



PAI 6TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Pride and Resilience - Fierté et Résilience



PAI 6TH REGIONAL
CONFERENCE
REPORT

Mauritius 2023

**Pan Africa ILGA
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Conference Report
Mauritius
2023**



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**PAI 6TH REGIONAL
CONFERENCE**
Turtle Bay, BalACLava, Mauritius
31 July to 04 August 2023

Who Is PAI?

Pan Africa (ILGA) International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, also known as PAI, is a network of organisations in Africa working to improve human rights of individuals on all grounds, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

The unique strength of this network is that it is connected to a global movement through ILGA which serves more than 1300 LGBTIQ+ groups from around the world.

Serves more than

350

LGBTIQ+organisations
across the African
continent.



Vision

An Africa that promotes and respects the integrity, rights and autonomy of all her people regardless of culture, faith, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.



Mission

To challenge and change mindsets of communities in Africa around SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics) and related work through unifying and strengthening LGBTIQ+ organisations.

PAI's Roles and Functions

The roles and functions of the network are to:



Build a unified African movement and provide a forum that responds to the needs of members through coordination and collaboration.



Devise advocacy strategies to hold governments accountable and advocate for the protection, promotion and respect of LGBTIQ+ rights in Africa.



Influence regional and international human rights institutions and ensure that the issues pertinent to the diversity of members in the African region are well represented at regional and global platforms.



Promote research and documentation of human rights violations in collaboration with domestic LGBTIQ+ rights activists and other human rights organisations.



Contribute to growth and capacity development of members by strengthening regional training and advocacy initiatives.



Be a communication hub for information exchange and offer information resources through the PAI website and other social media to support and link members.

Strategic Objectives

PAI has five strategic objectives.



Strategic Objective 1

Enhance PAI's organisational and governance capacity.



Strategic Objective 2

Expand PAI networks in Francophone and North African countries.



Strategic Objective 3

Increase and consolidate engagement with PAI membership and society.



Strategic Objective 4

Develop the capacity to become a strong voice for the LGBTIQ+ community, and to improve engagement with regional and international networks and human rights mechanisms.



Strategic Objective 5

Improve programming for and partnerships with LGBTIQ+ Youth and LGBTIQ+ womxn-led organisations.



Our Journey

2007

Johannesburg, South Africa:

PAI 1st Regional Conference brought together 60 activists from across the African continent to discuss the importance of creating a continental network that would become the African wing of ILGA (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association).

2010

Sao Paulo, Brazil:

At the ILGA World Conference in Sao Paulo the first steering committee of what was to become known as Pan Africa ILGA (PAI) was formed.

2012

Stockholm, Sweden:

At the ILGA World Conference in Stockholm the second steering committee was established. For this ILGA World, with funding from the Finnish government, supported the first PAI staff member, who was tasked with developing PAI, particularly regarding membership and communication.

2013

Nairobi, Kenya:

PAI 2nd Regional Conference brought together 200 participants from 34 countries and elected a ten-member PAI Board.

2014

Johannesburg, South Africa:

A Consultative Meeting was held with over 30 activists from across the continent. This consultative meeting resulted in the formation of a committee to organise the 2nd PAI Regional Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

2016

Johannesburg, South Africa:

PAI 3rd Regional Conference was attended by 184 delegates from 34 countries. The conference theme was *African Bodies Breaking Ground, Building Bridges*.

2018

Gaborone, Botswana:

PAI 4th Regional Conference was attended by a total of 327 delegates from 37 African countries. The theme was *Empowering LGBTIQ+ Youth: Uniting for an Inclusive Future*.

2020

Accra, Ghana:

The 5th Regional Conference was planned for July 2020, in partnership with a local Non-Governmental Organisation. This conference was cancelled due the global COVID-19 pandemic.

2021

Johannesburg, South Africa:

PAI 5th Regional Conference in August 2021, the first virtual conference was hosted from Constitutional Hill in Johannesburg. A total of 1007 delegates from all five regions of the continent attended making it the biggest LGBTIQ+ conference ever held on the African continent. The theme was *Reclaiming Our Past - Defining Our Future!*

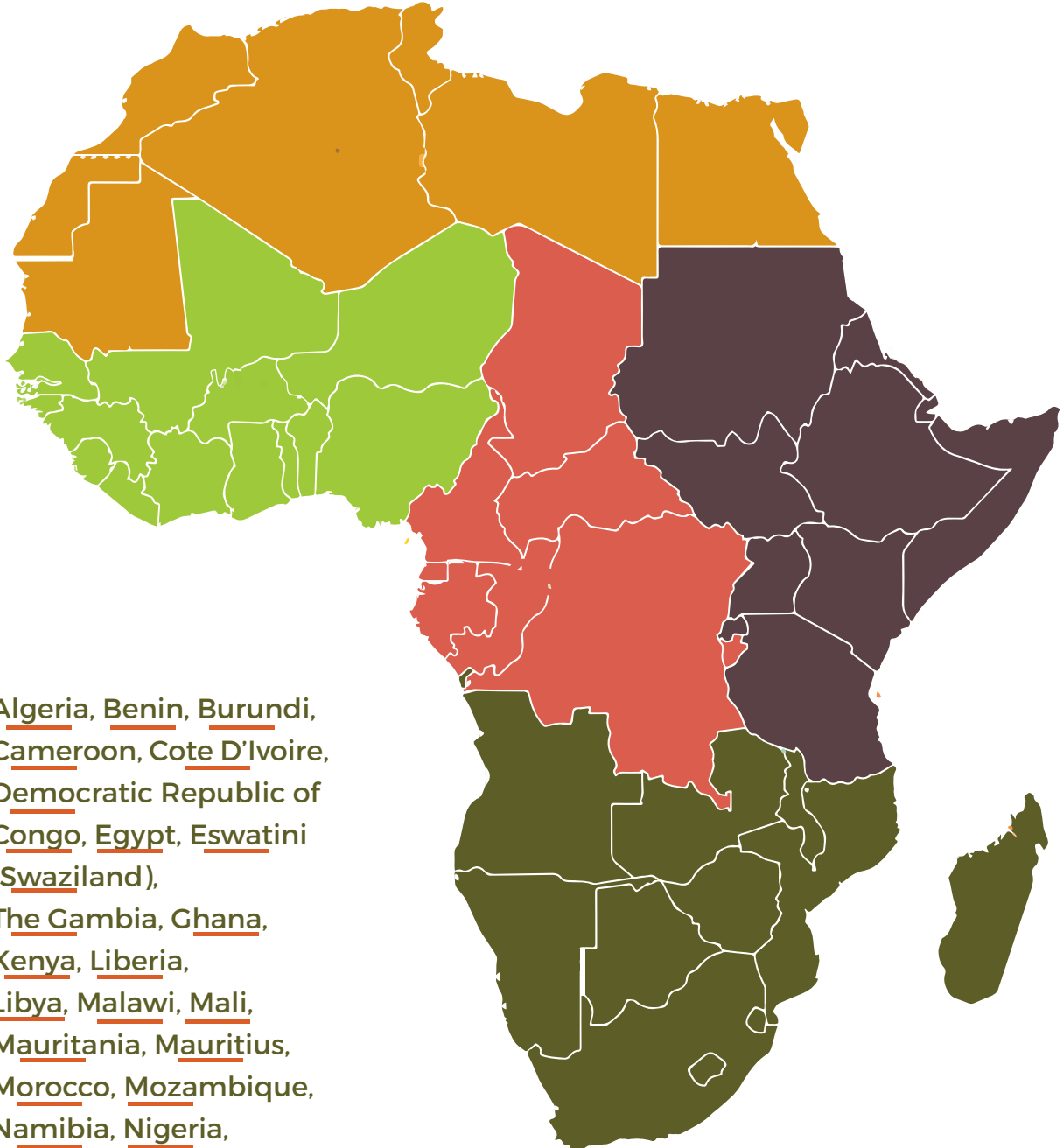
2023

Turtle Bay, Balaclava, Mauritius:

PAI 6th Regional Conference was attended by over 400 delegates, the biggest in-person LGBTIQ+ conference on the continent. The theme of the conference was *Pride and Resilience*.

Our PAI Member Organisations

PAI has more than 350 members in the following countries:



Algeria, Benin, Burundi,
Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire,
Democratic Republic of
Congo, Egypt, Eswatini
(Swaziland),
The Gambia, Ghana,
Kenya, Liberia,
Libya, Malawi, Mali,
Mauritania, Mauritius,
Morocco, Mozambique,
Namibia, Nigeria,
Rwanda, Senegal,
Sierra Leone, South
Africa, Sudan, Tanzania,
Togo, Tunisia, Uganda,
Zambia and Zimbabwe.

- Central Africa
- Eastern Africa
- Northern Africa
- Southern Africa
- Western Africa

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Executive Summary

The PAI 6th Regional Conference: *Pride and Resilience—Fierté et Resilience* was held in Mauritius from 31 July to 04 August 2023.

Conference Themes

The following five themes shaped conference proceedings:

- Our Youth, Our Future: Embracing Pride and Resilience in Shaping our Pan African Vision
- Queerly African: Towards A Uniquely Pan-African Movement
- My Body, My Soul, My Space, My Community: Affirming Identity and Diversity
- Sustainable Development: Taking Our Stand
- South to South Collaborations: Shaping Global Alliances

The 5 plenary sessions and 20 satellite Workshops featured 88 speakers. Partner organisations and funders held ten side meetings. A total of 80 donors attended the conference, and a special donor workshop was held.

Speakers Included

Speakers at the conference were drawn from a diverse range of PAI partners:

- Activists from across the continent working in the LGBTIQ+ space.
- A Commissioner from the Human Rights Commission of Mauritius.
- South African human rights activist Mmapaseka Steve Letsike, LGBTIQ+ human rights activist and member of the ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC).
- Jessica Stern, USA Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTIQ+).

- Victor Madrigal-Borloz, outgoing United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (UN SOGIE).

Pre-conferences

Six pre-conferences were held by partners in the sector between the 31st July and 02nd August:

- Trans Pre-Con
- LBQGNC Pre-Con
- Intersex Pre-Con
- Youth Pre-Con
- Interfaith Pre-Con
- Donor Pre-Con

Key historical moments

The conference was a time of firsts, including:

- The Intersex community who drew up a declaration and presented it in a plenary session. This was the first time an African Intersex Declaration had been issued.
- The Trans and Gender-Diverse community who developed and read out a Statement of Intent.





Introduction to the Conference

The PAI 6th Regional Conference, themed Pride and Resilience - Fierté et Resilience, was held in Mauritius from July 31 to August 4, 2023.

Mauritian Hosts

Our Mauritian partners were: Collectif Arc-en-Ciel (CEIC), a non-governmental organisation that works with the LGBTIQ+ community in their country and campaigns against homophobia and the different forms of discrimination related to gender identity and sexual orientation; and the Young Queer Alliance (YQA), a non-governmental and youth-led organisation in Mauritius for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) people.

Mr Dheeraj Seetulsingh, Chairperson of the Mauritius National Human Rights Commission, attended the conference. He expressed his delight in hosting such an important event and welcomed all participants.

Mr Seetulsingh explained that the Human Rights Commission was established in 2001 and works within the framework of the Constitution of Mauritius. It has two distinct divisions that focus on human rights and education. The Commission operates under the guidelines set out by the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression Equity Bill when monitoring and promoting LGBTIQ+ rights.

He also noted that the Commission collaborates closely with Mauritian civil society and non-governmental organisations. During the conference, members of civil society within the LGBTIQ+ community were in the process of challenging Section 250 of the Mauritius Penal Code, which criminalises consensual male same-sex activity. On 4th October 2023, the Supreme Court of Mauritius made a historic ruling, finding Section 250 of the Mauritius Penal Code unconstitutional.

Conference Delegates

There were 403 delegates, mainly from Africa as well as an international contingent. A total of 88 speakers made presentations across five plenary sessions and 20 satellite workshops, while partner organisations and donors held nine side meetings, relating to funding and book launches. Speakers included activists from the LGBTIQ+ space across the continent, Mr Dheeraj Seetulsingh Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission Mauritius, Mapaseke Steve Letsike South African human rights activist, Jessica Stern USA Special Envoy to Advance LGBTIQ+ Human Rights, and Victor Madrigal-Borloz outgoing UN Independent Expert Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE).

Conference Themes

The five themes:

- Our Youth Our Future: Embracing Pride and Resilience in Shaping our Pan African Vision
- Queerly African: Towards A Uniquely Pan-African Movement
- My Body, My Soul, My Space, My Community: Affirming Identity and Diversity
- Sustainable Development: Taking Our Stand
- South to South Collaborations: Shaping Global Alliances

Key Historical Moments

The conference marked several historic firsts, such as the Intersex community's inaugural plenary session and declaration, the Trans community's Statement of Intent, and a new charter introduced by the youth community.

