliance [ASWA]) have taken a two layered approach to this, which is high level law reform and a grassroots approach. This has required them to work with a number of CBOs (community-based organisations) within those countries.



Reference: Participants in the Key Populations Pre-Conference

6. Parallel Workshop Sessions: 2nd and 3rd June 2018

The concept behind the Parallel Thematic Sessions was to invite abstracts that spoke to one of the Conference sub-themes. These abstracts were then assigned different spaces based on the sub-theme they spoke to. This allowed the delegates to attend various sessions under their preferred sub-theme and engage with the facilitators and presenters in these spaces. The objective was to create a thread in each workshop space, that followed a theme, and gave different perspectives, through the different workshops.

The workshops were very popular and well attended. However, some workshops did not take place due to an overloaded programme, and also due to the fact that some of the key presenters were denied visas. However, where workshop presenters had prepared a workshop presentation and were unable to present it, the organisers would like to apologise.

The planned workshops were as follows, should anyone be interested in the deliberations of any of the workshops, PAI can put you in touch with the presenters.

6.1 Day One – 2nd June 2018

- **From the closet to the council**
Anna Mmolai-Chalmers, Bochra Triki, Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera, Jean Paul Enama, Sheriff Mothopeng
- **Religious dialogue to combat the negative impact of religious oppression on the mental and sexual wellness of LGBTIQ+ youth**
Antonia Kruger-Ayebazibwe, Davis Mac-Iyalla, Ishmael Bahati, Ecclesia de Lange
- **Representation of African humanism**
Dr Hezekiah Obwoye
- **An examination of relationship between health and stigma**
Cameron Kakande, Alicia Nalunkuna
- **HIV and SRHR strategies**
Mutore Tichaona, Enos Abuya, Kamen Liwande
- **Technology in our community**
Charles Mukoma, Kennedy Owiti, Mike Kinagbara

- **Impact of digital media on LGBTIQ+ advocacy opportunities and challenges**
Racheal Wamoto, Enos Abuya, Urbenia Kgwarae
- **Youth economic empowerment through education**
Benjamin Ibe, Stella Iwuagwu, Ikechukwu Ashiegbu
- **Élaboration de la théorie du changement, pour la revalorisation des jeunes personnes transgenres au Cameroun**
Abanda Ambassa
- **Issues in visibility and LGBTIQ+ rights advocacy**
William Rashidi, Osman Kargbo
- **United Nations HR mechanisms**
Jürgen Soocramanien Lasavanne, Monica Tabengwa, Kseniya Kirichenko
- **Intersectionality a new dawn for Africa**
Louis Busingye
- **Wellness and resilience for social justice activism**
Jabulani Pereira, Mo Salomon
- **Mental healthcare for LGBTIQ+ persons**
Festus Kisa, Elwy Ihab
- **Making connections**
Alex Garner, Rachel Wamoto, Sarah Fleisher, Joseph Ochill
- **How and why the LGBTIQ+ community must win the digital space**
Matt Beard
- **Yanga goddess**
Yvonne Fly
- **Casting possibility: Art's role in sociolinguistic pollination**
Katlego Kolanyane Kesupile

6.2 Day Two – 3rd June 2018

- **An examination of the relationship between health and stigma**
Cameron Kakande, Alicia Nalunkuna, Michael Clark, Adrian Smith
- **Creating pathways to social inclusion**
Susan Mirembe
- **We Exist: The African Intersex**
Julius Kaggwa, Lungile Maquba, Mphatso Sakala, Samantha Macjessie
- **Etre ube association de femmes queers Africaine et radicale**
Gmakagni Nataka
- **Impact of Digital Media on LGBTIQ+ advocacy - opportunities and challenges**
Rachel Wamoto, Enoch Abuya, Urbenia Kgwarae
- **Same achievements from same struggles**
Lawson Ahiakou
- **Violence and mental health**
Alex Muller
- **Safety and security**
Barbra Wangare, Dalziel Leone
- **Reproduction and fertility**
Yves Kugbe
- **What's faith got to do with it?**
Antonio Kruger-Ayebazibwe, Jide Macaulay
- **Kiki in Kenya**
Ayida Mbowa
- **Framework of LGBTIQ+ inclusion in the workplace**
Dylan van Vuuren, Luke Andrews
- **Hate Speech Manual**
Richard Lusimbo, Pepe Onziema, Frank Mugisha

