



I G L H R C

**HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE.
EVERYWHERE.**

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



ANNUAL REPORT 2007



The mission of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) is to secure the full enjoyment of the human rights of all people and communities subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation or expression, gender identity or expression, and/or HIV status.

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Letter From the Board Chairs



Ally Bolour



Dorothy Sander

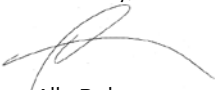
Dear Supporters and Friends,

The world of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) advocacy continues to be one filled with painstaking battles, stunning victories, and baffling losses. In the midst of all of this, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) continues to move forward in its work of securing human rights for everyone, everywhere. This past year has been a time of building our organization's capacity to advocate for human rights globally.

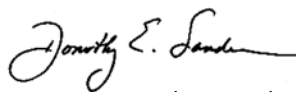
- 1) We are proud of our healthy financial picture. The continued support of IGLHRC's institutional funders has allowed us to hire new staff in Africa and reconnect with activists in Asia. We responded to many human rights emergencies, saw the successful completion of numerous projects, and continued to work with our partners on trainings and capacity building projects to support longer-term advocacy goals.
- 2) We are pleased with the on-going dedication of our many individual donors. Your generosity has allowed IGLHRC to continue to respond to egregious human rights violations against people based solely on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or sexual expression. IGLHRC will continue focusing its efforts on building our individual donor base through increased donor outreach over the next few years.
- 3) Finally, IGLHRC realizes that the ability to communicate with people around the globe is imperative in an age where technology provides instantaneous access to current events. IGLHRC is building a more interactive website to make our work accessible to a broader global audience. This will enable us to expose human rights abuses and highlight our ongoing work with local groups across the globe as we strive toward greater global acceptance for LGBTI people.

The Board of Directors of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission wants to thank you for your continued support in this valuable work to secure fundamental human rights on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and/or HIV status.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ally Bolour'.

Ally Bolour,
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy E. Sander'.

Dorothy Sander, Co-Chair,
Board of Directors

Letter From the Executive Director



Paula Ettelbrick

Dear Supporters and Friends,

During the last year, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) has worked tirelessly to challenge the persecution faced by millions of people because of their sexual orientation or expression, gender identity or expression, and/or HIV status. And our work has had powerful effects throughout the world.

In Latin America, IGLHRC coordinated a process that culminated when the human rights committee of the Southern Common Market—a regional trade and integration agreement—issued a declaration to end discrimination against sexual and gender minorities. Should the entire Southern Common Market pass this resolution, it will result in a profound shift toward legal equality for LGBTI people in the region. In fact, it would mark the single biggest global development for the LGBTI community since European treaty bodies resolved to abolish discrimination on that continent.

This success represents just a fragment of IGLHRC's work. With field staff located in Latin America and Africa, and soon in Asia, IGLHRC is now more than ever able to support the tremendous momentum for change generated by LGBTI people at the grassroots level. IGLHRC's ability to investigate and report on human rights violations is also enhanced by a New York-based staff that works with LGBTI colleagues in Europe, with Middle Eastern LGBTI groups, and within the United Nations.

We are so grateful to everyone who has helped build IGLHRC into a truly global and effective advocate for the human rights of LGBTI people, everywhere. You can read more about our work in the following pages. Thank you so very much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula L. Ettelbrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paula" and last name "Ettelbrick" clearly legible.

Paula L. Ettelbrick
Executive Director

IGLHRC's SIX CORE GOALS:

1

Decriminalize Sexual and Gender Expression and Behavior.

Sodomy laws are a cornerstone of state discrimination against LGBTI people. States use these and other morals-based codes to monitor, harass, abuse, extort, imprison, torture, and execute LGBTI people. In turn, such government-sponsored actions legitimize social discrimination and abuse.

2

Establish Free Speech, Assembly, Association and Expression for LGBTI People and Organizations.

The right and ability to be public about LGBTI life—whether through political speech, pride rallies, or individual appearance—is key to our communities' abilities to effectively join together and resist human rights violations.

3

Challenge Workplace and Other Forms of Discrimination.

The right to employment and housing free from harassment, discrimination, and stereotyping is an essential component of human dignity and social respect.