403
delegates

88
speakers

20
Satellite
workshops

5
plenaries

Facts and Stats



Number of
Conference
Attendees:

403



Number of
Scholarships
issued:

156



Number of first-time attendees to a PAI Conference:

47



Number of NGOs
represented:

141



Number of
Plenaries:

5



Number of
Satellite Workshops:

20



Number of
Expert
Speakers:

4



Number of External
Meetings and Workshops
at Conference:

9



Number of
Memorandums
drawn up at the
Conference:

3





Pre-Conference Reports

Six Pre-conferences were held by PAI partners on 31st July and 01st August.

These were:

- Trans Pre-Conference
- LBQGNC Pre-Conference
- Intersex Pre-Conference
- Youth Pre-Conference
- Interfaith Pre-Conference
- Donor Pre-Conference

Five of the six Pre-Conference reports form part of this report. The sixth Pre-Conference held by a group of 80 donors is confidential and thus not included in the report.



Trans Pre-Conference



Trans Pre-Conference

In many African countries, traditional and colonial-era laws criminalise Transgender individuals, leading to widespread discrimination, violence, and violations of Trans rights. This situation is exacerbated by the growing anti-gender movement, which seeks to eliminate Transgender identities through political and societal influence, such as drafting punitive laws and staging demonstrations purportedly to protect family values. These dynamics highlight the significant challenges Transgender people face, necessitating concerted advocacy and solidarity efforts to advance their rights and ensure their inclusion and protection.

Transgender individuals in Africa face institutionalised Transphobia, violence, and systemic barriers to accessing legal recognition, asylum, healthcare, and employment. These challenges are rooted in anti-gender narratives and necessitate a strategic response from the continental movement. The Trans and Gender-Diverse Pre-Conference was organised to address these issues and brought together over 30 activists, organisations, allies, and donors to share experiences and best practices for advancing Transgender rights in the region.

Objectives

- Create a safe, inclusive space for Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals to network, learn, and develop strategies that address their unique challenges.
- Increase visibility and representation of Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals within the Pan-African LGBTIQ+ and broader human rights movements.
- Build collaboration and solidarity among Transgender and gender non-conforming activists and organisations across Africa and globally.
- Identify advocacy needs, capacity-building, and resource mobilisation opportunities for Transgender and gender non-conforming communities in Africa.

Discussion and Outcome

Theme 1: Building Bridges and Sustainable Movements

Intergenerational Learning: Understand the history of Trans organising in Africa to extract lessons and identify growth opportunities. Reflect on barriers to intergenerational learning and promote cross-generational knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Theme 2: Building Power – A Pan-African Trans Movement

Leadership, Linkages, and Intersectional Organising: Improve leadership and advocacy structures for Trans rights on the continent. Explore transnational organising, the role of the African Trans Network (ATN), and sub-regional networks.

Theme 3: Trans Health and Inclusion

Gender-Affirming Healthcare: Focus on in-country access, access beyond borders, and mental health services that meet the needs of Trans individuals.

Theme 4: Economic Justice and Well-Funded Trans Communities

Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods: Address challenges to equal opportunities, focusing on social capital, financial literacy, and entrepreneurial skills development. Discuss donor roles in funding Trans-specific initiatives.

Day Two: Additional Themes

Digital Advocacy and Security

- **Emerging Technologies:** The Impact on Trans advocacy efforts.
- **Education and Awareness:** Explore how digital tools shape societal understanding, as well as how they are used to spread disinformation.
- **Threats and Opportunities:** Balance the benefits of digital advocacy with challenges.
- **Technology for Advancement:** Investigate methodologies for how to use technology to strengthen the movement.
- **Digital Safety and Security:** Prioritise these measures within advocacy work.



Rethinking Our Advocacy

- **Demobilising Anti-Gender Movements:** Develop strategies for countering their spread and impact.
- **Resilient Trans Communities:** Explore how to retain strength in the face of African anti-gender and anti-rights movements.

Human Rights and Safe Communities

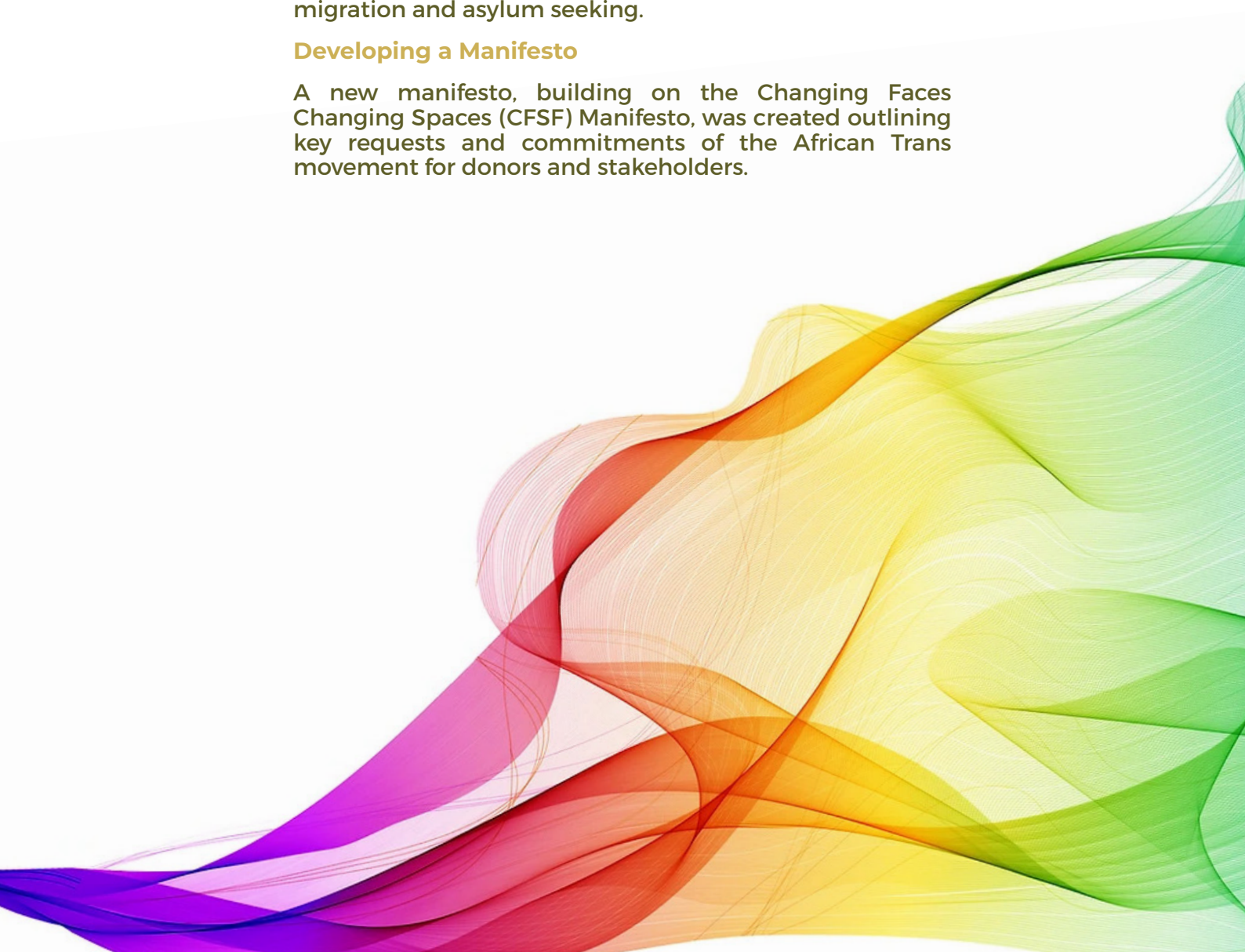
- **Contextual Security Analysis:** Understand safety threats and develop emergency response mechanisms considering potential backlash.
- **Regional and International Mechanisms:** Leverage these for human rights protection to guide Trans advocacy initiatives focusing on safety and security.
- **African Commission:** Explore its use for focused advocacy.

Breaking Borders and Binaries

Legal Recognition, Documentation, and Migration: Challenges faced by Trans and Gender-Diverse people due to limitations in most African countries, impacting migration and asylum seeking.

Developing a Manifesto

A new manifesto, building on the Changing Faces Changing Spaces (CFSF) Manifesto, was created outlining key requests and commitments of the African Trans movement for donors and stakeholders.



LBQGNC Pre-Conference



LBQGNC Pre-Conference: Recharge, Revitalise, Reorganise

Objectives:

- Assess the status of LBQGNC communities in the region.
- Analyse essential experiences across different identities.
- Evaluate the movement, its organisation and resources.
- Highlight achievements and challenges.
- Discuss safety and well-being in challenging political environments.

Key Themes and Outcomes

- **Renewal and Sustainability:** Focus on revitalising the LBQTCNC movement in Africa, address concerns about the closure of the Coalition of African Lesbians and consider a possible regional structure.
- **Intersectionality and Inclusion:** Explore how race, class, gender, and geography impact the movement and strategize for a collective fight against broader oppressive systems.
- **Challenges and Resilience:** Acknowledge shared struggles (discrimination, criminalisation, a limit of resources) while celebrating resilience and emphasising the need for solidarity and knowledge sharing.
- **Legal Advocacy:** Use strategic litigation to challenge discriminatory laws, highlighting successful cases as examples.
- **Wellness and Healing:** Prioritise self-care, collective healing, and address trauma to sustain the movement.
- **Funding and Sustainability:** Seek feminist funding models, transparent donor relationships, and sustainable funding sources.
- **Bodily Autonomy and Pleasure:** Protect bodily autonomy, reclaim pleasure, and counter harmful narratives.
- **Inclusive Research:** Establish a research hub, using inclusive methodologies and data to inform advocacy.





Intersex Pre-Conference



Intersex Pre-Conference

Background

- Intersex individuals are subjected to discrimination and exclusion because their sex characteristics fall outside the typical definitions of male or female. This societal misunderstanding leads to attempts to “normalise” Intersex bodies.
- Intersex children are particularly vulnerable, often subjected to non-consensual genital mutilation presented as being in the child’s best interest.
- Across Africa, Intersex persons face systemic violations of their sexual and reproductive rights. Laws, policies, economic barriers, and harmful social norms marginalise them.
- Access to specialised, affirming healthcare for both Intersex adults and children remains a critical issue. Mental health services explicitly addressing the stigma, shame, and isolation experienced by Intersex individuals are also severely lacking.
- Intersex people are disproportionately affected by socioeconomic exclusion, facing challenges in accessing justice, education, and employment due to damaging myths and misconceptions. In extreme cases, these myths facilitate violence, infanticide, and abandonment of Intersex babies.

The African Intersex Movement (AIM)

The AIM aims to consolidate a robust, well-resourced African Intersex Movement to amplify advocacy efforts and fight for the rights and safety of Intersex individuals in response to these challenges.

Pre-Conference Objectives

- **Safe Space and Community Building:** Create an inclusive space for Intersex individuals to connect, share experiences, gain support and share strategies for collective action.
- **Analysis of Rights Landscape:** Evaluate the legal, social, and cultural factors enabling or hindering Intersex rights. Promote strategies to enhance protections.
- **Collaboration and Strategy:** Foster discussions on the current state of Intersex organising in Africa and identify potential collaboration avenues to strengthen the AIM.

Desired Outcomes

- **Awareness and Visibility:** Increase understanding of Intersex issues in Africa and promote the bodily autonomy and integrity of Intersex persons.
- **Support and Empowerment:** Provide resources, information, and support to Intersex individuals, particularly those facing additional marginalisation due to factors like sexism, homophobia, Transphobia, and racism.

- **Legal Advocacy:** Fight for legal recognition and protection of Intersex individuals, ensuring the right to gender identity and freedom from discrimination.
- **Movement Building:** Establish a more visible and well-resourced AIM to lead continental advocacy efforts.

Pre-Conference Activities

- **Regional Updates:** Intersex activists from various African countries shared updates on advocacy efforts, highlighting both successes and challenges within their specific contexts.
- **Anti-Rights Agenda:** Discussions focused on the rise of anti-rights movements and how they create significant barriers for Intersex individuals. Participants analysed the root causes of this resistance, including ignorance, cultural stigma, harmful medical norms, religious perspectives, and lack of legal protection.
- **Intersex and the Law:** A session was dedicated to Resolution 552 of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, which was used as an advocacy tool.
- **Wellness:** Art, dance and other creative activities were used to create a healing and supportive environment to address the emotional toll of discrimination and medical trauma.

African Intersex Movement Statement: Key Points

- **Awareness and Education:** Dispel myths, promote understanding, and break down societal ignorance about Intersex identities.
- **Self-Determination:** Every Intersex individual deserves the right to bodily autonomy.
- **Legal Protections:** Secure legal safeguards against discrimination and ensure equal healthcare, education, and employment access.
- **Inclusive Language:** Use language that acknowledges and respects Intersex identities.
- **Collaboration and Representation:** Stakeholders must partner with Intersex-led organisations, particularly with regard to decision making processes.
- **Cultural Shift:** Celebrate diversity and dismantle harmful gender binaries that erase Intersex experiences.