- **Intersectionality of struggle**
Jean Jules Kamgue
- **Mainstream Transgender advocacy through Intersectionality**
Deyonce Narib, Teddy Kandjou, Jholerina Timbo
- **Anal and rectum screening**
Luswata Brant
- **Economic empowerment**
James Kathatwa
- **Innovation and HIV**
Diksha Purmessur, Jürgen Soocramanien Lasavanne
- **Increasing trend IPV**
Christine Nakayiza
- **Experience of LGBTIQ+ students**
Atholl Kleinhans
- **The impact of coming out**
PFSAQ
- **Owning your own narrative**
The PAI Media Team

7. PAI Annual General Meeting: 4th June 2018

Chairperson: Yahia Zaidi

This session was open only to Pan Africa ILGA members. The secretariat and the Board were given an opportunity to present the activity and financial reports. Members also had the opportunity to ask questions and adopt and approve the reports. This session was also one where nominations, elections and presentation of candidates for the Board was conducted. It is important to note that some of the candidates were not present due to the fact that their visa applications were refused. These candidates were allowed to send written statements and video presentations in support of their candidacy.

Richard Lusimbo, the Board Co-Chair addressed the General Meeting. In his address, he noted that the Conference had delegates from more countries than there has ever been in a Pan Africa ILGA conference. He presented the Board report to the members which was approved and adopted by consensus.

Monica Tabengwa, PAI Executive Director, addressed the General Meeting where she stated that the current strategic plan was coming to an end and that the office was looking forward to reviewing it and starting a new process. She noted that the focus for 2017-2018 was the Conference which took up a lot of the office's time and effort leading up to a conference that was attended by more than 300 individuals. She presented the secretariat report which was approved and adopted by consensus.

The Pan Africa ILGA Annual Financial Report for 2016-2017 was presented by the Finance Manager.

7.1 The Election Process

This General Meeting marked the first time that Pan Africa ILGA had a conference with a constitution that was adopted by the members. The current constitution was approved and adopted by members in the last Annual General Meeting.

An Election Committee was selected and made responsible for the election process.

Before the election of the new Board took place, two motions were tabled.

1. A few members raised concerns with a clause in the current constitution and it was recommended that the Board address this matter, by amending the constitution with urgency after the new Board has been elected. This

motion passed and the Board was instructed to address the gaps in the constitution.

2. It was then put before the house that the election process be postponed until the constitution has been amended and the new recommendations have been adopted. This motion fell due to the passing of the previous motion.

The nominations for the host city and organization of the next PAI Conference in 2020 were put forward and presented before the plenum. Ghana was voted to host the next conference with an overwhelming majority of 57 votes. The host organization will be the Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights Ghana (CEPEHRG).

A total of 18 Board nominations were received in accordance with the nominations procedure. Three of the nominations were disqualified due to the fact that the individuals did not belong to organizations that were members of Pan Africa ILGA. Each nominee gave a one-minute presentation as a statement or video for those who were not present.

A new PAI Board of Directors was elected at the General Meeting and the results were announced at the closing ceremony.

7.2 Meet the New Board

The PAI Board for 2018–2020 is as follows:

1. Nnedinma Ulanmo: Co-Chair
2. Naoufaul Bouzid: Co-Chair
3. Sheba Akpokli: Alternate
4. Jean Paul Enama: Alternate
5. Sandra Kwikiriza: Treasurer
6. Barbra Wangare: Secretary
7. Frida Wahrانيا: Member
8. Jennifer Henshaw: Member
9. Henry Sakala: Member
10. Kevin Mwachiro: Member

8. Challenges and Achievements

There were a number of challenges experienced at the Conference, which need to be addressed in the preparations for the PAI 5th Regional Conference in Ghana in 2020.

