

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
20th Anniversary Human Rights Awards

cour•age (kur·ij), *n.*

the quality of mind

or spirit that enables

A CELEBRATION OF

C O U R A G E

a person to face difficulty,

danger or pain,

with firmness

and without fear.

NEW YORK CITY • MARCH 15, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO • MARCH 18, 2010



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WELCOME REMARKS

Good evening dear friends,

On behalf of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), we are so pleased to welcome you to the 2010 A Celebration of Courage, our 20th anniversary gala. Our annual event offers the opportunity to honor those who have made a significant, lasting, and often heroic impact on the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people worldwide and to acknowledge the supporters who have passionately and consistently sustained our work.

IGLHRC was founded in 1990 with a tiny budget and an even smaller office, but it possessed a vision: that LGBT people and people living with HIV and AIDS are entitled to respect for and protection of their fundamental human rights. Twenty years later, the achievement of IGLHRC's mission to advance human rights for everyone everywhere is moving closer to reality. In the past two decades, IGLHRC has been instrumental in achieving critical advances in global LGBT rights. It has supported the groundbreaking work of activists around the world – from Turkey and Nepal to Uganda and Colombia – and has contributed to movement building through lobbying mainstream human rights organizations to accept that violations of the rights of LGBT people are human rights violations that must be addressed. None of this could have been done in isolation. It has taken the dedication of many people and organizations in many roles to achieve what we have achieved in these twenty years – within IGLHRC and within the broader LGBT movement. A Celebration of Courage is one way that we seek to recognize and celebrate those contributions.

Tonight we are proud to honor the work of individuals and organizations that have contributed to this movement toward positive change.

We are pleased to present our 2010 OUTSPOKEN Award to Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. Under Sidibé's leadership, UNAIDS has taken a leading role in challenging the criminalization of consensual adult same-sex sexual behavior and has called on all nations to remove laws and policies that discriminate against LGBT people and those affected by HIV/AIDS. For Sidibé, eliminating the stigma and discrimination faced by LGBT people is one of the necessary steps toward ending the AIDS crisis. For his tireless work, we commend him.

With the 2010 Special Recognition Award, we honor Congressman Barney Frank for his steadfast commitment to defending LGBT rights in the United States Congress and his sponsorship of legislation and policy to improve the lives of LGBT people worldwide. In his work he has shown great dedication to IGLHRC's vision of a world in which LGBT people can be visible and live without fear in their places of employment and communities.

We proudly present the hallmark of A Celebration of Courage – the Felipa de Souza Award – to Colombia Diversa, an organization founded in 2003, working toward the full enjoyment of human rights by promoting legislation, denouncing violations, and researching homophobia in Colombia. We are pleased to have Marcela Sánchez Buitrago here with us to accept the award.

As your Event Chairs and members of the IGLHRC Board of Directors, we are pleased that you, our supporters and colleagues, join us on our twentieth anniversary to honor those who have paved the way for LGBT people to be afforded the basic dignity and protection of fundamental human rights that all human beings deserve. Thank you to all who have contributed to furthering IGLHRC's mission and to making A Celebration of Courage possible. We hope for your support over the next twenty years as we strive together to create a world in which human rights are guaranteed for everyone, everywhere.

Thank you,



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A CELEBRATION OF **C O U R A G E**