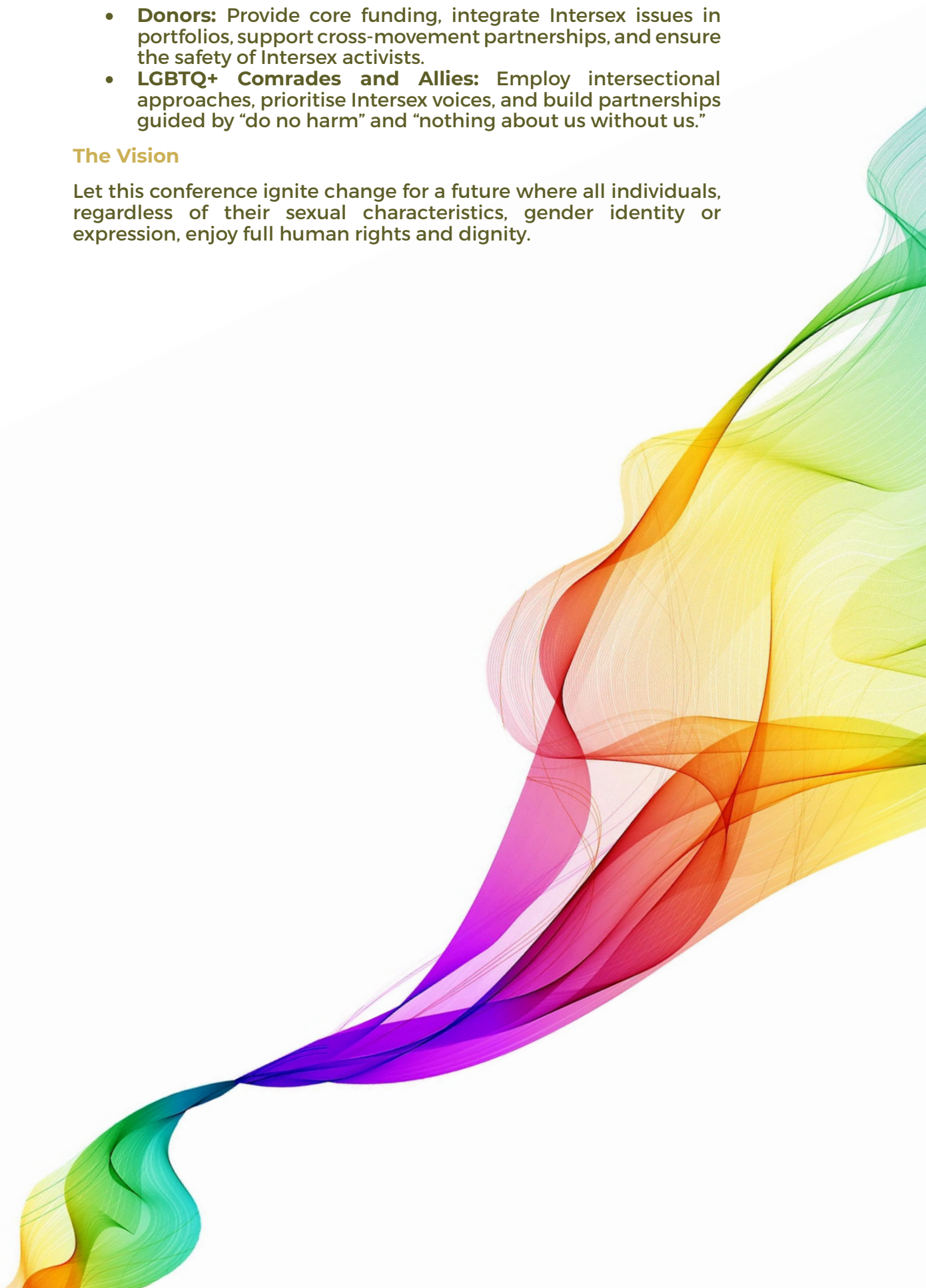


Calls to Action

- **Donors:** Provide core funding, integrate Intersex issues in portfolios, support cross-movement partnerships, and ensure the safety of Intersex activists.
- **LGBTQ+ Comrades and Allies:** Employ intersectional approaches, prioritise Intersex voices, and build partnerships guided by “do no harm” and “nothing about us without us.”

The Vision

Let this conference ignite change for a future where all individuals, regardless of their sexual characteristics, gender identity or expression, enjoy full human rights and dignity.



Youth Pre-Conference



**Youth
Pre-Conference**

Youth Pre-Conference

Why Focus on Youth?

- Africa's large, young population necessitates investment in youth leadership.
- Young LGBTIQ+ people are increasingly visible and active, requiring dedicated support.

Pre-Conference Outcomes

- **Network Building and Solidarity:** Young activists from across Africa to be connected, building a foundation for future collaboration.
- **African Queer Youth Manifesto (AQYM):** The Manifesto recommends strategies for stakeholders to follow in addressing challenges that LGBTIQ+ youth face on the continent. It was created through extensive consultation with African youth activists.
- **Focus Group Discussions:** Solutions brainstormed to identify challenges like intergenerational conflict, tokenism, and resource scarcity.

“Listen to the Future” Session

- This focused session with West African youth activists highlighted the following:
 - The role of youth in enhancing visibility and innovation.
 - Social media's potential for outreach (but also the need for security awareness).
 - Funding gaps, particularly for newer or non-HIV-focused organisations.
 - The need for greater collaboration across organisations and language barriers.
 - Strategies for countering anti-gender movements.

Key Takeaways

- **Language Justice:** Inclusive language is essential for dismantling oppression within the LGBTIQ+ movement.
- **Disability Inclusion:** Centring the needs of disabled LGBTIQ+ people is crucial for total liberation.
- **Intergenerational Dialogue:** Addressing conflicts between generations is vital for a sustainable movement.
- **Collective Power:** Collaboration is critical for advocacy and systemic change.

Call to Action

CHEVS along with partners, to commit to championing youth inclusion and the goals of the African Queer Youth Manifesto. Stakeholders are urged to read the manifesto and act on its recommendations.



Interfaith Pre-Conference



Interfaith Pre-Conference

Objectives

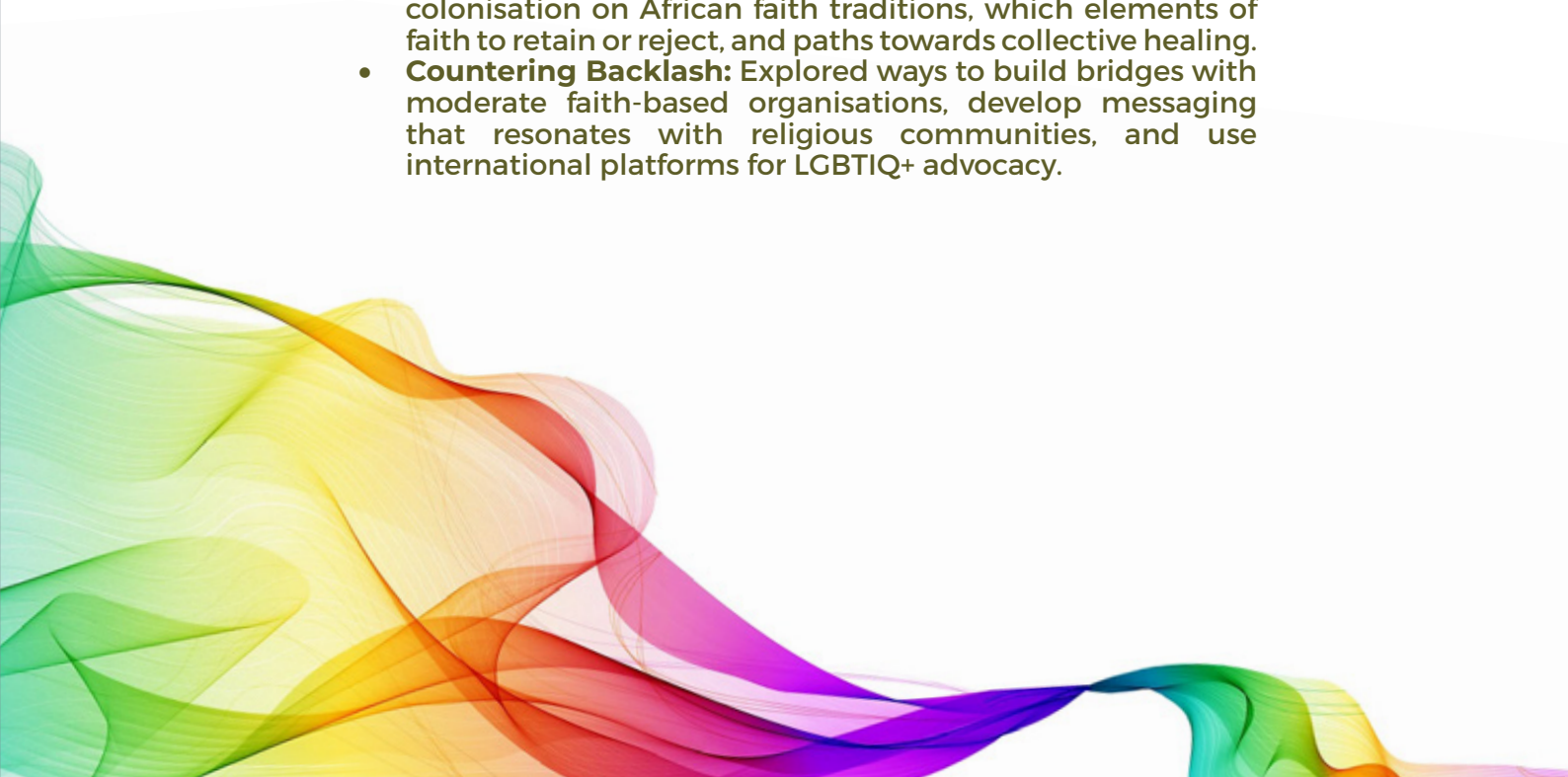
- **Overall Objective:** Facilitate a safe and inclusive space for LGBTIQ+ individuals across various faiths to examine their experiences and build resilience. Promote understanding between religions and the acceptance of diverse sexualities.
- **Pre-Conference:** Help LGBTIQ+ people of faith navigate their identities, including discrimination within faith communities. Build strong networks between LGBTIQ+ faith-based groups globally.
- **Deconstructing Faith Satellite Session:** Initiate conversations on questioning faith traditions in an African context, examining what aspects serve or harm, and promoting healing from the negative impacts of colonisation.
- **Countering Backlash Satellite Session:** Build strategies for alliances between activists and faith-based organisations to promote LGBTIQ+ rights and counter opposition from religious institutions.

Key Outcomes (Desired and Actual)

- Increased understanding of how LGBTIQ+ identity intersects with faith, greater resilience for LGBTIQ+ people of faith, more robust global networks, and more advocacy within faith communities.
- Some awareness and resilience gains are seen from positive participant feedback.

Discussions

- **Pre-Conference:** This event focused on the personal experiences of LGBTIQ+ people of faith, strategies for how to deal with discrimination, ways to reconcile sexuality and spirituality, and the building of support networks.
- **Deconstructing Faith:** This paper examined the impact of colonisation on African faith traditions, which elements of faith to retain or reject, and paths towards collective healing.
- **Countering Backlash:** Explored ways to build bridges with moderate faith-based organisations, develop messaging that resonates with religious communities, and use international platforms for LGBTIQ+ advocacy.



Opening Session of the 6th Regional Conference

Welcome and Conference Overview

Barbra Wangari and Star Rugori (PAI Co-Chairpersons) officially opened the conference, highlighting PAI's impressive growth in recent years and the increasing Francophone representation, a testament to the organisation's commitment to inclusivity. They acknowledged the gravity of the challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ communities in Africa and stressed the power of collective action.

Nate Brown (PAI Executive Director) warmly welcomed delegates and expressed gratitude to partners and everyone who worked tirelessly to bring the conference to fruition. He celebrated PAI's growth and resilience amidst adversity, noting that in-person gatherings are vital for networking and forging the movement's future.

Dimitry Ah-Yu (Collectif Arc-En-Ciel, Mauritius) set the tone by celebrating the power of diversity and the significance of hosting the conference in Mauritius. He emphasised that the collaboration between Pan Africa ILGA, Collectif Arc-En-Ciel, and Young Queer Youth Alliance had brought a unique strength to the gathering.

Keynote Address - Steve Letsike (Access Chapter Two)

Pan-African Solidarity: Issued a powerful call to arms, urging the movement to embody the spirit of Pan-Africanism as to effectively counter the growing anti-gender movement across the continent.

Constitutional Rights: Reminded attendees that African constitutions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrine rights for all, and leaders must uphold these rights. They condemned silence from those who claim friendship but fail to speak out against the repression of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Finding Strength in Community: Advocated for building alliances beyond traditional LGBTIQ+ spaces, reaching into churches, businesses, and families to create a broad coalition for justice.