4

Promote HIV/AIDS Policies that De-stigmatize Same-Sex Sexual Practices.

Work to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS cannot be fully effective if health care professionals, policy leaders, and funders continue to deny, ignore, or diminish the sexuality of same-sex practicing people. De-stigmatization of same-sex sexual relationships will ensure that HIV/AIDS policies, research, and care are advanced effectively and appropriately.

5

Develop Human Rights Principles to Address Violations Related to Gender Identity and Expression.

Social norms requiring conformity to gender roles lie at the heart of discrimination against all LGBTI people.

6

Build and Strengthen Alliances With Other Social Justice Colleagues.

In the face of global challenges to human rights, forging strong strategic alliances with colleagues in religious, women's, sexual rights, sex workers, trade unions, and human rights movements is essential.

IGLHRC Responds to Human Rights Crises

IGLHRC believes in breaking the silence. Through its over 10,000 member Global Emergency Response Network, IGLHRC exposes and mobilizes responses to egregious human rights violations around the world—be they police round-ups of gay men, harassment and murders of transgender people, violence against lesbians in their homes and communities, or discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people with HIV. Examples of our work this year include:

Initiating Letter Writing Campaigns to Highlight LGBTI Human Rights Violations

IGLHRC believes that letter-writing campaigns build critical global momentum to press international leaders to end human rights abuses against LGBTI communities. With this goal in mind, IGLHRC worked hand-in-hand with local activists in a series of letter-writing campaigns to highlight the plight of LGBTI people confronting human rights violations worldwide. The communities and organizations that IGLHRC has coordinated with this year include: Raiz Diversidad, with whom we demanded an end to intimidation and violence against travestis in Lima, Perú; the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), writing letters to the Rwandan government asking it to reconsider the inclusion of a provision penalizing homosexuality as part of the revision of the Rwandan penal code; LGBTI communities in the Republic of Korea, to denounce the homophobic statements of Myung-Bak Lee, presidential candidate and leader of South Korea's ultra-right wing Grand National Party; and LGBTI activists in Moldova, at whose request IGLHRC sent a letter to the Moldovan embassy in Washington D.C. to express our solidarity with those participating in banned Gay Pride events in the capital city of Chisinau.

IGLHRC's letter-writing campaigns reflect several strategic goals—prioritizing freedom of speech, assembly and expression; protecting the rights to gender identity and sexual expression; and strengthening key alliances by working with grassroots activists. As well as sending letters on our own behalf, we encouraged our members to write their own letters, ratcheting up the pressure for international leaders to respect LGBTI rights.

The funds helped me to regain my strength and hope after the very long and demoralizing trip from Burundi. It allowed me to survive for my first few months in South Africa after fleeing the oppression I was facing in Burundi. Upon arriving in South Africa it was winter, and I had nowhere to stay, no real friends; the grant allowed me to establish myself.

—Alexandra Rubera



Nighat Saeed Kahn (center), ASR Center's Executive Director, who has worked on a landmark Pakistani transgender case. Pictured here with Grace Poore (left), IGLHRC's Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific Islands, and Paula Ettelbrick, IGLHRC's Executive Director.

Providing Assistance to Human Rights Defenders

Human rights crises often require a quick response to ensure the safety of LGBTI people. As part of our ongoing commitment to lend special assistance to LGBTI activists and human rights defenders, IGLHRC helps solicit financial and other assistance for human rights defenders all over the world.

This year, IGLHRC has:

Supported Safe Houses in Iraq

Since the start of the Iraq war, when Iraq's leading Shiite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, issued a fatwa (religious decree) declaring that LGBTI people should be punished and killed, LGBTI Iraqis have been subject to intensified violence. In response to this situation, IGLHRC reached out to its dedicated donors, asking them to contribute to Iraqi LGBT, a London-based volunteer group which runs five safe houses providing food, shelter, and security to endangered LGBTI Iraqis. These donations have enabled the volunteer group to continue their work to rescue and to provide refuge for LGBTI Iraqis, many of whom have been disowned by their families and threatened by armed religious militias.