8.1 Acquisition of Visas

The Conference was met with a number of challenges regarding visas. Botswana has a complex system for the application and granting of visas. All visa applications went into Home Affairs, at great cost to PAI. However, on 27 May, just four days before the Conference was to commence, the visa applications for five Pan Africa ILGA Board members were declined. Members of the Conference Team focused on the visa issue, trying to get the refusal revoked, and worked to ensure that the other 88 visa applications would not be turned down. After a day and a half, Home Affairs approved 44 visas. This was less than 12 hours before the commencement of the Pre-Conferences. Thus, in total out of 88 visa applications, only 44 visas were granted by the Botswana authorities. The five Board members visa rejections did not get revoked, and the remaining Board members had to manage the Conference. This put enormous pressure on the remaining Board members, and the Conference Team.

8.2 Cancellation of South African Express Airline to Botswana

Another major setback for the Conference was that six days before the first delegates were expected to arrive in Gaborone, South African Express, the most frequent airline connecting Botswana and South Africa, was grounded. All delegates to the Conference coming from countries other than South Africa were on flights that entered Johannesburg, and then connected to Gaborone. In total, 70 flights had to have fresh flight schedules drawn up.

Managing these two major setbacks was taking place at the same time that delegates were arriving at the airport from around the world, and all five regions of the continent. The Conference Team did their best to ensure that these two major logistical setbacks did not ruin the Conference. The Conference Team apologised to the delegates on arrival for any inconvenience caused.

8.3 Logistical Issues at the Hotel

There were logistical issues regarding the hotel accommodation. The Conference Team had had multiple meetings with the Grand Palm Hotel and had been assured that there would be sufficient capacity to manage the large delegation. However, there was a problem with over

capacity at the hotel, and this was a continual issue that Conference Team had to spend time on. Eventually, delegates without rooms were found alternative accommodation in a nearby hotel.

8.4 Meals and Venues

Room allocation at the beginning was difficult, as the conference venue itself had other conferences going on and had not had time to prepare the conference venue for PAI's needs. However, these challenges were quickly smoothed out and the conference venue was very helpful and efficient.

Regarding venues for meals, this was something of a challenge each evening, and this was not always timeously communicated to the Conference Team, and amongst the Conference Team itself. This caused a level of confusion which took time away from more serious issues.

8.5 Programme

The conference programme was excellent. The content allowed for most of the key issues affecting the sector to be discussed and gave the opportunity for people to attend interest group sessions and express their views. In the evaluations that were done the majority of people interviewed said that they had found the conference very illuminating.

8.6 Conclusion

The main challenges at the Conference were those of logistics, and these key logistical issues meant that the Conference Team spent a lot of time 'putting out fires' rather than being able to focus on the smooth running of the Conference itself.

But the Conference went on and was well received. As stated earlier in this report, in spite of the chaos that went along with the Conference, and yes, we have to admit there was chaos, we owned it, we worked through it, and we rose above it! We learnt from these challenges and know what to look out for in 2020.

9. Key Themes Emerging from the Conference

During the Conference there were a number of key themes emerging which will give direction to the Conference Team when planning the 2020 conference, as well as the PAI Strategic Agenda for the next two years.

These were:

- The need for the African LGBTIQ+ movement itself to become more inclusive. Lesbian, bisexual and queer women continue to experience male dominance in focus, leadership, decision making, and access to funding. Transgender and intersex people stated that they still need to fight for their voices to be heard among their allies.
- Economic challenges facing LGBTIQ+ youth were another main theme. As the result of oppression, discrimination and persecution from governments, communities and families, many young LGBTIQ+ Africans are disadvantaged in accessing educational and economic opportunities. These factors also affect LGBTIQ+ people's access to health services and mental health, especially among the young.
- A major theme at this Conference was that working with faith-based organisations and religious leaders has proven to be one of way in which social and legal realities can be changed.
- Access to adequate health services and capacitated medical practitioners remains one of the most primary issues raised across the continent.
- A theme coming from the Conference was around the use of technology. Social media presents new opportunities for organising, advocacy, and gathering evidence – a topic which was covered in many of the Conference's panels and workshops. However, it was also emphasised that conversations and personal contact remain the most powerful ways to advance the rights of LGBTIQ+ people in Africa.
- Another theme was the issue of the need to keep shaping new narratives and policy development in regard to the continued shrinking of civil society, and funders controlling the content of the work.
- Related to this is the need to strengthen networks and conversations within the sector, in order to strengthen the movement on the continent.
- An important issue frequently discussed was the importance of mainstreaming queer persons and queer issues, across development programmes and policy agendas of governments, organisations and other actors.
- There was a call for an inquiry into how donors make decisions with local queer communities on the ground, aimed at ensuring that donor practices do not harm queer persons. Concerns were expressed that sometimes donor requirements leave

organisations at a disadvantage, which sometimes impedes the ability for recipient organisations to focus on its own mission. LGBTIQ+ civil society advocates and organisations should be actively involved, alongside private foundations and donors, in shaping donor strategies and structures to maintain effective coordination of responsive funding.