Reflecting on Loss, Rebuilding for the Future: The closure of African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHer) and Coalition of African Lesbians (CALs) was acknowledged as a severe setback. The speaker emphasised the need to support and safeguard core institutions for the movement's long-term survival and success.

Demanding Sustainable Support: Directly challenged donors to rethink funding models, advocating for core funding essential to sustain organisations and the lives of human rights defenders working on the frontlines.

Intersectionality as a Mandate: Called out internal patriarchy and sexism, insisting the movement must fully embrace the rights of Trans and Intersex individuals, fighting for a genuinely inclusive future.

Introducing the Chairing Pool

The Chairing Pool

The chairing pool took over to facilitate the rest of the conference, ensuring delegate participation and a smooth process.

Key Takeaways

Several crucial themes were highlighted in the opening:

- **Unity and Diversity:** Building bridges and strength within a diverse movement.
- **Action and Accountability:** Demanding rights and holding leaders, donors, and all accountable.
- **Resilience and Renewal:** The necessity to rebuild institutions and safeguard the movement's future.
- **Inclusivity and Intersectionality:** Moving beyond rhetoric to genuinely embrace all community members.
- **Collaboration and Solidarity:** The critical need for alliances and strategic cooperation.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary One - Our Youth, Our Future: Embracing Pride and Resilience in Shaping Our Pan Africa Vision

Moderator: Kevin Mwachiro

Speakers: Florentin Tino Kagamba, Marie Okwoli, Cleo Jones Kalipinde

The session focused on the challenges and opportunities facing African youth, particularly those within the LGBTIQ+ community, and how they can shape the future of Pan Africa through pride and resilience.

Key Discussions

Moderator's Perspective

The moderator expressed a deep emotional connection to the Pan Africa ILGA Regional Conferences, highlighting the progress made since the organisation's inception. He set the stage for a discussion on the exclusion of young people, their feelings of being left behind and their thoughts on new technologies.

Florentin Tino Kagamba

Kagamba emphasised the need for recognition and inclusion of youth in decision-making processes related to their well-being. He highlighted the importance of learning from past generations while adapting to current situations, especially in the DRC, where youth, including the LGBTIQ+ community, face significant challenges. Kagamba advocated for increased use of social media to engage youth and called for donor support for youth-led initiatives, emphasising the potential of technology to empower young people.

Marie Okwoli

Okwoli discussed the desire among Nigerian youth to be recognised and included in decision-making spaces. She stressed the importance of building alliances, easing donor funding requirements, and utilising technology to enhance youth involvement. Okwoli also emphasised the need for youth to develop networking, public speaking, and lobbying skills, along with focusing on self-care.

Cleo Jones Kalipinde

Kalipinde shared insights from the work of the Ivy Foundation in Malawi, highlighting the exclusion of youth and queer individuals from critical initiatives. She criticised the ‘tokenism’ and ‘opportunistic’ tendencies within leadership and called for greater collaboration between older activists and youth. Kalipinde also touched on the challenges of cyberbullying and the need for continued HIV funding despite the broader needs of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Conclusion and Call to Action

The session concluded with a strong call for collaboration between youth-focused organisations, older activists, and donors to facilitate access to funding and strengthen the capacities of youth organisations. The need to recognise and respect the new ways young people work and organise, mainly using technology for networking and advocacy was emphasised.

The discussions underscored the critical role of pride and resilience in shaping an inclusive, empowering, and forward-looking vision for Pan Africa. The focus was mainly on the rights and well-being of the youth, especially within the LGBTIQ+ community.



Plenary Two - Towards a Uniquely Pan-African Movement

Moderator: Robert Akoto Amaofo (Pan Africa ILGA Advocacy Manager)

Speakers:

- Weema (SRHR Officer for Mawjudunn [We Exist] for Equality, Tunisia)
- Izu Sichinga (Doctoral Researcher Centre of Criminology, University of Cape Town, South Africa)
- Jean Daniel Wong Kuen Fat (Executive Director, Collectif Arc en Ciel, Mauritius)

Central Question: What makes the African LGBTIQ+ movement distinct, and how can we overcome the legacies of colonialism?

Weema (Tunisia): Challenging the Narrative of ‘Un-Africanness’

Weema emphasised the struggle for recognition as both queer and Tunisian, highlighting the double burden of having to take on these two identities, being queer and coming from a country that is not well known apart from in North Africa. Weema underscored the power of art in promoting visibility and representation. LGBTIQ+-focused film festivals and artistic projects from the Global South are crucial for building community and celebrating shared experiences. She called for intergenerational knowledge sharing, recognising the value of the older generation’s activism as an inspiration and guidance for new organisations.

Izu Sichinga (South Africa): Building Strategic Policing Partnerships

Sichinga argued that we need to go beyond seeing police as adversaries in the pursuit of justice for LGBTIQ+ victims of crime. He acknowledged the need to “queer” the police force, and to make a concerted effort to change institutional attitudes through training and policy awareness. He stressed that much of the work on hate crimes must be focused on law enforcement, as their understanding and implementation of the law will determine whether victims access justice. The inclusion of police sensitisation in broader LGBTIQ+ advocacy efforts was seen as critical.

Jean Daniel Wong Kuen Fat (Mauritius): Overcoming Colonial Legacies

Wong Kuen Fat highlighted Mauritius’ long-standing LGBTIQ+ activism but emphasised the need to update laws from the colonial era, ensuring they are inclusive and reflect modern social values. They stressed the need for cross-movement collaboration between LGBTIQ+ organisations and other human rights groups. They advocated for engaging with legislators and building robust advocacy networks. They emphasised the importance of decolonising narratives about Africa and urged activists to counter anti-LGBTIQ+ propaganda with a focus on African resilience and the long tradition of celebrating diversity.

Key Takeaways and Action Items

- **Embracing and Celebrating Queerness:** The movement must unapologetically reject the notion that LGBTQ+ identities are alien to African cultures.
- **Intergenerational Knowledge Sharing:** Younger activists should build on the hard-won victories of the older generation, while the older generation must actively support the emerging leaders.
- **Institutional Change:** Engage and work collaboratively with law enforcement and other institutions to transform systems and achieve better protection for LGBTQ+ individuals.
- **Decolonising Representation Through Art:** Prioritise funding that empowers artists in the Global South to create diverse, positive portrayals of LGBTQ+ Africans.
- **Donor Partnerships:** Donors and international supporters must actively consult with local activists to ensure initiatives align with community needs and sensitivities.
- **Language Justice:** Inclusivity is paramount. Translation services into Arabic and French and recognition of diverse gender expressions in these languages is crucial.



Plenary Three: My Body, My Soul, My Space, My Community: Affirming Intersectional Intersex Identity and Diversity

Moderator: Hlompho Mokoena

Speakers

- Crystal Hendricks (South Africa)
- Mphatso Sakala (Zambia)
- Obioma Chukwuike (Nigeria)

Intersex Movement Statement

Crystal Hendricks presented a powerful statement prepared by Intersex activists during the pre-conference, calling for bodily autonomy, self-determination, and a more equitable future.

- **Educating for Change:** Dispelling harmful myths and promoting understanding of Intersex identities through awareness and education campaigns.
- **Legal Protections:** Advocating for laws that explicitly protect Intersex individuals from discrimination and medical interventions.
- **Inclusive Language:** Adopting language that recognises and respects Intersex experiences, contributing to a more affirming social environment.
- **Cross-Movement Collaboration:** Building partnerships with other social justice movements and LGBTIQ+ allies.
- **Sustainable Funding:** Calling on donors to provide core funding to grassroots Intersex organisations.

Discussion: The State of Intersex Organising in Africa

- **Progress and Growth:** Speakers highlighted the increasing visibility and regional strength of the African Intersex Movement, particularly when compared to the 2018 PAI Regional Conference.
- **Capacity Building:** The skills and resources of Intersex organisations is a key priority, enabling them to advocate effectively and secure sustainable funding.
- **Challenges of Tokenism:** The movement must combat the harmful use of Intersex people as tokens in anti-gender movements, which puts them at risk.
- **Francophone Inclusion:** Greater efforts are needed to engage with Intersex organisations in French-speaking African countries.

Regional Priorities

- **Legal Reform:** To push for changes to laws that perpetuate discrimination and enable unnecessary medical interventions.
- **Ending Forced Surgeries:** Protect the bodily autonomy of Intersex children and ensure that their voices are centred in healthcare decisions.
- **Data Collection:** Conduct research and collect data on Intersex experiences to address information gaps and inform advocacy.

Question from the Audience

A delegate raised the question of educating communities and working with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

Speakers' Responses

- **Working with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs):** Collaborating with NHRIs can successfully engage the government and drive progress.
- **Strategic Advocacy:** Strategic outreach to different sectors (early childhood educators, healthcare workers, parents) is crucial.
- **Resources and Support:** Access to educational resources and inter-movement partnerships can empower advocates pushing for change.

Calls to Action

To Donors

- Provide core, flexible funding that prioritises sustainability.
- Integrate Intersex issues into funding portfolios and support partnerships.

To Allies and Partners

- Embrace intersectionality and centre Intersex voices.
- Support cross-movement collaborations that adhere to principles of inclusion and respect.



Plenary Four: South-South Collaborations - Shaping Global Alliances

Moderator: Robert Amofo

Speakers:

- Sarah Fleischer, Executive Director, Courageous Sisters Ghana
- Ivy Werimba, Galck+
- O'Neill Latiyah
- Tasha Sandra, Programs Manager, Fem Alliance Uganda

Key Themes

- **Global Solidarity:** Participants emphasised the need for international collaboration to fight anti-gender movements, particularly in countries burdened by oppressive colonial-era laws.
- **Exploitation by Politicians:** Politicians were seen to be using anti-LGBTIQ+ narratives to build a public image of upholding 'traditional values', often at the direct expense of the safety and well-being of the LGBTIQ+ community.
- **Manufactured Narratives:** Anti-gender groups are perpetuating harmful narratives, such as spreading fear about LGBTIQ+ individuals "targeting children" to fuel hatred and violence. This misinformation is particularly damaging within the African context.
- **The Corruption Factor:** Speakers pointed explicitly to the corrupting influences of money and religion. Paid actors push hateful propaganda while religious leaders mobilise communities, including children, for rallies against the LGBTIQ+ community.
- **Pre-Colonial Erasure:** The historical presence of diverse gender expressions and family structures in Africa were highlighted. Colonisation imposed a rigid Western view of the nuclear family, erasing the continent's rich traditions.

Challenges and Strategies

- **Religious Opposition:** Religion is weaponised against LGBTIQ+ communities. Speakers noted how even children are recruited into anti-LGBTIQ+ hate rallies, indoctrinated with harmful messages.
- **Resource Disparity:** The anti-gender movement benefits from substantial funding and established infrastructure (churches, schools, etc.), while LGBTIQ+ advocacy groups struggle with limited resources.
- **Context Matters:** No single advocacy approach is practical across all nations. Strategies must be tailored to specific cultural, social, and political contexts.
- **Internalised Homophobia:** The damage of internalised homophobia was emphasised, as it can leave individuals vulnerable to exploitation. The anti-gender movement preys on this, manipulating people to harm their community.

Recommendations

- **Religious Engagement:** Collaborate with organisations like GIN to help open dialogues with spiritual leaders. Highlight affirming religious texts to counter the harmful interpretations used to justify hate.
- **Traditional Values:** Emphasise the diversity of African family structures pre-colonisation and promote the continent's history of acceptance to deconstruct imposed Western ideals.
- **Building Alliances:** Partner with parents of LGBTIQ+ individuals to create powerful allies that can counter harmful narratives directed against families.
- **Exposing Corruption:** Highlight how money and religion are used as tools of oppression that can bring awareness and shift public opinion.
- **Healing Spaces:** Create welcoming and inclusive spaces within the LGBTIQ+ community to allow individuals to heal from internalised homophobia, thus reducing the risk of exploitation by anti-gender groups.
- **Diverse Funding:** Actively seek institutional and flexible funding streams to ensure sustainable support for advocacy work.

Question and Answer Highlights

- **Broadening the Circle:** Engaging allies outside the direct LGBTIQ+ community will help expand advocacy efforts.
- **Collective Strategy:** Internal divisions hinder the movement. Developing a unified strategy for all stakeholders is crucial for success.



