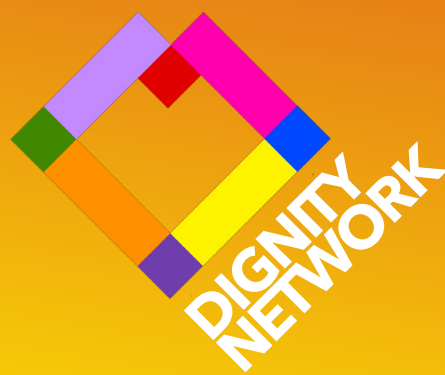# DIGNITY NETWORK

A NETWORK OF CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS FOR LGBTI PEOPLE GLOBALLY

DIGNITY NETWORK

ADVANCING LGBTI HUMAN RIGHTS GLOBALLY

WHO WE ARE

Dignity Network is a group of organizations across Canada involved in supporting the human rights of LGBTI people globally. The purpose of the network is to provide a platform for Canadian based-organizations and individuals and their global partners to support the human rights of LGBTI people globally, including issues related to LGBTI refugees.

International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia Forum, Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto (2016)

WHAT WE DO

- Act as a Canadian hub for communication and knowledge-sharing across organizations on global LGBTI human rights issues, especially emphasizing the perspectives of international partners
- Convene and host gatherings, conferences and meetings on Canada and global LGBTI human rights issues
- Encourage and support research related to global LGBTI human rights issues
- Engage and support advocacy efforts both nationally and internationally, including with the Canadian government and the Equal Rights Coalition

Michelle Emson, KyivPride Canada, Dignity Steering Committee

HOW WE WORK

A number of Working Groups have been set up as determined by interest of participating members. At our initial national roundtable in June 2016 in Ottawa, there were four popular issues that attendees were interested in working on:

1) International assistance and solidarity,
2) Combatting the export of religious homophobia, and
3) Supporting LGBTI refugees to Canada.
4) Cross-organizational Advocacy and Communication.

We may set up other Working Groups in the future. Working Groups develop their own goals, membership and agendas.

Kim Vance, ARC International,
Dignity Steering Committee

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Our network believes that there is a role for Canada and Canadians to play in the world around supporting movements for the human rights of LGBTI people.

OUR CORE VALUES

INTERSECTIONALITY

PAN-CANADIAN

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

BILINGUALISM

TRANSPARENCY

COLLABORATION

DIVERSITY

ANTI-COLONIALISM

LGBTI Refugee Coalition

Panel at the National Dignity Roundtable, Ottawa, 2016

Participants of the National Dignity Roundtable, Ottawa 2016

WHAT WE'VE DONE

To date, our network has:

- Held two national roundtable meetings on Canada and global LGBTI human rights issues (Ottawa, June 2016 and Montreal, August 2017).

- Produced a Call to Action with 22 recommendations on how Canada can support LGBTI human rights globally.

- Produced two reports: Solidarity for Dignity is a compendium of how Canadian civil society is involved in international LGBTI issues. Advancing Dignity is a snapshot of how Canadian foreign policy compares to a number of other countries in its support of LGBTI human rights.

- Advocated for the inclusion of a sexual and gender diversity lens within Canada's new Feminist International Assistance Policy.

- Representing civil society on the Executive of the Equal Rights Coalition along with OTD-Chile.

Maurice Tomlinson, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Dignity Steering Committee Member

LGBTI and allied Canadian Parliamentarians, Rainbow Flag Raising, Ottawa 2016

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (2018)

The network is led by a national steering committee made up of activists and leaders from a diversity of Canadian civil society organizations interested in global LGBTI issues.

Dignity National Roundtable discussions, Montreal 2017

Michelle Emson

Carlos Idibouo

Fréderic Hareau

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes

Aleks Dughman-Manzur

Dr. Sharalyn Jordan

Doug Kerr

El-Farouk Khaki

Karim Ladak

Kimahli Powell

Svend Robinson

Kim Vance

Haran Vijayanathan

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS AND CURRENT WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

1) International Development Assistance & Solidarity

Co-Chairs: Haran Vijayanathan (Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention) and Fréderic Hareau (Equitas)

- Asian Community AIDS Services
- Action for Sexual Health & Rights
- Equitas
- Journalists for Human Rights
- Oxfam Canada
- Oxfam Québec
- Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention

2) Religion and LGBTI Human Rights Globally

Co-Chairs: El-Farouk Khaki (El-Tawid Juma Circle Mosque) and Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes

- Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
- El-Tawhid Unity Mosque
- Dr. Mohim Rahman (Trent University)
- Metropolitan Community Church Toronto
- United Church of Canada

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes and Svend Robinson, Dignity Steering Committee

3) Supporting LGBTI refugees to Canada

Co-Chairs: Kimahli Powell (Rainbow Railroad) and
Dr. Sharalyn Jordan (Rainbow Refugee Vancouver)

- Arc-en-ciel d'Afrique
- BlackCAP
- Capital Rainbow Refugee
- Metropolitan Community Church Toronto
- Rainbow Refugee Nova Scotia
- Rainbow Refugee Vancouver
- Rainbow Railroad
- The 519

4) Advocacy and Communications

Co-Chairs: Kim Vance (ARC International), Michelle Emson
(KyivPride Canada) and Karim Ladak

- ARC International
- Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
- Amnesty International Canada
- Conseil LGBT Québecois
- Egale Canada
- KyivPride Canada
- Fierte Canada Pride

Carlos Idibouo, Dignity
Steering Committee Member
with representative from the
Government of Quebec

NETWORK MEMBERSHIP AND SECRETARIAT

Organizations in Canada interested in and working on international LGBTI human rights issues are welcome to participate in the network. Network members receive regular communications on international LGBTI issues, invitations to participate in working groups and conferences and an opportunity to help shape the network's goals. The network's Secretariat host organization is the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

Panel at Dignity
Roundtable, Ottawa 2016

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

An advisory group of 16 leaders from organizations around the world working on LGBTI human rights issues provides general advice to the Dignity Initiative on a case-by-case basis. Current members of the Advisory Group include:

Oguaghamba Akudo (Nigeria)

George Azzi (Lebanon)

Harish Iyer (India)

Wangshu Lian (China)

Chan Grey Mubanga (Zambia)

Frank Mugisha (Uganda)

Solange Musanganya (Côte D'Ivoire)

Ricki Nathanson (Zimababwe)

Yen Nguyen (Vietnam)

S.N. Nyeck (Cameroun)

Caleb Orozco (Belize)

Kenita Placide (St. Lucia)

Midnight Poonkasetwattana (Thailand)

Sridhar Rangayan (India)

Olena Semenova (Ukraine)

Solange Musanganya, International Advisory Group

Kenita Placide,
International
Advisory Group

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