Helped a Burundi Transgender Woman Escape Violence

Alexandra Rubera is a transgender woman who faced such extreme verbal and physical attacks that she was driven out of her home in Burundi and into exile in Kenya. However, Alexandra did not find safety in Kenya. While in that country she was arrested, mistreated and publicly humiliated by the authorities before being forcibly repatriated to Burundi. Upon her return, she faced tremendous oppression and was forced to flee again—this time to South Africa. IGLHRC received an emergency grant from the Women's Urgent Action Fund and worked with Behind the Mask, an African LGBTI Media NGO based in South Africa, and Gender DynamiX, a transgender support group, to help Alexandra start a new life in South Africa and to expose the human rights violations she experienced in Burundi and Kenya.

DYING TO COME OUT: THE WAR ON GAYS IN IRAQ

Ali Hili is a gay Iraqi whose government forced him to spy on other homosexuals. Now, after a daring escape from his home country, Hili is doing everything he can to make up for the past...

GQ, February 2007, by David France

DEMOCRACY'S DEAF EAR

Gay & Lesbian Times, Issue 1012, May 2007

In its quest to bring democracy to the Middle East, U.S. government fails to prevent execution of gay Iraqis

by Patrick Sherman

During her final conversation with the Gay & Lesbian Times last week, Nancy Beck, a spokesperson with the U.S. State Department, offered the same icy mantra for each question posed: "My answer to you, and all I have for you, is this is documented in our human rights report and I refer you to that. There is no one else [who can help you]."

FOR GAYS IN IRAQ, A LIFE OF CONSTANT FEAR

Since the U.S.-led invasion, homosexuals have been increasingly targeted by militias and police, human rights groups say.

LA Times, August 2007, by Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD — Samir Shaba sits in a restaurant, nervously describing gay life in Iraq. He speaks in a low voice, occasionally glancing over his shoulder.



A suspected homosexual is openly harassed on an Iraqi street

Photo: Iraqi LGBT

Supported a Landmark Transgender Case in Pakistan

As part of IGLHRC's efforts to strengthen ties with activists in Asia and the Pacific, IGLHRC worked with Pakistani activists from ASR Centre involved in a landmark legal case related to freedom of gender expression. Shumail Raj, a female-to-male transgender man and Shahzina Tariq, his wife, were married in September 2006. Eight months later, a High Court judge ordered the couple to be arrested for falsely testifying that Shumail was a man and that their marriage was legal. Shumail and Shahzina were subsequently fined and sentenced to three years in prison. In June 2007, a Supreme Court judge ordered the case to be re-opened and released the couple on bail. The court is expected to decide if Shumail is a man or a woman, which will determine if his marriage to Shahzina is valid. IGLHRC issued an action alert, asking our members to support the couple by writing letters and donating money. In response, we received dozens of letters of support from across the globe that we directed to the couple and their legal team.

Creating a New Resource for LGBTI and HIV-Positive People Seeking Asylum

In October 2006, IGLHRC launched a new online library to enable asylum seekers or their legal advocates to quickly provide immigration authorities with materials describing human rights abuses related to sexual orientation and gender identity in their country of origin. The online library contains 144 different country packets and three thematic packets—on Islamic, lesbian, and transgender issues. It is the most complete documentation resource of its kind in the world. The online library is available at: www.asylumlaw.org

IGLHRC Supports Domestic Human Rights Advocacy

Central to IGLHRC's values is the belief that our capacity to respond to human rights violations depends on the strength and ability of LGBTI individuals and groups to openly advocate for human rights regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression, or HIV status. IGLHRC works closely with an always-growing, diverse coalition of local, grassroots activists and organizations, striving to ensure the right to live openly and with dignity for every human being. Our work this year has involved:

Chronicling Instances of Torture in Iran

In May 2007, Iranian authorities raided a birthday party and arrested, detained and severely tortured 87 people, many of whom were gay or transgender, in an attempt to force them to confess to homosexuality. While most denied being gay and were released from custody, close to 20 people, including all



LATIN AMERICA

HUMAN



RIGHTS



ADVOCACY INSTITUTE



Photos from the Latin American Human Rights Advocacy Institute for Lesbian and Bisexual Women from Central America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean - Costa Rica - May 2007

those who confessed to homosexuality, the transgender guests, and the host of the party, were kept in custody and eventually set free on a hefty bail.