Plenary Five: Sustainable Development - Taking Our Stand

Moderator: Robert Akoto Amoafa

Speakers:

- Morillio Williams, CoC Netherlands
- Juliet Ulanmo, Women Initiative for Empowerment And Equality (WISE)
- Fernando Damazio, Programme Analyst - LGBTIQ+ Inclusion, Angola UNDP

Key Themes & Discussion Points

- **SDGs as a Framework for Rights Advocacy:** The session began with a powerful reminder of how LGBTIQ+ activists can use the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The inherent principle of “leaving no one behind” necessitates inclusion and offers a basis on which to confront discriminatory laws and practices.
- **The Power of Data (Juliet Ulanmo):** In Nigeria, the SDGs’ alignment with the constitution provides valuable leverage. Ulanmo stressed the need for high-quality data on how laws and policies impact the LGBTIQ+ community. Such data strengthens legal challenges and forces governments to justify exclusionary practices. However, collecting this data can be resource-intensive, highlighting a critical challenge for advocates.
- **A Global, Grassroots Approach (Morillio Williams):** Williams outlined the five-year “Free To Be Me” programme running in 22 African and Asian countries, which emphasises a bottom-up strategy. The programme amplifies the voices of local LGBTIQ+ movements, with reports directly reflecting the lived experiences of LGBTIQ+ individuals, against the SDGs. This work has led to the creation of the LGBTIQ+ Stakeholder Group, now a recognised part of the UN system, representing activists at the highest levels of international policymaking.
- **Angolan and Cape Verde Progress (Fernando Damazio):** Damazio shared promising examples of how LGBTIQ+ issues can be incorporated into SDG reports in both countries. A key takeaway was the importance of building collaborations between CSOs and government agencies to enable this shift. The emphasis on collecting disaggregated data that explicitly includes the LGBTIQ+ community will be crucial for tracking progress and advocating for further action.

Questions & Answers: Critical Issues

- **Maintaining Momentum:** Concerns were raised about how to sustain the focus on LGBTIQ+ rights as the SDGs reach their midpoint. How can activists ensure governments keep to commitments to inclusion?
- **Accountability and Implementation:** Even when governments sign treaties or make positive statements at international forums, local realities for LGBTIQ+ people often remain unchanged. The discussion centred on how to ensure that international commitments are translated into tangible action.

- **Economic Empowerment:** Beyond legal recognition, what are effective strategies for improving the financial well-being of the LGBTIQ+ community?
- **The Future of Development Goals:** As the SDGs evolve, how can LGBTIQ+ advocates ensure their priorities remain central to the next wave of global development planning? What level of advocacy – local, regional, UN – is most effective for sustained progress?

Moderator's Takeaways: Actionable Insights

- **Data as a Weapon:** The ability to present governments with undeniable, well-structured data about LGBTIQ+ lived experiences can change the dynamics of policy negotiations.
- **Strategic Collaboration:** Building bridges with other stakeholders, even within government structures, is essential for sustainable change.
- **Multi-Level Engagement:** Localised activism must be coupled with participation in regional and international forums. LGBTIQ+ inclusion must be advocated at every level to counter resistance and accelerate progress.



Special Remarks

Remarks by Anne Githuku-Shongwe (UNAIDS)

Youth as Change Agents: Passionately affirmed the power of youth to drive progress, highlighting their potential as leaders and activists in the present moment.

Lessons from HIV/AIDS Advocacy: Underscored that understanding the history of HIV/AIDS advocacy provides valuable insights into addressing current injustices, especially how criminalisation and harmful laws perpetuate inequality.

Proactive Strategies: Challenged the sector to combat well-resourced conservative movements proactively, engaging early and strategically to shape the narrative instead of simply reacting.

Reaching Those Left Behind: Emphasised those services for women, children, and the LGBTIQ+ community must be prioritised and accessible, leaving no one behind.

Empowering Young Leaders: Encouraged donors to provide core funding and assist young activists in overcoming barriers to accessing resources, enabling them to lead the next generation of change.

Remarks by Victor Madrigal-Borloz (SOGIE)

Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the United Nations Independent Expert against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, delivered poignant remarks at the Pan Africa ILGA 6th Regional Conference, marking his final international conference in this capacity. He reflected on his journey since the 4th Regional Conference in Botswana in 2018, highlighting the significant progress and challenges faced by the African queer movement during his tenure.

Madrigal-Borloz discussed his mandate and efforts in promoting the rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals in Africa, including his promotional missions, country visits to Mozambique and Tunisia, and the numerous cases he addressed through various communication methods. He emphasised that he had incorporated Africa's unique context in reports to the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly, notably addressing issues related to religion and colonialism. The latter, he pointed out, was particularly impactful, as a request from Sub-Saharan feminist activists had initiated it.

He shared insights into pre-colonial African societies, noting their non-binary approaches to gender and the fluidity in sexual behaviour and identities which challenged the rigid gender binaries and heteronormativity imposed by colonial powers. These colonial influences, he argued, not only introduced political homophobia but also racialised and regulated sexuality through oppressive laws, exacerbating discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals.

Madrigal-Borloz criticised the criminalisation of same-sex relationships and gender diversity, underscoring its contradiction with international law commitments and its detrimental effects on access to essential services for LGBTIQ+ persons. He advocated for abolishing such laws, emphasising the need for states to adopt intersectional, non-binary public policies.

Highlighting the divisive nature of language and the problematic dichotomy between “civilisation” and “colonisation,” he cautioned against the marginalisation of LGBTIQ+ rights as a Western concept, advocating for a more inclusive approach to human rights.

Before concluding, Madrigal-Borloz outlined six principles that guide the mandate’s vision: acknowledgement of identities, community support, protection, intersectional understanding of challenges, the importance of representation, and evidence-based advocacy. He noted that these principles are crucial in the context of COVID-19 and broader advocacy efforts.

In his closing remarks, Madrigal-Borloz celebrated the resilience and capacity for change within the LGBTIQ+ rights movement, urging continued love and solidarity as the foundation for future successes. His speech underscored the critical importance of understanding historical contexts, challenging oppressive systems, and fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.



Remarks by Jessica Stern, US Human Rights Special Envoy

Introductory Remarks

- **Jessica Stern's Identity and Role:** Jessica Stern introduced herself as the U.S. Special Envoy for LGBTIQ+ rights. She shared her connection to the LGBTIQ+ community and her prior work as a human rights defender.
- **The US Commitment:** Stern highlighted President Biden's mandate for all US foreign policy officials to advance LGBTIQ+ rights, ensuring a whole-of-government approach.
- **A Thank You:** Stern thanked the Pan Africa ILGA organisers and the LGBTIQ+ movement in Mauritius for their hard work and commitment to hosting the conference.

The Importance of Inclusive Foreign Policy

- **A New Approach:** Integrating LGBTIQ+ rights into foreign policy is recent but unlocks the potential for new alliances and vital support.
- **The Omission is Harmful:** Leaving LGBTIQ+ issues out of international dialogues wrongly signals that they are either unimportant or solely a domestic concern.
- **Human Rights are Universal:** LGBTIQ+ rights are human rights and must be a constant in all diplomatic discussions.

Support for LGBTIQ+ Africans

- **Embassy Engagement:** Stern emphasised that US embassies should be sources of support for LGBTIQ+ activists, citing Ambassador Jardine's presence at the conference as an example.
- **High-Level Priority:** Stern reported that she meets regularly with top US officials, including the Secretary of State, to advocate for LGBTIQ+ rights worldwide and looks forward to welcoming the first Special Envoy for LGBTIQ+ Rights from Africa.

A Moment of Challenge and Opportunity

- **Backlash and Fear:** Stern acknowledged the dangers facing LGBTIQ+ people across Africa and in the United States itself, emphasising the need for global solidarity.

- **Success Breeds Resistance:** She argued that the rising attacks are a response to the progress of the LGBTIQ+ movement, as those promoting hate fear being left behind.

Celebrating Our Successes

- **Increased Visibility:** LGBTIQ+ groups are stepping out of the shadows, winning legal recognition, and celebrating Pride openly.
- **Building Alliances:** The growth of events like the LBQ pre-conference shows the potential of working at the intersections of identity for transformative action.
- **Strategic and Sophisticated:** Activists are using legal strategies, parliamentary tactics, and regional solidarity to create setbacks for anti-LGBTIQ+ forces, such as in Ghana and Uganda.
- **Judicial Victories:** Court rulings in countries like Namibia give hope for expanded rights and recognition.

A Call to Action

- **We Will Prevail:** Despite the challenges, Stern is resolute that the LGBTIQ+ movement will ultimately win because of its inherent strength.
- **The Beauty of Authenticity:** Stern encouraged attendees to embrace their beauty and authenticity, using their energy and creativity to fuel the fight for justice.



Conference Satellite Sessions

The Pan Africa ILGA 6th Regional Conference satellite sessions provided a dynamic platform for in-depth exploration of the most urgent challenges and strategic opportunities facing LGBTIQ+ communities across Africa. Participants were exposed to multifaceted approaches designed to promote equality and inclusion.

Key themes included:

- **Confronting Legal Barriers:** Sessions highlighted successful decriminalisation campaigns, tactical uses of strategic litigation, and the vital elements needed for legal gender recognition advocacy.
- **The Power of Expression:** Participants explored how various art forms can be used for visibility, powerful storytelling, and healing within LGBTIQ+ communities.
- **Strengthening Solidarity:** Sessions emphasised ways to build cross-movement alliances, mainly focusing on the youth, feminist, and Global South-led initiatives, fostering a more robust and resilient movement.
- **Protecting the Displaced:** The conference showcased collaborative models for enhancing refugee resettlement routes. African civil society organisations were highlighted as leaders in creating safe pathways for LGBTIQ+ individuals fleeing persecution.
- **Data-Driven Advocacy:** Sessions demonstrated how research and data collection can challenge harmful narratives and support the development of rights-based policies.

These satellite sessions offered participants:

- **Actionable Knowledge:** Attendees gained practical strategies and tools to use in their local advocacy efforts.
- **Expanded Networks:** Connections between activists, experts, and organisations across the continent were fostered facilitating collaboration.
- **Renewed Inspiration:** Participants left feeling empowered by innovative ideas and the collective strength of the Pan-African LGBTIQ+ movement.

Satellite One: What is the Narrative for Young LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Defenders

Speakers

- Imani Kimiri (Head of Legal Affairs, National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission)
- Oubabi Mankada (Activiste/Gestionnaire Comptable, Reseau Cupidon)

Key Themes and Objectives

This workshop's aim was to ignite a Pan-African conversation about the emerging priorities and strategies for young LGBTIQ+ human rights defenders.

Key considerations included:

- **Defining the Narrative:** Identifying the most harmful tropes and stereotypes faced by young LGBTIQ+ activists and developing counter-narratives that promote acceptance and equality.
- **Cross-regional Collaboration:** Exploring how to connect and learn from triumphant decriminalisation victories across the continent thus building a more robust network of young advocates.
- **Strategic Litigation:** Assessing when and how strategic litigation can be used effectively by the next generation of activists for systemic legal change.

Impact

This satellite session provided a crucial platform for young activists to share their experiences and strategies and to gain knowledge. It sparked renewed energy and focused on crafting a youth-centred agenda within Africa's broader LGBTIQ+ rights movement.





Satellite Two: ARTIVISM!

Speakers

- Onkokame Mosweu (Programmes Manager - SRHR/ HIV and Bio-Medical Programme, Men for Health)
- Justice Nakazibwe Harriet (Gender Justice)

Key Themes and Objectives

This workshop focused on the power of personal experiences and creative expression as tools for LGBTIQ+ advocacy and community building. These included:

- **Visibility and Storytelling:** How artists and activists can use their stories to break silences, challenge stigma, and build connections.
- **Art as Advocacy:** Practical ways to harness creativity for awareness campaigns, policy change, and community education initiatives.
- **Healing and Resilience:** Exploring the therapeutic role of art for activists, promoting mental health, and combating burnout within the movement.

Impact

This session offered activists a framework for using creativity to enhance their work. It fostered a sense of empowerment by showcasing artistic expression as a powerful tool for personal and collective liberation.

Satellite Three: Legal Gender Recognition

Speakers

- Adera Enosa (Programme Associate, Trans Alliance)
- Tintotendashe Maunganidze (Research Assistant CESHAR Zimbabwe)
- Kat Kol-Kes (Kat Kai Kol-Kes International)

Key Themes and Objectives:

- **Mapping Stakeholders:** Identifying government departments and agencies (e.g., civil registration, health, etc.) crucial to driving legal gender recognition campaigns.
- **Collaborative Advocacy:** Building consensus and forming a number of task forces comprised of state and non-state actors dedicated to equal registration rights.
- **Comparative Best Practices:** Examining successful models for legal gender recognition reform from diverse contexts and adapting strategies for the African landscape.

Impact:

This session was there to create a strategic roadmap for advocates working on legal gender recognition. Key takeaways included participants gaining a clearer understanding of the legal complexities, developing a collaborative framework for advocacy, and finding inspiration from successful global case studies.





Satellite Four: Enhancing Multilateral Collaboration on LGBTIQ+ Forced Displacement in Africa

Speakers

- Kimahli Powell (CEO, Rainbow Railroad)
- Brian Okollan (Founder/Director, URM)
- Steve Letsike (Executive Director, Access Chapter 2)
- Victor Chikalogwe

Key Themes and Objectives

This cutting-edge session explored new models for addressing the crisis of LGBTIQ+ forced displacement in Africa. Key foci included:

- **Civil Society Leadership:** Highlighting how African civil society organisations are designing and leading effective refugee resettlement pathways.
- **Multilateral Partnerships:** Strategising ways to leverage North-South partnerships, securing funding and logistical support for African-led initiatives.
- **South-South Resettlement:** Exploring the potential for more incredible intra-African migration as a safe and sustainable solution for LGBTIQ+ refugees.

