



Canada at ILGA World Events

Cape Town / November 2024

Several Dignity Network Canada (DNC) member organizations, as well as DNC staff, attended the 2024 ILGA World Conference and simultaneous side conferences held in Cape Town, South Africa. DNC members, including Egale Canada, Egides, Equitas, Pride Toronto, Rainbow Railroad, The Stephen Lewis Foundation, Rainbow Refugee Society and The Equality Fund participated in events during and concurrent to ILGA World.

Global Affairs Canada Participation

The Government of Canada provided financial support to the ILGA World Conference from the Canadian High Commission in South Africa's 'Canada Fund for Local Initiatives,' through a nearly \$50k CAD contribution to local civil society partner Iranti. This CFLI contribution was dedicated to expanding the participation of African and indigenous peoples.



Led by Assistant Deputy Minister Patrica Peña, officials from Global Affairs Canada also participated in Global Philanthropy Project's Global LGBTI Funding Summit, the Global Equality Caucus Summit and ILGA World Conference.

Global LGBTI Funding Summit

The Funding Our Futures campaign was launched at the Global LGBTI Funding Summit. Two Dignity Network Canada member grant-making organizations made pledges of new funds as part of this campaign: The Equality Fund and the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The summit raised an additional \$100M in pledges from 28 granting institutions and governments and has set a new goal of \$150M by 2025.



*ADM Peña and
Doug Kerr*



*Doug Kerr presenting on
Canada's journey to ban
conversion therapy*

The Global Equality Summit

Dignity Network Canada's Executive Director Doug Kerr, and Policy and Advocacy Officer Emmett Mark, participated in the Global Equality Caucus Summit, held on the side of ILGA World. This inaugural summit brought together nearly 200 parliamentarians interested in advancing LGBTIQ human rights from over two dozen countries.

The Queer Forced Displacement Initiative (QFDI)

At a cinq à sept during ILGA, Rainbow Railroad hosted a reception on the Queer Forced Displacement Initiative (QFDI), bringing together stakeholders including representatives from the Government of Canada, the UK, and the UN, who shared remarks. The QFDI aims to establish a global network of civil society organizations, governments, researchers, international organizations, and forcibly displaced LGBTQI+ persons to advance coordinated solutions and strategies addressing the unique needs of queer communities in crisis. This gathering followed consultation events held in Mexico City (September) and Pretoria (November) with three locations more to go in 2025, in order to consult at the local level on the creation of the network.



Rainbow Railroad also hosted a panel that brought together human rights defenders from the Equal Asia Foundation (Thailand), RFSL (Sweden), and Derechos Humanos y Diversidad (Argentina) to discuss opportunities and risks for civil society in scaling up collaboration with governments, international organizations, and institutional funders to deliver effective support to LGBTQI+ communities in crisis-affected contexts.



Espace Francophone

Égides opened a space dedicated to French-speaking activists for them to exchange on the specific challenges they face in their work, including within the global LGBTQI movement. French-speaking ILGA World activists and organizations attended sessions discussing Francophone participation and best practices in international forums. Among others, Égides collaborated with the High Commission of Canada in South Africa and French Ambassador for LGBTQI rights, in the delivery of this pre-conference session.

Canadian Labour Delegates at ILGA

Over 20 representatives from seven Canadian labour unions attended events at ILGA World. Labour was active in many parts of the ILGA conference, including the ILGA-NAC regional meeting and a global labour movement pre-conference with over 120 unions from around the world.





DIGNITY NETWORK WELCOME RECEPTION



Dignity Network Canada, with support from Egides, Equitas, the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and Pride Toronto, hosted a welcome reception themed around Canada, on the side of ILGA World. Over one hundred participants attending ILGA World with connections or interest in Canada were joined by Canada’s new High Commissioner to South Africa Jamie Christoff and Assistant Deputy Minister Patrica Peña, who both gave remarks.



ACTIF Presentations

At the ILGA World Conference, **Egale Canada** along with partners TransBantu Zambia and Intersex Asia presented findings from two research projects supported by the Act Together for Inclusion Fund (ACTIF) and Global Affairs Canada.



The **Stephen Lewis Foundation** partnered with the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality to present a workshop titled Resistance and Renewal: Mental Health in the Fight for LGBTIQ Liberation, where human rights defenders from Kenya, Uganda, Jamaica, and St Lucia shared the importance of mental health programs for sustaining LGBTIQ human rights movements.



ILGA-NAC Board Elections

Congratulations to Rob Boulet from OPSEU and Kim Vance-Mubanga from Egale Canada for their election to the ILGA-NAC Board.