IGLHRC believes that inaction and silence in the face of consistent persecution in Iran is not an option for human rights activists. Yet it is also not an option to respond without working in partnership with the Iranian LGBTI community. In this instance, IGLHRC worked with the Iranian LGBTI group (IRQO) to interview those who were detained and tortured by the authorities, recognizing that documenting human rights violations is often the first step toward challenging them.

Conducting Human Rights Training Sessions in Latin America and Eastern Europe

IGLHRC conducts human rights training sessions around the world to strengthen the capacity of LGBTI groups, allies, and individual activists to fight for human rights and document violations.

IGLHRC's Latin American Human Rights Advocacy Institute originated in 2005 as a two-week training session for emerging leaders in the field of LGBTI human rights. In May 2007, IGLHRC held its second convening, this time in San José, Costa Rica, designed specifically for lesbian and bisexual women from Central America and the Caribbean. More than 15 lesbian and feminist activists from 7 different countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic—joined IGLHRC staff as presenters. Participants at the Institute created a new network, "Lesboamericanas," focused on research around the impact of HIV/AIDS on lesbians and bisexual women. Everyone attending the Institute also initiated a specific project connected to their personal activist work that IGLHRC will help them develop and implement in future months.

In many parts of the world, gay pride events help give public visibility to LGBTI lives and experiences. To help organizers document their experiences with such events, IGLHRC solicited the help of our allies at WITNESS, an international human rights organization that provides training on how to use video in human rights advocacy campaigns, to coordinate a multimedia



Above - Anjana Suvarnananda (right) founder of Anjaree Foundation in the Bangkok 2006 Gay Pride parade. Photo: icoolstudio.com

Below - Thai LGBTI activists handing their recommendation to the Constitutional Drafting Assembly. Photo: icoolstudio.com



training for LGBTI rights activists from Central and Eastern Europe. To ensure that as many representatives from the region as possible could take advantage of the training, IGLHRC staff notified our many Central and Eastern European colleagues and planned the training as part of the annual ILGA-Europe Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria. The two-part workshop, Video for Change, trained participants about how to document and present evidence of human rights abuses during annual pride events. The workshop also discussed the best way to use video in a variety of advocacy settings, including in front of national, regional and international judicial bodies.

Supporting the Recognition of Argentinian Transgender Groups

Travestis and transsexuals are two of the most vulnerable communities in Latin America. In Argentina they are frequently exposed to police violence, a repressive provincial penal code, and education, health, labor and housing discrimination. In 2003, the General Inspectorate of Justice (a division of the Argentinian Justice Department) denied legal recognition to the Association for the Struggle of the Travesti and Transsexual Identity (ALITT). IGLHRC found this denial of legal status to be unjustly discriminatory and a violation of freedom of association, and worked with ALITT's representative, Lohana Berkins, a recipient of IGLHRC's 2003 Felipa de Souza Award, to prepare an amicus curiae. On November 22, 2006, the Supreme Court of Argentina ruled that legal recognition must be given to ALITT, overruling earlier decisions. The Supreme Court's ruling not only extends recognition to ALITT as an organization, but also validates their ability to advocate on behalf of the transgender community.

Supporting Thai Activists in their Fight for Constitutional Protection

In September 2006, the Thai military organized a coup against the government, suspended parliament, and annulled the 1997 Constitution. Despite protests and condemnation, a military-appointed committee began drafting a new constitution. Since November 2006, Thai LGBTI groups have been lobbying members of this committee, as well as the Constitutional Drafting Assembly (CDA), a 100-member voting committee, to ensure that the constitution will include protections for LGBTI people in Thailand.

CHUMA

I am a 37 year old gay male living in Lagos. I have seen a lot of prejudice towards gays in Nigeria.

I have also seen the effect this prejudice has on gays in Nigeria in the form of social isolation, poverty and unemployment. Violence against gays is popular in Lagos. The public is very homophobic. When they hear that someone is GLBT they will come around and beat you up.