Impact

This session fostered collaboration and knowledge sharing among organisations tackling forced LGBTIQ+ displacement. The power of Global South-led solutions that could potentially lead to expanded safe havens and more effective resettlement models for the continent was highlighted.

Satellite Five: Building Alliances to Strengthen Evidence-Based Research/Data to Affirm and Advance the Rights of LGBTIQ+ Persons on the African Continent

Speakers

- Tashwill Esterhuizen (Legal adviser - sexuality and gender, Amnesty International)
- Alex Müller (Coordinator, People's Health Movement)
- Melanie Judge (Senior Policy Advisor on LGBTI Inclusion, independent researcher - UNDP & University of Cape Town)
- Njeri Gateru (Executive Director, NGLHRC)

Key Themes and Objectives

This session centred on building a robust evidence base to support LGBTIQ+ rights advocacy across Africa. Key foci included:

- **Understanding State-Sanctioned Homophobia:** Identifying how data can expose links between political homophobia, undemocratic practices, and the erosion of good governance.
- **Intersectional Data Collection:** Designing research methodologies that capture the diverse realities within LGBTIQ+ communities, ensuring no one is left behind.
- **From Data to Action:** Translating research into effective policy briefs, public awareness campaigns, and tools for challenging harmful laws in court.

Impact

This session equipped participants with strategies for conducting impactful research and leveraging evidence for systemic change. Collaborative approaches, drawing on expertise from legal, public health, and grassroots human rights sectors, were emphasised.





Satellite Six: Intersectional Queerness in Africa

Speakers

- Adil Freidji (Président, Collectif LIQAAT Maroc)
- Kadidiatou Tarpaka (Researcher in Gender and Diversities Law Consultant)
- Ibrahim Hassan (Executive Director, AIHI Nigeria)
- Elizabeth Onyango (AVAC Advocacy Fellow Kenya 2022/2023 Coast Sex Workers Alliance)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Beyond Single-Issue Advocacy:** Exploring how to dismantle systems of oppression based on intersecting identities (sexuality, gender, race, class, etc.)
- **North-South Dialogues:** Focusing on comparing intersectional challenges and strategies between different African regions.
- **Challenging Internalised Oppression:** Addressing how prejudice and harmful narratives can exist within LGBTIQ+ communities themselves, requiring a focus on healing and inclusion.

Impact

This session fostered critical analysis and dialogue on the need for intersectional approaches to LGBTIQ+ advocacy. It sparked collaborations between activists in different social justice spaces, emphasising the need for solidarity and broader coalitions.



Satellite Seven: Towards A Queer Pan-African Feminist Utopia: Conversations in Imagination, Joy, And Futurity

Speakers

- W Gaitho (PhD Researcher, University of Cambridge)
- Njeri Gateru (Executive Director, NGLHRC)
- Godiva Akullo (Independent Research Consultant, Global Interfaith Network- SOGIE)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Critiquing Pan-Africanism:** Analysing how traditional Pan-Africanist movements may have excluded LGBTIQ+ voices and re-envisioning what a genuinely inclusive Pan-African liberation movement should look like.
- **Lessons from the Past:** Drawing on historical examples of Black queer feminist activism across Africa, seeking guidance from past successes and challenges.
- **The Role of Joy and Creativity:** Exploring how art, self-expression, and celebrating joy are essential for resistance, community-building, and envisioning alternative futures.
- **Manifesto for Change:** Producing a collaborative manifesto outlining fundamental principles and action points for a queer, feminist, Pan-African movement.

Impact

This session offered a space for deep reflection, critical thinking, and a radical re-imagining of Pan-African movements. The importance of centring Black queer women's voices was emphasised and a powerful guide for intersectional advocacy across the continent was produced.

Satellite Eight: The Tassi Hangbè Interdisciplinary University: the first interdisciplinary learning space for the development of the LGBTIQ+ movement in Francophone Africa

Speakers

- Solange A Musanganya (Co-Coordinator, Queer African Youth Network)
- Nataka Gmakagni

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Filling a Critical Gap:** Highlighting the need for Francophone-focused LGBTIQ+ advocacy training due to linguistic barriers and unique regional challenges.
- **The University's Vision:** Outlining its curriculum (e.g., advocacy, project management, mental health), target audience, and overall goals for empowering activists.
- **Inaugural Success:** Sharing details of the first university session (number of participants, countries represented, favourable outcomes, lessons learned, etc.).

Impact

This session provided an inspiring overview of QAYN's commitment to strengthening Francophone African LGBTIQ+ movements. Interest in the Tassi Hangbè Interdisciplinary University was generated, and applications for future sessions was encouraged.





Satellite Nine: Mapping Our Desires

Speakers

- Jaime Grant (Founder, Transformations Consulting)
- Tampose Mothopeng (The People's Matrix)
- Nhlompho Mokoena (Regional Support Team Lead, The Engine Room)
- Elizabeth Kerekere (Member of Parliament - New Zealand)
- Azza Nubi (Outright International)
- Steph Niapuri (Grindr for Equality)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Challenging the Status Quo:** Critiquing harmful narratives about sexuality, gender, and power, promoting self-determination and bodily autonomy.
- **Power of Desire:** Exploring desire as a source of personal and collective liberation, fuelling transformative social change.
- **Building Inclusive Movements:** Strategising how to create a justice movement that centres the most marginalised voices and celebrates the full spectrum of identities.
- **The Political as Personal:** Connecting personal empowerment to systemic change, examining how policies and laws impact individual lives.

Impact

This session sparked critical thinking about how personal desires, identities, and lived experiences shape broader activism. Participants were challenged to consider who benefits from existing power structures and how to build movements rooted in pleasure, authenticity, and justice.

Satellite Ten: Doubly Marginalised: LGBTQ+ Women in West Africa Striving Through Resilience and Power of Pride

Speakers

- Juliet Nnedimna Ulanmo (WISE)
- Akudo Oguaghamba (WHER)
- Sheba Akpokli (QAYN)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Understanding Unique Challenges:** Deepening understanding of the multi-layered discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ women due to the intersection of sexism, homophobia, and potentially other factors like class and ethnicity.
- **Sharing Lived Experiences:** Creating a platform for LGBTQ+ women to share stories of resilience, resistance, and community building, countering narratives of victimhood.
- **Challenging Harmful Narratives:** Debunking myths and stereotypes that perpetuate violence and discrimination against LGBTQ+ women, promoting alternative visions of gender and sexuality.
- **Building Solidarity:** Fostering connections between LGBTQ+ women's organisations and other social justice movements in West Africa, amplifying their voices and struggles.

Impact

This session offered a crucial space for LGBTQ+ women to be seen, heard, and affirmed. The importance of intersectional advocacy was emphasised and a sense of solidarity and shared purpose fuelled for those working to advance the rights of LGBTQ+ women across the region.





Satellite Eleven: Towards an Activist Blueprint for Building Narrative Power to Establish Progressive Public Attitudes, Norms, Policies and Laws on Sexuality and Gender

Speakers

- Richard Lusimbo (Director General UKPC)
- Oluchi Ogwuegbu (Singizi Africa)
- Natasha Ivy (Transbantu Association Zambia)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Understanding Anti-Gender Movements:** Analysing the strategies, funding sources, and critical messages used by those who oppose sexual and gender rights.
- **Building Counter-Narratives:** Developing compelling narratives rooted in human rights, lived experiences, and cultural values that promote inclusivity and equality.
- **Strategic Communication:** Identifying effective channels (social media, traditional media, arts, etc.) to disseminate narratives that reach diverse audiences.
- **Influencing Policymakers:** Developing advocacy strategies tailored to engage with decision-makers, building support for laws and policies that advance LGBTIQ+ rights.

Impact

This session provided activists with a framework for identifying harmful narratives, craft effective counter-messages and strategically advocate for progressive change. Collaboration between researchers, activists, and those working with policymakers to create long-lasting attitudinal and legal shifts was emphasised.



Satellite Twelve: Pride Afrique – Reimagining Safety and Solidarity

Speakers

- Marline Oluchi (Pride Afrique 2023 Chair, Advocacy/ Communications Consultant)
- Nokuthula Dhladhla (Global Interfaith Network)
- Star Rugori (Outgoing PAI Co-Chair, Executive Director MOLI)
- Chantell Fortuin (Regional Coordinator, Global Interfaith Network)
- Firas Njah (Damj Tunisia)
- Liberty Matthyse (Gender Dynamix)

Key Themes and Objectives:

- **Challenging Traditional Notions of Safety:** Moving beyond just physical safety to encompass psychological, legal, and community-level protection for LGBTIQ+ people.
- **Community-Centred Solutions:** Exploring practical strategies for building support networks, sharing resources, and creating safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ individuals within hostile environments.
- **Religious Inclusion:** Addressing the role of faith in either perpetuating harm or fostering inclusion.
- **Documenting and Advocacy:** Highlighting the importance of gathering data on violence and discrimination to inform advocacy campaigns and pressure governments for change.

Impact

This session offered a critical space for rethinking traditional approaches to safety. The importance of community-based solutions, resilience building, and strategic advocacy tailored to address LGBTIQ+ activists' specific challenges in Africa was emphasised.

Satellite Thirteen: Intersection of Global Sustainability Policy and LGBTIQ+ Rights

Speakers

- Sheriff Mothopeng (Senior Researcher, Accountability International)
- Aminy Nimy (HUMURE)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Marginalisation within Sustainability Efforts:** Examining how LGBTIQ+ individuals may be excluded from decision-making, left out of benefits, or even disproportionately harmed by global sustainability policies.
- **Inclusive Solutions:** Advocating for policies that explicitly address the needs of LGBTIQ+ people, ensuring that environmental protection efforts do not lead to further discrimination and vulnerability.
- **Data and Visibility:** Highlighting the need for research and data collection on how issues like climate change, resource extraction, and pollution impact LGBTIQ+ communities.
- **Building Coalitions:** Strategising ways to bridge LGBTIQ+ rights movements with environmental justice organisations to create more equitable and inclusive sustainability initiatives.

Impact

This session emphasised the importance of considering LGBTIQ+ rights in the global sustainability fight. Participants were encouraged to think critically about how environmental policies can either perpetuate or combat marginalisation, creating opportunities for collaboration and advocacy that leave no one behind.





Satellite Fourteen: Deconstruction of Faith, Tradition, and Culture in Africa

Speakers

- Nokuthula Dhladhla (Global Interfaith Network)
- Toni Kruger-Ayebazibwe (Global Interfaith Network)
- Shamim Salim (Global Interfaith Network)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Colonial Legacies:** Examining how current interpretations of faith, tradition, and culture may have been influenced by colonial forces that sought to repress diverse expressions of gender and sexuality.
- **Challenging Misinterpretations:** Deconstructing the misuse of religious texts or traditional beliefs that are used to justify discrimination against LGBTIQ+ individuals.
- **Reclaiming African Values:** Highlighting aspects of African spirituality that promote inclusion, diversity, and respect for all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **Fostering Dialogue:** Creating a safe space for conversations between LGBTIQ+ people and faith leaders to build understanding and find avenues for collaboration.

Impact

This session offered a crucial platform for re-examining the relationship between faith, tradition, and LGBTIQ+ identities in the African context. Harmful narratives were challenged and a more inclusive understanding of spirituality promoted, encouraging participants to reclaim and celebrate the full diversity of African experiences.

Satellite Fifteen: Transgender Rights and Inclusive Healthcare in Botswana. A Study on Systematic Inclusion and the (Financial and Mortal) Cost of Exclusion in Practice

Speaker

- Kat Kolonyane (Kat Kol-Kes International)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Legislative Barriers:** Examining existing laws and policies in Botswana that either hinder or facilitate access to gender-affirming healthcare for Transgender individuals.
- **Healthcare Service Gaps:** Identifying specific areas where the healthcare system fails to meet the needs of Transgender individuals, such as lack of trained providers, discrimination, or financial barriers.
- **Real-World Consequences:** Highlighting the devastating impact of exclusionary healthcare practices on Transgender people in Botswana. This could include financial hardship, delays in treatment, mental health risks, and even avoidable deaths.
- **Comparative Approaches:** Comparing Botswana's situation with that of other countries, highlighting best practices and successful advocacy models.

Impact

This session provided crucial insights into the systemic barriers faced by Transgender people in Botswana. Awareness of the human cost of exclusion was raised and participants equipped with the knowledge and tools to advocate for inclusive healthcare policies and practices.