MONDAY, MARCH 15TH
NEW YORK CITY

NYU Kimmel Center

6:00 Reception

6:30 Award Ceremony

WELCOME

Bebe Zahara Benet

OUTSPOKEN AWARD

Michel Sidibé

Presented by Kenneth Cole

IGLHRC AT 20

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Congressman Barney Frank

Presented by Dorothy Sander & Todd Larson

IGLHRC Board Co-Chairs

PERFORMANCE

Staceyann Chin

Author / Poet

FELIPA DE SOUZA AWARD

Colombia Diversa

Accepted by Marcela Sánchez Buitrago

Presented by Luis Ubiñas

Ford Foundation President

CLOSING REMARKS

Cary Alan Johnson

IGLHRC Executive Director

7:30 Post-Reception

THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH
SAN FRANCISCO

W Hotel

6:00 Reception

6:30 Award Ceremony

WELCOME

Bebe Zahara Benet

OUTSPOKEN AWARD

Michel Sidibé

IGLHRC AT 20

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Congressman Barney Frank

Presented by Julie Dorf

IGLHRC Founder

PERFORMANCE

Amikaeyla Gaston

Singer / Songwriter

FELIPA DE SOUZA AWARD

Colombia Diversa

Accepted by Marcela Sánchez Buitrago

Presented by Marcelo Ferreyra

IGLHRC Latin America & Caribbean Coordinator

CLOSING REMARKS

Cary Alan Johnson

IGLHRC Executive Director

7:30 Post-Reception

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

New York & San Francisco

BEBE ZAHARA BENET
Performer

Nea Marshall Kudi is BeBe Zahara Benet. Nea, born in Cameroon, was raised between there and France until he moved to the United States. Nea started a career in the fashion industry as a male model. It was there, on a runway in France that Nea was first exposed to the art of feminine illusion. During a show, when some of the female models did not turn out to walk the runway, Nea was asked to step in, as a female. The indistinguishable, BeBe Zahara Benet was born.



In 2002, Nea made his way to the United States to pursue a career in the arts. Currently, Nea lives in New York City, New York where he is a recording artist, drag artist persona, model, and theatrical artist BeBe Zahara Benet.

BeBe Zahara Benet is recognized recently for her unique appearance on Rupaul's Drag Race, she gave a diverse international appeal, celebrity impersonation and a whole lot of face. Her ability to create a flawless feminine illusion is remarkable. BeBe Zahara Benet delights audiences across the United States by bringing a strong, bold, beautiful and entertaining character that honors and respects the feminine persona.

As a recording Artist, BeBe brings to the scene an eclectic infusion world music that pulls in her roots from West Africa and merges them with the sensibilities of traditional house, dance and pop flavors. Much excitement surrounds her first single and video, "I'm the sh*t", which was released by Blueplate Global Records and Strictly Rhythm in November 2009.

ABOUT **THE AWARD**

THE OUTSPOKEN AWARD

The OUTSPOKEN Award recognizes the leadership of a global ally to the LGBT community whose public support has contributed substantially to advancing the rights and understanding of LGBT people everywhere. The OUTSPOKEN Award was created to recognize that prominent individuals or entities speaking out in support of human rights for LGBT people play a special and critical role in advancing global understanding of and commitment to the rights of our community.

The OUTSPOKEN Award is not a mere honor, but a call for leadership by accomplished and effective leaders on behalf of the LGBT community worldwide.

Previous OUTSPOKEN Awardees:

2008

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Congressman Tom Lantos
(presented posthumously)

2005

The Honorable Mary Robinson
President of Ireland
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

2010 OUTSPOKEN AWARD RECIPIENT

MICHEL SIDIBÉ

Michel Sidibé is the Executive Director of UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS brings together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland—with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. UNAIDS' Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank.

Mr. Sidibé's appointment was effective 1 January 2009, with the rank of Under Secretary-General of the United



Before joining UNAIDS, Mr. Sidibé spent more than 25 years in public service. Mr Sidibé began his career in global health and development when he became concerned with the health and welfare of the nomadic Tuareg people in the Timbuktu region of his native Mali. These efforts evolved into a role as country director for the international development federation Terre des Hommes

In 1987, Mr. Sidibé joined UNICEF in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In his 14 years at UNICEF he oversaw programmes across ten francophone countries in Africa. He also served as UNICEF Country Representative in several African countries including Swaziland, Burundi, and Uganda.

Mr. Sidibé became the Director of Country and Regional support department for UNAIDS in 2001. In 2007, he was appointed as UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director of Programmes and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. In this capacity, he led UNAIDS' contributions to regional and country responses as well as UNAIDS efforts in global policies, evidence, and monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. Sidibé earned two Post-Master's Diplomas in Social Planning and Demography as well as in Development and Political Economy from the University of Clermont. He also holds a Master's degree in economics. In 2007, Mr Sidibé was awarded an honorary professorship at Stellenbosch University of South Africa.

Born in 1952, Mr. Sidibé is a citizen of Mali. He is fluent in English and French. He also speaks several African languages including Bambara, Mandingo, and Dioula. He is married and has four children.