I have been targeted myself because I am gay. Two months ago I was arrested and detained by the police in Lagos. This happened when I was carrying out research for the study on the prevalence and risk factors of HIV/AIDS, STI infections and social risk behavior among men that have sex with men in Nigeria. A team of policemen in Lagos came to my apartment and took me away to an unknown place for 2 days. I was beaten beyond recognition, and I am still receiving treatment for the head injury I received. I was dehumanized and paraded naked to the press. My money, ID card and shoes were taken. Eventually I was released without being charged or tried. My only offense was that I am gay.

On another occasion, when I was at a gay bar, police came and arrested everyone there. Twenty-three people, including myself, were kept in detention for two days without a trial.

I am concerned that the same sex bill proposed by the Nigerian government will further force gays underground. Hate campaigns against GLBT people will increase and fundamental freedoms will be challenged. The laws will also affect Nigerians more broadly. HIV/AIDS will increase because visible support for GLBT organizations will vanish. Unemployment will increase. GLBT-friendly lawyers will refuse to defend gays for fear of persecution.

IGLHRC wrote to the chair of the CDA in support of the Anjaree Foundation and other Thai LGBTI activists urging members to provide constitutional protection for people experiencing discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Publishing *Sexual Rights in a Fundamentalist Context*

Inspired by the “Your Voice is Fundamental against Fundamentalisms” campaign, originally launched at the 2003 World Forum by Articulacion Feminista Marcosur, IGLHRC and Catholics for a Free Choice-Cordoba developed a collaborative publication, *Sexual Rights in a Fundamentalist Context*. The publication compiles a variety of reflections on the debates that took place on religious fundamentalism and sexual rights in Quito, Ecuador during the first Americas Social Forum in July 2004 and in Porto Alegre, Brazil during the World Social Forum in January 2005.

Fighting Homophobic Legislation in Nigeria

After the Nigerian Minister of Justice introduced legislation in January 2006 that would criminalize a wide range of activities affecting LGBTI people—ranging from same-sex marriage to advocating and organizing on behalf of gay causes—IGLHRC took action. Recognizing that the proposed legislation violated the freedom of expression, assembly and association of LGBTI people in Africa’s most populous country, IGLHRC collected the anonymous testimonies of LGBTI Nigerians and published these stories in a moving compilation, *Voices from Nigeria*. The Nigerians’ stories vividly describe the discrimination and homophobia they confront on a daily basis, along with the detrimental impact the proposed legislation would have on their lives. “If the bill is passed it will be terrible,” said one contributor. “When you love someone and you can’t have access to that person, life is not worth living. I am too afraid to think about what I will have to do if the bill is passed.” The publication was part of IGLHRC’s contribution to a coordinated and successful advocacy effort by local and international activists that ultimately prevented the homophobic legislation from becoming law.

One concrete example of the continuing discrimination against LGBTI individuals is the case of Mayra Espinoza. Ms. Espinoza was expelled from her high school in Vina del Mar, Chile, in September 2002.

Her 'offense' was kissing another female student goodbye as they entered the school. Ms. Espinoza appealed her expulsion, but despite her determined efforts to gain re-admission to the school, she was forced to accept an early-graduation certificate and was never allowed to return to classes.

—Excerpt from the report on the status of LGBTI people in Chile



Above - Marcelo Ferreyra, Program Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, translating at a panel on south-south dialogues at the 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi.

IGLHRC Conducts Advocacy with Global and Regional Human Rights Treaty Bodies

IGLHRC believes that all human rights entities, from the United Nations to regional and domestic commissions, have an obligation to hold governments accountable for human rights. By providing documentation and reports, coordinating delegations of LGBTI activists to speak out in international forums, and building connections between LGBTI activists and human rights monitors, IGLHRC contributes to creating greater responsiveness to human rights issues affecting our communities. Our work this year has included:

Exposing and reporting on human rights violations

When a country's human rights record is being reviewed by a UN treaty body, IGLHRC, like other NGOs, submits shadow reports to complement the official information provided by a country's government. IGLHRC's goal in producing these documents is to make sure that human rights abuses related to sexual orientation and gender identity are publicly exposed in the treaty body's final report on each country. Over the past 12 months, IGLHRC has worked with Global Rights and local advocates to prepare a series of reports on the status of LGBTI people in Chile, Barbados, and Honduras, and submitted these reports to the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) for review. This committee regularly examines the human rights situation in countries that have signed on to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). As a result of the submissions, the committee's concluding observations on the respective countries have sometimes included specific requirements related to LGBTI human rights.