Satellite Sixteen: Building Mental Resilience for Queer African Activists

Speakers

- Pierre MEZAMA (Chambre Camerounaise des Acteurs en Psychologie)
- Star Rugori (Outgoing PAI Co-Chair, Executive Director MOLI)
- Dalziel Leone (EATHAN)
- David Sidney Mangwegape (Institute of Health Sciences-Lobatse)
- Anjeelee Kaur Beegun (EGIDES)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Unique Challenges for LGBTIQ+ Activists:** Exploring how constant exposure to discrimination, hostility, and the weight of community needs impacts mental well-being.
- **Lack of Affirming Care:** Addressing the scarcity of LGBTIQ+ competent mental health professionals in Africa and the harm caused by discriminatory or uninformed care providers.
- **Self-Care and Resilience Strategies:** Sharing tools and techniques for managing stress, coping with burnout, and practising self-compassion within high-pressure environments.
- **Building Support Networks:** Emphasising the importance of peer support, mentoring, and creating safe spaces for activists to process experiences and find community.

Impact

This session offered participants a space to acknowledge the emotional toll of their work and provided resources to help them prioritise their mental health. It emphasised the interconnectedness of personal well-being and effective activism was emphasised and participants were encouraged to build sustainable practices for the long-term fight for LGBTIQ+ rights.



Satellite Seventeen: Using Storytelling in Activism

Speakers

- Linda Njiru (Campaigns Manager, Africa All Out)
- Matt Beard (Executive Director, All Out)
- Kevin Mwachiro (Finger Piano Productions)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **The Power of Personal Stories:** Exploring how to shift away from abstract concepts towards the telling of human stories that resonate emotionally, challenge stereotypes, and build understanding.
- **Documenting for Advocacy:** Telling ethical stories, gathering and amplifying the voices of marginalised individuals and using stories to pressure governments and to challenge legal discrimination.
- **Celebrating Diversity:** Highlighting the diverse experiences and identities within the LGBTIQ+ community, moving beyond narratives of suffering to showcase resilience, joy, and the full spectrum of human knowledge.
- **Strategic Storytelling:** Selecting the correct stories for the right audiences, tailoring messages for specific platforms (social media, traditional media, etc.), and achieving desired advocacy goals.

Impact

This session aimed to equip participants with the skills and understanding needed to use storytelling effectively in their advocacy work. The power of personal narratives that challenge dominant narratives, build empathy, and ultimately create lasting social change was emphasised.

Satellite Eighteen: Empowering the LGBTIQ+ Community through Local Leadership and Ownership

Speakers

- Anne-Roos Wasser (COC Netherlands)
- Jeannot OUESSOU (Country Partner - Benin)
- Other Country Partners (Zambia, Tunisia, Nigeria, Uganda)

Key Themes and Objectives

- **Shifting Power Dynamics:** Examining how traditional donor-recipient models can be transformed to prioritise local leadership and expertise.
- **Best Practices for Local Ownership:** Sharing successful strategies for empowering grassroots organisations, building capacity, and fostering sustainable movements.
- **Participatory Grant making:** Exploring inclusive and transparent decision-making processes within the Power to Pride alliance.
- **Challenges and Successes:** Discussing the challenges and victories achieved when prioritising local leadership.

Impact

This session fostered critical dialogue about the importance of local ownership within international LGBTIQ+ advocacy efforts. Collaboration between partners was sparked and the value of bottom-up approaches to drive long-lasting change for LGBTIQ+ communities emphasised.





Conference Closing Plenary

Moderator: Anthony Oluoch

Speakers

- Jean Daniel Wong, Collectif Mauritius
- Steve Letsike, Executive Director, Access Chapter
- Dana Goundan Young Queer Alliance
- Victor Madrigal-Borloz, SOGIE Expert

Anthony Oluoch:

Welcome! This will be a quick session since we have had several discussions these past few days. Can you tell me the purpose of this conference? We are here to unite in a collaborative spirit, make an inventory of our progress, reinvigorate ourselves, and move forward.

How do we do an inventory of our progress?

Victor Madrigal-Borloz: This topic has several components. In the past, I worked for an NGO that focused on rehabilitation. The work involved reflecting on our progress, evaluating our efforts, sharing knowledge, and understanding our successes and challenges. We were in a safe space to express ourselves and discuss our blind spots. Every conversation was valuable, whether critical or not, and helped my work. Our collective ambition was to achieve our goals through proper financial planning.

Anthony Oluoch: This is a moment to grow and for constructive criticism. Dana, as a youth representative, what have you learned from this experience?

Dana Goundan: As activists and human beings from diverse cultures, we have learned much from each other. Sadly, we have also experienced different types of phobias within our community. Nevertheless, we are here to fight together, to be ourselves, and to love each other. Let's reclaim our space. Instead of blaming each other, let's walk together. Our people are tired, and so are we. It's time to pause, take a deep breath, and move forward together.

Anthony Oluoch: Self-care is one of the most critical issues, as we are here to love and learn from each other in this challenging world.

Jean Daniel Wong: Thank you, Pan Africa ILGA and all, for this great opportunity. We shared stories, hopes, and experiences. We need to understand the situation in different countries better and recognise the challenges, threats, and opportunities in this arduous journey.

We need to stay united. We can only walk the talk in a space that is denied to us. Our wellness, our health, and our diversity are precious.

Anthony Oluoch: What are we taking out of this conference? What should be the declaration? So many fighters, activists, and rainbows...

Victor Madrigal-Borloz: General observation: It's a strong statement of unity and solidarity, a movement that knows itself and is getting stronger and is ready to bring an African voice to our challenges. My declaration: I want you to know that experts like me are and will always be by your side. That's my commitment to you.

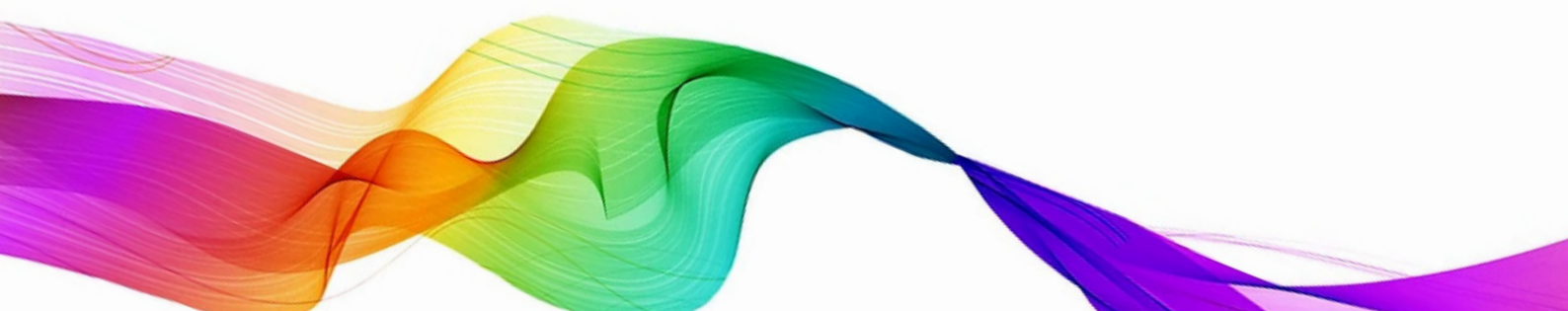
Jean Daniel Wong: My declaration: I am proud to see all those activists at this conference, a landmark in Mauritius. This conference will bring about more achievements and successes.

Steve Letsike: We may be an island, but we are not. We must work together. There is a need for urgency; our crisis is of utmost importance. Health saves lives. We must reclaim our power. We belong to different countries. We belong, we are citizens, we vote. I am the first openly gay going for elections in my country. Let's ask for our social contract and vote, as we must vote.

Dana Goundan: I had the chance to talk to amazing people. Most of them spoke about issues and problems they face. By doing so, they also gave me a piece of their heart and their mind. Now, I will talk about you, your love, pain, your hopes.

Questions and Answers

- Grateful for the first very manifesto for queer youth in Africa. A few years ago, we were hiding. Now we are seen. Let's recognise this achievement. Let's celebrate our true African joy.
- I take away the knowledge that wellness and support are critical in the movement.
- A lot has been done, but there is also much to do. Nothing is for us without us, and the time is now. This will not be done by them or us but by everyone.
- This is my first-ever PAI conference. Thank you for recognising the Francophone activism.
- We're not giving up and we still need more space to continue our work.
- Thank you so much from Lesotho. I want to recognise the fabulous work and challenges we are still facing.



Anthony Oluoch: It was an incredible conference, thanks to the fabulous volunteers, the technical team, and you participants who travelled from far away. Have a safe journey back. Thank you so much for everything with love, respect, and solidarity.

Steve Letsike: conducted a Call and Response.

Call: What do we want?

Response: HUMAN RIGHTS

Call: When do we want them?

Response: NOW!

**VIVA
PAI
VIVA!**



Conference Declaration

PAI 6th Regional Conference

Turtle Bay, Balaclava, Mauritius

31 July to 04 August 2023

Introduction

Over 400 delegates from across Africa gathered at the PAI 6th Regional Conference in Mauritius, convened to address the urgent and diverse needs of the community. This assembly underscored the significance of organising such conferences amidst logistical and societal challenges and highlighted the importance of solidarity, dialogue, and action within the Pan-African LGBTIQ+ movement. Recognising the inherent complexities in conference organisation, this event is a testament to the resilience and commitment of activists and allies working towards a future where dignity, rights, and equality prevail for all, regardless of identity.

We, the PAI 6th Regional Conference participants, embrace the following commitments: to honour the spirit of unity and determination demonstrated at the conference and lay down a concrete path towards a more inclusive, equitable, and vibrant future for the LGBTIQ+ community in Africa and beyond.

Our Youth, Our Future: Empowering the Next Generation

1. We commit to designing mentorship programmes that offer personalised guidance, career advice, and that support and facilitate direct connections between young LGBTIQ+ individuals and established leaders in the community. These programmes will nurture the next generation of LGBTIQ+ advocates and leaders.
2. We pledge to establish scholarships targeting LGBTIQ+ youth aspiring to pursue studies in human rights, advocacy, and related fields. These scholarships will provide financial support and aim to remove barriers to education for LGBTIQ+ individuals.
3. We will create and support platforms within LGBTIQ+ organisations dedicated to youth leadership. These platforms will ensure that young people play significant roles in decision-making processes, programme design, and advocacy efforts, empowering them to contribute their perspectives and energy to the movement.
4. We will actively advocate for integrating LGBTIQ+ rights and history into educational curriculums. This effort will involve working with educational authorities, schools, and teachers to develop inclusive teaching materials and programmes that reflect the diversity of human experience and promote understanding and acceptance.

5. We aim to establish a dedicated fund to financially support youth led LGBTIQ+ initiatives. This fund will provide grants for projects that innovate in advocacy, community building, and leadership thus encouraging young LGBTIQ+ individuals to take active roles in shaping their communities.

Queerly African: Celebrating and Strengthening Our Movement

1. We commit to a comprehensive project documenting the rich history of LGBTIQ+ Africans, collecting stories, artefacts, and significant milestones highlighting the community's resilience and contributions. This historical archive will be accessible through digital platforms, exhibitions, and publications, serving as both an educational resource and a source of pride for LGBTIQ+ Africans and allies.
2. We plan to expand the organisation and sponsorship of Pan-African LGBTIQ+ cultural festivals. These festivals will showcase the diversity and unity of the LGBTIQ+ community through art, music, dance, and literature, providing a vibrant platform for expression and connection. Each festival will highlight the different regions of the continent, celebrating local cultures and fostering a sense of pan-African unity.
3. We will launch targeted campaigns to amplify LGBTIQ+ African voices and stories, using social media, documentaries, and partnerships with mainstream media. These campaigns will focus on personal narratives highlighting the challenges, triumphs, and daily experiences of LGBTIQ+ Africans, promoting greater visibility and understanding within and beyond the continent.
4. We pledge to develop a comprehensive resource pool for LGBTIQ+ African activists, offering access to legal assistance, psychological support, and logistical aid. This will include a network of professionals who can provide pro bono services, guides, and toolkits for navigating legal systems, mental health resources, and help with organising community events.
5. We aim to foster stronger collaborations among LGBTIQ+ organisations across the continent, establishing a structured network for sharing resources, strategies, and support. This network will facilitate the exchange of successful advocacy tactics, coordinate regional responses to crises, and organise pan-African campaigns to address common challenges facing the LGBTIQ+ community in Africa.



My Body, My Soul, My Space, My Community: Affirming Identity and Diversity

1. We commit to launching multifaceted awareness campaigns, using digital media, community workshops, and public events to address stigma and discrimination. These campaigns will highlight positive stories and contributions of LGBTIQ+ individuals, employing educational materials tailored for diverse audiences, including schools, workplaces, and religious communities.
2. We will actively engage with lawmakers, civil society, and human rights organisations to advocate for formulating and enacting comprehensive anti-discrimination laws. These laws will aim to protect LGBTIQ+ individuals from discrimination in employment, education, healthcare, and public accommodations, with legal recourse for violations.
3. We plan to support and establish safe spaces across Africa, including physical community centres and virtual platforms. These spaces will offer LGBTIQ+ individuals a place for community, support, and resources, facilitating activities such as support groups, educational workshops, and cultural events, ensuring accessibility and safety.
4. We will implement comprehensive mental health programmes, offering counselling services, well-being workshops, and crisis support tailored to the LGBTIQ+ community. These programmes will be designed with cultural competence, and will aim to address the unique mental health challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals.
5. We aim to collaborate with healthcare providers and organisations to develop inclusive health services that cater to the specific needs of the LGBTIQ+ community. This includes training for healthcare professionals on LGBTIQ+ health issues, establishing LGBTIQ+-friendly clinics, and advocating for healthcare policies that ensure equitable access to medical care, including mental health, sexual health, and gender-affirming treatments.