- There was strong emphasis on ensuring that the rights of queer people within the general human rights movement, and that funding should be directed towards supporting work that promotes LGBTIQ+ rights within the general human rights movement.
- It was noted that discriminatory legislation and anti-LGBTIQ+ crackdowns are opportunities to drive global resources to support queer issues, and also opportunities to organise across issues and sectors and situate LGBTIQ+ issues in a larger context of human rights and democratic principles.

To conclude, across all the debates and forums, it was emphasised that the PAI Regional Conferences are very significant to build networks across the continent. The Conference provides a time for reflection, mutual learning, and passionate debates. It was agreed through, that these debates should not be limited to PAI's bi-annual conferences. PAI needs to be much more effective in communicating with the sector through the year, and it needs to commit to giving more support and supplying more content to non-English speakers among its membership.

10. Conclusion

The five-day gathering encouraged young LGBTIQ+ activists to build networks, to garner support for initiatives conducted in their respective sub-regions and to acknowledge one another for the gains won through activism/advocacy while strategizing for a better future in Africa. Participants met with The Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, who was recently appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council, Victor Madrigal-Borloz. It was through this exchange that Madrigal-Borloz was given context about African SOGIE matters and participants learnt how they can use United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms to further their work

Conversations and personal contact remain the most powerful ways to advance the rights of LGBTIQ+ people in Africa, cautioned former UN Special Rapporteur on Peaceful Assembly and Association Rights, Maina Kiai: ***“If we are going to change mindsets, we are going to have start talking to people.”*** This is definitely something this Conference did, it allowed activists from all over the region to network amongst themselves but also interact with donors to explore possible collaborations.

Media and interviews provided much audio and audio-visual material, footage ideas for stories, to engage the media making voice of PAI, etc. – an important forum for debating and sharing ideas.

Ghana has been selected as the next conference destination. Preparations will begin in 2018, so that the logistical problems that plagued this Conference are not repeated.

As PAI looks forward to an even bigger, even more exciting conference in 2020, the message from Gaborone to the rest of the continent is loud and clear: united, LGBTIQ+ Africans and their allies can and will build a future of equality, inclusiveness and opportunity for themselves – especially for the young people that represent 60% of Africa’s population.

A final note from Madrigal-Borloz, was that when he returns to Europe, he will speak of the pain and grief that exists in Africa: ***“But I am also going to say that the heart of Africa is beating. That where there is pain, here is also joy and courage in Africa.”***

As South African constitutional court justice Edwin Cameron, Africa’s highest-ranking LGBTIQ+ official living with HIV, stated: ***“Our pride and love are greater than our grief and fear.”***

Abbreviations and Glossary

ACPHR:	African Commission of People’s and Human Rights
AGM:	Annual General Meeting
AMSHeR:	African Men for Sexual Health and Rights
AU:	African Union
CEPEHRG:	Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights Ghana
Cisgender:	Denoting or relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex
IAM:	Inclusive and Affirmative Ministries
ILGA:	International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association
ISDAO:	Initiative Sankofa d’Afrique de l’Ouest
ISSA:	Intersex South Africa
ITF:	International Transgender Fund
LeGaBiBo:	The Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana
LBQ:	Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Women
LGBTIQ+:	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Plus
PAI:	Pan Africa International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association
PFSAQ:	Parents and Friends of South African Queers
SADC:	South African Development Community
SDG:	United Nations 2030 Strategic Development Goals
SOGI:	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
SOGIE:	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression
SOGIESC:	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sexual Characteristics
UHAI:	East African Sexual Rights Initiative
UPR:	Universal Periodic Review

WHER: Women's Health and Equal Rights Initiative



Reference: Conference Team members Bradley Fortuin and Bobby Rodwell having a lighter moment