Above - Joel Nana, Program Associate for Southern and West Africa

Below - House of Rainbow's Reverend Jide Macaulay, Fikile Vilakazi of the Coalition of African Lesbians, and Joel Nana of IGLHRC at the 41st Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Accra, Ghana.



Using the African Commission to Confront the Ugandan Government

Like many African countries, Uganda maintains laws criminalizing homosexuality, threatening LGBTI people with life imprisonment. These laws create a climate of fear for LGBTI people and offer official justification for homophobic hatred and violence. Yet Uganda's Periodic Report submitted to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission) in fall 2006 ignored the existence of human rights violations committed against LGBTI citizens. Responding to this deliberate omission, IGLHRC and Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) wrote a shadow report focusing on human rights abuses on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in Uganda and how these violations highlight the country's failure to comply with its international obligations. In questioning the Ugandan government about its human rights record, the Commissioners quoted from IGLHRC and SMUG's shadow report extensively.

The African Commission and the NGO Forum that precedes it are key venues for exposing legal and social homophobia, and building stronger alliances for promoting human rights for LGBTI people in Africa. IGLHRC funded and facilitated the participation of more than 30 LGBTI and sexual rights activists from throughout Africa during the African Commission's last three sessions. IGLHRC believes that keeping LGBTI rights on the African Commission's agenda will ultimately help change discriminatory laws and practices in Africa.



Above - Marcelo Ferreyra, Program Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean

Below - Transgender Activists, Marcela Romero (Argentina), Silvia Martínez (Nicaragua), Natasha Jiménez (Costa Rica), and Belissa Andía (Perú), show how they were accredited to attend the General Assembly with their names of choice at the the Organization of American States (OAS) - Panama 2007. Natasha and Silvia were participants in our first Human Rights Advocacy Institute in 2005 and Natasha went on to help facilitate our 2007 session. Belissa was a trainer at the 2005 Institute.



Promoting a Higher Level of Participation for LGBT Activists in the Organization of American States

IGLHRC, Global Rights, and Mulabi-Latin American Space for Sexualities and Rights started a joint effort in 2006 to promote a higher level of participation for LGBTI activists in the Organization of American States (OAS) using as a catalyst the Draft Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. This draft document was originally proposed by Brazil and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. IGLHRC advocated for the inclusion of protections on the basis of gender identity and, in late 2007, learned that gender identity was included in the draft document.

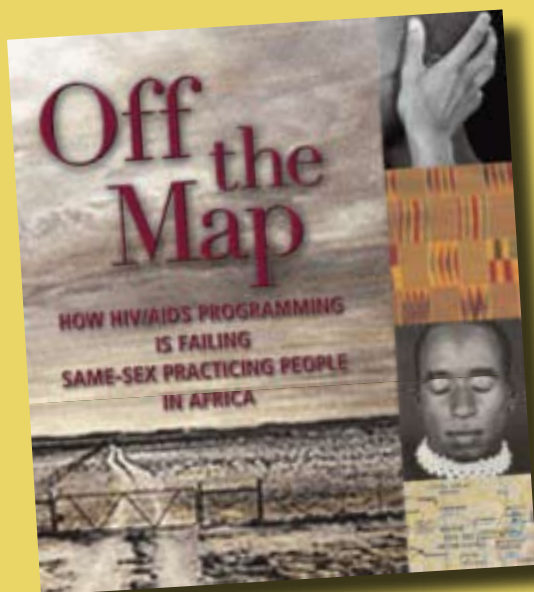
A related achievement occurred at a parallel event to the 37th Session of the General Assembly of the OAS, held in Panama on June 3-5, 2007, when transgender activists Belissa Andia (Peru), Marcela Romero (Argentina), Natasha Jiménez (Costa Rica), and Silvia Martínez (Nicaragua) were accredited to attend the General Assembly with their names of choice and not with the names indicated in their passports. This is the first time that such recognition has happened at the level of a major supranational body and hence is a precedent-setting achievement for transgender communities and their allies.