ABOUT THE AWARD

THE FELIPA DE SOUZA AWARD

The Felipa de Souza Award recognizes the courage and activism of grassroots groups and individuals working for the fundamental human rights of all people. The Felipa de Souza Award embodies the spirit and story of Felipa de Souza, who endured persecution and brutality after proudly declaring her intimacy with a woman during a 16th-century inquisition trial in Brazil. Since 1994, IGLHRC has presented the award to inspiring and courageous advocates in the movement to advance the human rights of LGBT people everywhere.

Previous Felipa de Souza Awardees:

2009

Helem, **Lebanon**

2008

Iranian Queer Organization, **Iran**
Andres Ignacio Rivera Duarte, **Chile**

2007

Blue Diamond Society, **Nepal**

2006

Rauda Morcos, AWAT, **Palestinian Activist from Haifa, Israel**

2005

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), **Zimbabwe**

2004

The Gender/Sexuality Rights Association of Taiwan (G/SRAT), **Taiwan**

2003

Lohana Berkins, **Argentina**

2002

Elizabeth Calvet, **Brazil** (Honorary Posthumous Award); Marta Lucia Tamayo Rincon, Marta Lucia Alvarez Giraldo, and Alba Nelly Montoya, **Colombia**; Cui Zi En, **China**; Maher Sabry, **Egypt**

2001

Companions on a Journey and Women's Support Group, **Sri Lanka**; Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays, **Jamaica**; Luis Gauthier (1950-2000), **Chile** (Honorary Posthumous Award)

2000

Dejan Nebrigic (1970-1999), **Serbia** (Honorary Posthumous Award); Ditshwanelo - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, **Botswana** Intersex Society of North America (ISNA), **USA**; William Hernandez, **El Salvador**

1999

Aung Myo Min, **Burma**; Prudence Mabele, **South Africa**; Kiri Kiri and Chingu Sai, **Korea**; Simon Nkoli (1957-1998) **South Africa** (Honorary Posthumous Award)

1998

Círculo Cultural Gay (CCG), **Mexico**; Dr. Tal Jarus-Hakak, **Israel**; Dédé Oetomo, **Indonesia**; Nancy Cárdenas (1934-1994), **Mexico** (Honorary Posthumous Award); Carlos Jáuregui (1958-1996), **Argentina** (Honorary Posthumous Award)

1997

Demet Demir, **Turkey**; Genc Xhelaj, **Albania**; The Sister Namibia Collective, **Namibia**; Wilfredo Valencia Palacios, **El Salvador** (Honorable Mention)

1995

The Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Group (TGLRG), **Australia**; Anjaree, **Thailand**; Luiz Mott, **Brazil**

1994

Juan Pablo Ordoñez, **Colombia**; ABIGALE, **South Africa**; Lepa Mladjenovic, **Belgrade**

FELIPA DE SOUZA AWARD RECIPIENT

COLOMBIA DIVERSA

Based in Bogotá, Colombia Diversa was formed by a group of LGBT activists in 2003 after years of collaborative work to advance lesbian, gay, bisexuals, and transgender human rights in Colombia. Since 2003, their steadfast work has made critical inroads for LGBT Colombians. Colombia Diversa has worked through a variety of channels, working effectively in political, social, cultural and academic spheres and through documentation, litigation and community building activities. They have produced human rights reports and training materials, created an on-line virtual LGBT community and implemented wide-ranging advocacy campaigns to achieve legislative change.



In a context where human rights documentation and reporting is often difficult and dangerous, Colombia Diversa has worked tirelessly to monitor the status of LGBT rights and other forms of exclusion and marginalization. With general reporting on human rights, analyses of homophobia in schools, and critical analyses of the way LGBT people are discussed or made invisible in the media, Colombia Diversa has consistently worked to raise awareness and mobilize support for the fundamental rights of LGBT persons. As part of this commitment, they have built partnerships and strengthened ties with other human rights organizations domestically and globally. In November 2008, they presented their findings on violations of LGBT rights in Colombia before the OAS Inter-American Commission of Human Rights in Washington and the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN; efforts that are placing LGBT people firmly on the regional and international human rights agenda.