Sustainable Development: Our Stand for Inclusion and Equity

1. We will ensure LGBTIQ+ issues are interwoven into the fabric of broader sustainable development initiatives, aligning with global goals. This includes advocating for LGBTIQ+ inclusion in national development policies and programmes and ensuring that development efforts address the specific needs and challenges of LGBTIQ+ communities.
2. We will intensify our efforts to promote economic inclusion for LGBTIQ+ individuals, working with businesses, governments, and trade unions to implement non-discriminatory employment practices, create inclusive workplaces, and support LGBTIQ+ entrepreneurship through targeted programmes and resources.
3. We commit to forging partnerships with environmental organisations to explore and address the intersectionality of LGBTIQ+ rights and environmental justice. This includes advocating for LGBTIQ+ inclusion in environmental activism, ensuring environmental policies consider the impact on LGBTIQ+ communities, and supporting LGBTIQ+ leadership in environmental movements.
4. We will expand our programmes to tackle homelessness and poverty within the LGBTIQ+ community, including the need for emergency housing services, financial assistance programmes, and support for accessing public services and resources. These programmes will be designed to focus on the most vulnerable members of the LGBTIQ+ community.
5. We will advocate for and explicitly include LGBTIQ+ perspectives in climate change discussions, policies, and action plans. This involves ensuring that climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies address the unique vulnerabilities of LGBTIQ+ individuals and communities and that LGBTIQ+ leadership in climate activism is promoted.



Global Impact

1. We plan to establish a coalition to foster South-South cooperation among LGBTIQ+ organisations. This coalition will serve as a hub for sharing resources, strategies, and support, emphasising tailored solutions that address the unique challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ communities in the Global South.
2. We will expand our efforts to organise international conferences and workshops to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building among LGBTIQ+ activists and organisations. These events will focus on sharing best practices, innovative advocacy strategies, and fostering global solidarity.
3. We aim to launch a comprehensive global advocacy campaign to amplify the issues facing LGBTIQ+ communities in Africa, thereby seeking to increase international awareness, support, and solidarity. This campaign will utilise digital platforms, international media outreach, and collaboration with global allies.
4. We intend to create a dedicated fund to support LGBTIQ+ organisations in the Global South, focusing on emergency response, advocacy projects, and capacity building. This fund will assist grassroots organisations in navigating challenges such as legal battles, community support programmes, and advocacy campaigns.
5. We commit to continuous advocacy for LGBTIQ+ rights at international forums, ensuring that the voices and concerns of African LGBTIQ+ communities are represented and heard. This includes engaging with international human rights bodies, participating in global conferences, and forming alliances with international LGBTIQ+ rights organisations.

This declaration encapsulates our collective commitment to advancing LGBTIQ+ rights and dignity through focused actions on youth empowerment, cultural affirmation, identity diversity, sustainable development, and global collaboration.



Appendix One: African Intersex Movement Statement

AFRICAN INTERSEX MOVEMENT STATEMENT BODILY AUTONOMY: A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT PAI 6th REGIONAL CONFERENCE MAURITIUS 2023

Intersex activists from various African countries convened for the 3rd Pan African Intersex Pre-Conference, at the PAI 6th Regional Conference, in Mauritius in July 2023.

The conference provided a platform for sharing insights and experiences and fostering collaboration under the topic: Quotability Autonomy: A Fundamental Human Right.

Guided by the Africa Intersex Movement Statements of 2017 and 2019, we, the African Intersex activists, proudly declare our commitment to sharing knowledge and experiences while collaboratively shaping our strategic direction.

Preamble

Guided by the Africa Intersex Movement Statements of 2017 and 2019, we, the African Intersex activists, proudly declare our commitment to sharing knowledge and experiences while collaboratively shaping our strategic direction. Our purpose is to amplify the voices of African Intersex individuals regionally and internationally.

We offer ourselves as a resource to allies and stakeholders invested in advancing the ongoing struggle for Intersex rights, autonomy, and self-determination. We affirm the existence of Intersex people across all African nations. We live within societies that perpetuate violence and discrimination against us, influenced by cultural, traditional, and medical norms. Intersex people have long endured discrimination, misunderstanding, and stigmatisation.

Our stories have frequently been erased by society. However, we assemble today as a compassionate and empathetic force determined to construct a world that embraces diversity. Today, at this pivotal conference, we address a matter of paramount significance - the rights, dignity, and acknowledgement of Intersex individuals. United, we stand to raise our voices, engage in meaningful dialogue, and foster positive transformation for a community that has been historically marginalised and disregarded.

We acknowledge that the path to progress is illuminated by empathy, education, and unwavering support. Your role is pivotal as both allies and donors. Your resources, influence, and dedication with help to reshape the narrative surrounding Intersex individuals, cultivating a foundation for a more equitable future.

Our purpose is to amplify the voices of African Intersex individuals regionally and internationally.

Together, we must advocate for:

Awareness and Education: We must tirelessly educate ourselves and others about Intersex variations, dispelling myths, and misinformation. Let us engage in conversations that foster understanding and empathy, breaking down the walls of ignorance that have kept Intersex experiences hidden.

Self-determination and Autonomy: We believe in the right of every individual to bodily autonomy and self-determination.

Legal Protections: It is imperative to advocate for legal frameworks that protect Intersex individuals from discrimination and ensure equal access to opportunities in education, employment, and healthcare.

Inclusive Language: Let us use inclusive language that respects and acknowledges Intersex people's identities and experiences. Doing so fosters an environment where everyone is valued and affirmed.

Collaboration and Representation: We urge stakeholders to collaborate with Intersex-led organisations and activists, ensuring their voices are heard and respected in decision-making spaces and processes.

Cultural Shift: We envision a society that celebrates diversity, dismantling binary perceptions of gender and sex. By challenging societal norms that perpetuate stigma, we counter the erasure of Intersex identities.

Furthermore, we appeal to donors to:

Provide Core Funding: Offer flexible, sustainable, and contextually relevant core funding to Intersex grassroots organisations.

Include Intersex Issues: Integrate Intersex concerns into funding portfolios.

Support Partnerships: Assist in forming intersectional cross-movement partnerships between the Intersex movement and other social justice movements.

Enhance Effectiveness: Contribute to the effectiveness and safety of Intersex organisations and activists.

To our LGBTQ+ comrades and allies, we encourage you to:

Employ Intersectional Strategies: Embrace an inclusive and respectful intersectional approach that acknowledges Intersex realities and contexts.

Elevate Intersex Voices: Prioritise Intersex voices in advocating for Intersex rights.

Build Partnerships: Support cross-movement collaborations while adhering to principles such as no harm; nothing about us, without us, and leaving no one behind.

Let this conference be a turning point, a catalyst for change that extends into every corner of society. Together, we can shape a future where all individuals are celebrated for who they are, regardless of their sexual characteristics, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation!

**Kwaa
Umoja!**

Appendix Two: The African Trans Movement Statement

THE AFRICAN TRANS MOVEMENT STATEMENT ADVANCING TRANS RIGHTS IN SOLIDARITY AND DETERMINATION

PAI 6TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE

MAURITIUS 2023

The African Trans and Gender-Diverse Movement, expanding on its manifesto presented at the 8th CFCS Pan African Trans Pre-conference, would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors who have provided funding for Transgender initiatives over the years. We also note the development of sub-regional Trans networks such as the Southern African Trans Forum, EATHAN, the West African Trans Forum, and the regional African Trans Network, all of which attest to the movement's expansion. That said, we decry our continued struggles as a community. Trans and Gender-Diverse people experience the highest levels of marginalisation and discrimination; the Trans community remains the least funded in the world, receiving only 8% of global funding for Trans organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Trans and Gender-Diverse community is battling with the anti-gender and anti-rights movement that is well-funded and working to erase Trans rights and our entire existence. As a movement, we remain in the shadow of HIV programming with limited funding tailored to issues that affect Trans and Gender-Diverse people, like Gender Affirming Health Care, legal gender recognition, economic justice, demobilising gender efforts, and movement building.

As the African Trans movement, our requests are:

For Donors:

- To review inequities in the allocation of bilateral and philanthropic funding to Trans, Gender-Diverse, and Intersex Collectives in Africa.
- To include an affirmative action plan within funding agencies in grant-making processes that seek to correct inequities in particular grants and embrace more community-driven grants.
- To finance a Trans led research initiative to help gather regional evidence data to inform programming,
- To ensure Trans, Gender-Diverse, and Intersex movements establish a strong strategic information support system that integrates Action Research, surveillance, and data use for informed decision-making.
- To strengthen routine programme monitoring systems, and the development and dissemination of strategic information products that comply with and uphold established international standards and safeguards.
- To invest in financing health inclusion for Trans communities and to ensure timely access to appropriate primary health care (integrating GAHC, HIV/TB and SRHR services) in community, public and government-funded health programs.

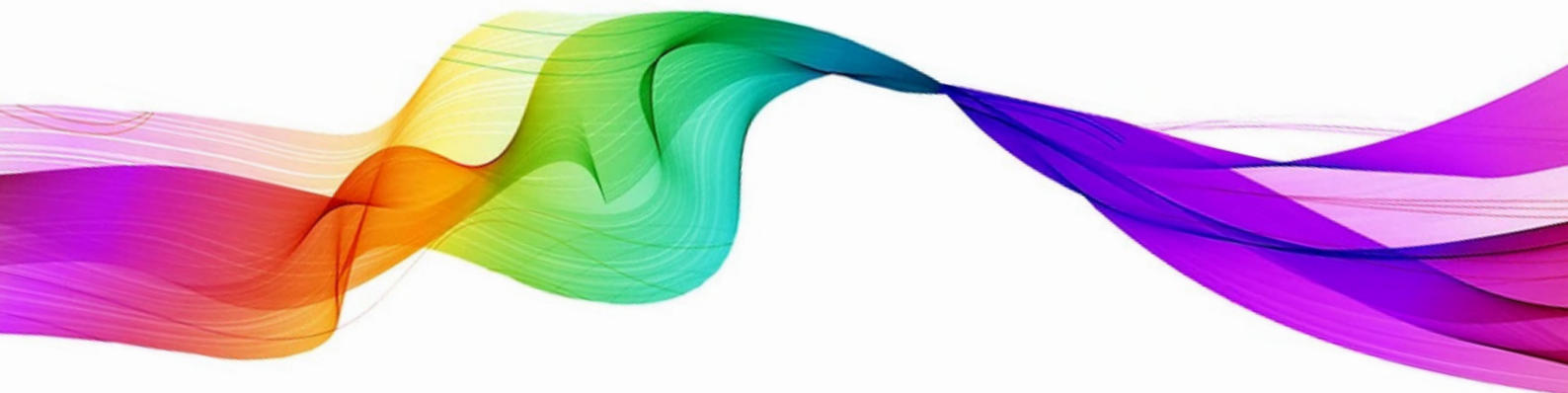
- To fund movement-building and organisational development initiatives to build resilient institutions. We can construct competent national, sub-regional, and regional Trans institutions that can sharpen advocacy on issues affecting the movement on the African continent. Further, donors should scale up funding to counter narratives from anti-gender and rights movements and / or other parties involved.
- To empower and include Trans and Gender-Diverse bodies in decision-making spaces and allow us to voice our concerns.
- To support women's funds and organisations should include Trans- women in their funding and programming. Women's funds and organisations should recognise that Trans-women's challenges all stem from the same place and suffer the same in terms of male violence, rigid gender expectations and discrimination. Feminism should be reconciled with Trans rights.

On Health Care

- To develop guidelines on achieving universal access to acceptable, competent, appropriate, and affordable gender -affirming-care, while promoting centres of clinical and research excellence in Transgender health care in the pan-African context. In addition, to ensure that Transgender issues are incorporated and sensitively addressed in medical, nursing, and paramedical curricula.
- To improve cultural competencies and the quality of the healthcare system to accommodate the needs of Trans and Gender-Diverse people.

As a community, we pledge to reaffirm our rights in solidarity and determination as we demand full recognition of our needs and our efforts to address imbalances in regional development frameworks.

We also pledge our involvement in cross-movement building and solidarity. We are ready to work with other movements in the broader LGBTIQ+ movement and beyond to advance understanding of the Trans community.



Acknowledgements

Pan Africa ILGA is grateful to the donors for their generous support of the PAI 6th Regional Conference: *Pride and Resilience—Fierté et Resilience*, that took place in Mauritius from 31 July to 04 August 2023. PAI could not host the biennial conferences without these donors' continued partnership and support.






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