Reversing a UN Vote Against Consultative Status for LGBTI Groups

IGLHRC co-facilitated the campaign that contributed to the granting of consultative status by ECOSOC to RFSL-Sweden and CGL-Quebec, despite a contrary recommendation from ECOSOC's own NGO Committee, which screens the applications for consultative status. Five LGBTI NGOs co-signed a press release about this achievement: IGLHRC, ARC, ILGA, and the two NGOs whose consultative status was granted. IGLHRC's own application for consultative status at the UN was submitted in May 2007 in order to better support such efforts in the future.



Above - Cary Alan Johnson, Senior Regional Specialist for Africa, presenting at the New York launch of Off the Map



The 120-page report is available in English in print and electronic (PDF) versions. English and French executive summaries are also available. Go to www.iglhrc.org and click on "Publications and Resources" and then "Reports" to download a copy.

Promoting Inclusive HIV/AIDS Programs for Same-Sex Practicing People in Africa

Although same-sex practicing men and women are at increased risk of contracting HIV, same-sex behavior has been simultaneously ignored and criminalized in Africa. In February 2007, IGLHRC released *Off the Map: How HIV/AIDS Programming is Failing Same-Sex Practicing People in Africa*, a report that examines how homophobia jeopardizes overall efforts to combat the AIDS epidemic in Africa. The publication highlights the failures and responsibilities of HIV/AIDS stakeholders, African governments, the United States and other foreign donors, the UN, non-governmental aid agencies, and foundations in addressing this aspect of the epidemic.

Copies of *Off the Map* have been sent to ministries of health, national AIDS control programs, and U.S. embassies in every African nation. Using this report, IGLHRC has led a campaign to challenge homophobic and restrictive HIV/AIDS funding and program policies and to encourage key stakeholders at the local, regional, national and international levels, mainly African governments, the U.S. government, foundations, donors, private voluntary organizations, and domestic HIV/AIDS service organizations, to support policies inclusive of same-sex practicing Africans.

Launching the Yogyakarta Principles

The Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity were released in March 2007 by a group of 29 international human rights experts who developed them, including a representative from IGLHRC. The principles are derived from existing law and jurisprudence at the international level and articulate how international human rights law applies to sexual orientation and gender identity. IGLHRC continues to strategize with LGBTI human rights experts to determine the best ways to use these standards to combat homophobic violence, abuse and discrimination throughout the world.



Sponsors at IGLHRC's A Celebration of Courage in New York & San Francisco. 1. (L-R) Paula Ettelbrick, Dechen Tsering, Sunil Babu Pant, Jenisha de Rivera, and Tim Lane. 2. (L-R) Suvir Saran, Runa Saeki, Lisa Kron, Sunil Babu Pant, Paula Ettelbrick, and Todd Larson. 3. (L-R) Michael Cole, LeRoy Potts and Earl Fowlkes. 4. (L-R) Sharon Brooks, Susan Seo, Runa Saeki & Dennis Friedman.

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2007 HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

cour•age (kur'ij). n.
the quality of mind
or spirit that enables
a person to face difficulty,
danger or pain,
with firmness
and without fear.

NEW YORK CITY • May 1, 2007
SAN FRANCISCO • May 3, 2007

A CELEBRATION OF C O U R A G E

After months of dedication and hard work, *A Celebration of Courage* Co-Chairs Runa Saeki and Todd Larson (New York) and Jenesha de Rivera and Tim Lane (San Francisco) unveiled IGLHRC's most successful event ever. On May 1, 2007 at the Manhattan Penthouse in New York and on May 3, 2007 at the Clift Hotel in San Francisco, over 330 corporate and individual sponsors, activists, and representatives from foundations and companies across the country came together to applaud the achievements of the 2007 Felipa de Souza Award winner, the Blue Diamond Society (BDS). Sunil Pant, the Founder and Director of BDS, accepted the award on behalf of his organization at the two ceremonies.

The Felipa de Souza Award Recipient: Blue Diamond Society (BDS)

The Blue Diamond Society is Nepal's leading LGBTI rights group and one of the world's most respected advocacy organizations for sexual minorities. Since its inception six year ago, BDS has grown into a national movement with some 40,000 members across Nepal. Today, BDS not only provides HIV/AIDS services and community outreach to thousands of people, but is also a strong force behind social and political change in that country. The group has been at the forefront of the democratic movement that started in 2006 and is currently working in coalition with other human rights organizations and political parties to ensure that the rights of LGBTI citizens are protected under the nation's new constitution.