Their documentation has frequently been used as an advocacy tool to successfully lobby for political and legal change. In 2007, in partnership with the University of the Andes and the organization DeJusticia, Colombia Diversa was able to obtain the same rights for same-sex couples as those which are provided to unmarried heterosexual couples. Colombia Diversa is now monitoring the implementation process of these rights, but continues to press forward on related issues such as working to secure the rights of same-sex parents and families, and adoption by same-sex couples. The group is also doing groundbreaking work to challenge stereotypes and build LGBT communities across Colombia. Their archive that catalogues how various media have covered LGBT issues and communities is used to shape their vibrant, campaign promoting the rights of the LGBT communities in the mass media. This has helped improve public opinion and involve journalists, politicians, and academics as participants and supporters in the fight for LGBT rights in Colombia. Along with Profamilia and the Corporación Social Arco Iris (Theatron), Colombia Diversa has also launched the first LGBT community center in Latin America, pairing their national advocacy with attention to the needs of LGBT individuals and communities.

Colombia Diversa has proven itself to be an influential and impactful force for human rights in the region, winning strategic and much-publicized victories on behalf of LGBT people while working to change social conditions that lead to exclusion and marginalization.

ABOUT THE AWARD

THE SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

The Special Recognition Award honors special individuals, corporations, or organizations whose contributions to human rights regardless of sexual orientation or expression, gender identity or expression, have been particularly significant to IGLHRC and its work.

Previous Special Recognition Awardees:

2009

Microsoft

2008

IBM

2006

Paul Albert

Andrew Tobias

2005

Julie Dorf, *Founding Executive Director*

2010 SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK

Barney Frank represents the Fourth Congressional District of Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives and is Chairman of the Financial Services Committee and the Co-Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus. A supporter of IGLHRC's work from its inception, in 1992 Rep. Frank traveled to Russia to protest that country's sodomy law, which was subsequently repealed. For the last three decades, he has sponsored legislation and policies to improve the lives of LGBT people worldwide and in 1987 became the first member of Congress to voluntarily acknowledge that he was gay.



Frank won a seat in the Massachusetts State House of Representatives in 1972 and there introduced legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual preference in housing, employment and public accommodation.

In 1980 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and as a new member began an effort to repeal a provision of U.S. law that banned gays and lesbians from entering the country either as legal immigrants or as tourists; a goal accomplished after 9 years of effort.

He was part of efforts in the 1980s to prevent the U.S. House of Representatives using its power to undo progress on sodomy law repeal. His efforts at this time included work to increase AIDS funding and to block right wing legislation that would have hampered the fight against AIDS.

In 1990, Frank challenged then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell on the issue of the ban on gays in the military. He elicited from them the acknowledgment that the ban was not based on any question about the reliability of gay and lesbian service members. He led efforts to persuade President Clinton to initiate a repeal of this ban and worked to support the efforts of Clinton officials to overcome the significant resistance faced. In the face of the failure of these efforts he the debate in Congress against the adoption of the now infamous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and continues with efforts to repeal that policy.

Frank also successfully persuaded the Clinton administration to take three important steps to respect LGBT rights. He convinced the administration to abolish a 40 year-old policy preventing LGBT people from obtaining security clearances and to include persecution based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the list of grounds for asylum in the US.

(continued on next page)

2010 SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK

He also persuaded the President to issue a strong statement against discrimination against sexual minorities in federal employment. In this regard, Frank also worked to award domestic partner benefits to federal employees – efforts that continue to date.

In 1996, he was the major opponent in Congress of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Although he succeeded in getting a majority of Democrats to vote to strike a provision banning any federal recognition of same-sex marriages, Republican opposition defeated the amendment. He has since worked to repeal the law.

Representative Frank has been a strong supporter of amendment of the Hate Crimes Act to include LGBT people and of the need to include transgender people in the legislation. The bill, finally signed into law by President Obama is the first civil rights law that explicitly includes LGBT people.

Barney Frank has remained the main sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and introduced a bill fully inclusive of all LGBT persons. In a move that caused some controversy, he worked with Speaker Pelosi to pass a bill covering only sexual orientation when the votes did not exist to do more; believing that advancing the bill in that way would advance the chances of ultimately passing a fully-inclusive bill. In the current Congress, with a larger Democratic majority, and with increased education on transgender issues having gone forward, he is now working closely with the House leadership to get a fully-inclusive ENDA passed.

FEATURED PERFORMER

New York

STACEYANN CHIN

Staceyann Chin, a Jamaican national residing in New York, has been an "out poet and political activist" since 1998. From the rousing cheers of the Nuyorican Poets' Cafe to one-woman shows off-Broadway to poetry workshops in Denmark and London to co-writer and performer in the Tony-nominated, Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam on Broadway, Chin credits the long list of things she has done to her grandmother's hard-working history and the pain of her mother's absence.



FEATURED PERFORMER

San Francisco

AMIKAEYLA GASTON

Proclaimed as one of the "purest contemporary voices" by National Public Radio, Amikaeyla Proudfoot Gaston embraces the best of many types of music. While the dazzling vocalist from the Washington, DC area draws on a dizzying array of influences – from bel canto to funk – her sensibility is pure jazz. Growing up in the Midwest and the South, she honors her lineage of African, Native American, Haitian and Cuban heritage by artfully weaving elements of each of these into her artistic designs.



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A black and white photograph of three women of diverse backgrounds, all smiling and wearing business suits. The woman on the left has long dark hair, the woman in the center has short dark hair and is holding glasses, and the woman on the right has long dark hair. They are standing close together against a plain background.

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Equality demands your individual voice.

The Gill Foundation salutes the board and staff of

IGLHRC
on their
20th anniversary

for using their voices as a force
for equality for LGBT people globally.

Congratulations to celebration of courage award recipient
Michel Sidibe UNAIDS Executive Director.



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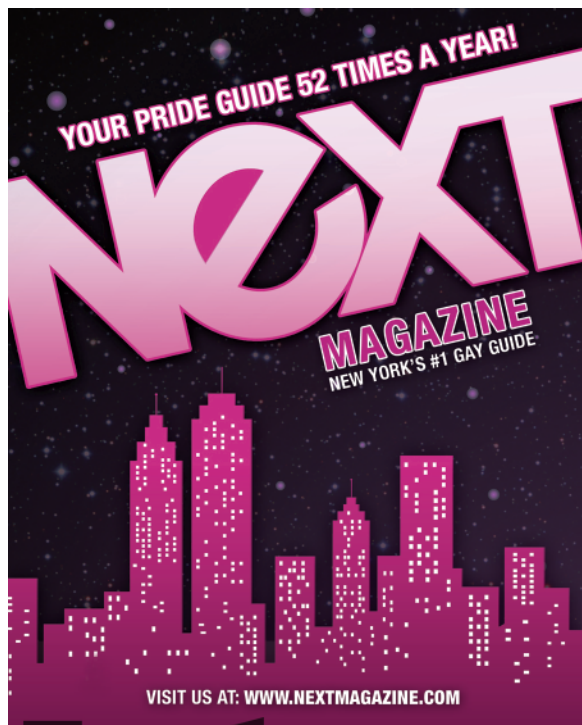
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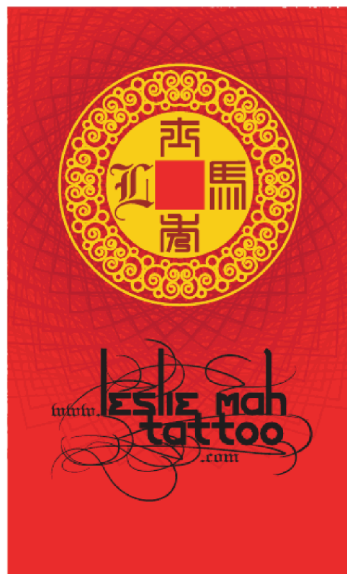


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Our Mission

The mission of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) is advancing human rights for everyone, everywhere to end discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Our Work

Guided by our **values** of **integrity, equality, respect, diversity**, and **partnership**, we work to improve the lives of those who experience discrimination and abuse because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and to achieve a world **with human rights for everyone, everywhere**.

Four critical goals shape our work

We **advocate for the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies and practices**, such as sodomy laws that empower police and other authorities to abuse, harass, extort, imprison and execute us.

We **support the enactment and implementation of anti-discrimination laws policies and practices** to help build a world that is more equitable and fair.

We strive to **reduce family, community and state-sanctioned** violence, publicly condemning all forms of violence against individuals because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

We actively **promote economic, social and cultural rights**, such as those related to employment, housing, education and health.



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