The Felipa de Souza Award was established in 1994 and is presented to individual(s) or organization(s) in recognition of their courageous activism to advance the human rights of LGBTI people across the globe. IGLHRC's Felipa Award is unique in the world, recognizing significant efforts by grassroots LGBTI activists and advocates in the face of severe challenges or in extreme isolation.

Special Thanks to the Following:

Honorary Chairs: Suvir Saran (NY), Kavita N. Ramdas (SF); *Event Co-Chairs:* Runa Saeki and Todd Larson (NY) and Jenesha de Rivera and Tim Lane (SF); *MC's:* Lisa Kron (NY), Jewelle Gomez (SF); *Host Committee Members:* Ally Bolour, Debanuj Dasgupta, Tom Dougherty, Roger Doughty, Lisa Geduldig, Dipti Ghosh & Meggy Gotuaco, Jewelle Gomez & Diane Sabin, Roberta Kaplan & Rachel Lavine, Carri Lyon, Harvey Makadon, Pamela Merchant & Kirby Sack, Augustus Nasmith Jr., Rosalind Petchesky, LeRoy Potts, Sandip Roy-Chowdhury and Dorothy Sander & Joyce Warshow

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Special thank you to bequests from the Estate of Ric Weiland and the Estate of Roy Wood.

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Will Pollock, for hosting ARTvision, an Online Art Auction benefiting IGLHRC

Sharon Dulberg, for reduced price office space in San Francisco and as mentor attorney for Dusty Araújo and the Asylum Documentation Program for over ten years

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Report written and produced by IGLHRC staff and board, including Hossein Alizadeh, Paula Ettelbrick, Michael Hartwyk, Jason Hipp, Richard Jung, Rebecca Libed, and Sarah Tobias. Design by Uptown Studios.

Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2007

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Equivalents	\$314,148
Investments	\$275,503
Accounts Receivable	\$8,029
Grants & Contributions Receivable	\$261,716
Prepaid Expenses	\$5,943

Total Current Assets **\$865,339**

Non-Current Assets

Grants Receivable	\$90,307
Fixed Assets	\$31,338
Security Deposit	\$27,359

Total Assets **\$1,014,343**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts and Accrued Expenses Payable	\$57,763
---------------------------------------	----------

Total Liabilities **\$57,763**

Net Assets

Unrestricted	
Operating	\$114,837
Board Designated Reserve	\$400,000
Temporarily Restricted	\$423,389
Permanently Restricted	\$18,354
Total Net Assets	\$956,580

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$1,014,343**

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2007

Revenue

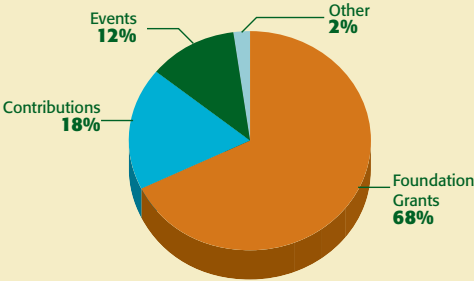
Foundation Grants	\$963,307
Contributions	\$247,725
Special Events	\$162,147
Program Fees	\$3,769
Investment Income	\$25,378
Net realized gains in investments	\$1,781
Net unrealized loss on investments	\$(407)
Other Income	\$199
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,412,235

Expenses

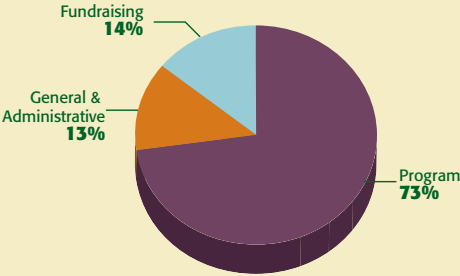
Program Services	\$1,036,306
General and Administrative	\$186,363
Fundraising	\$197,889
Total Expenses	\$1,420,558

Change in Net Assets	(\$8,323)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$964,903
Net Assets, End of Year	\$956,580

Income



Expenses





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