



I G L H R C

OUTSPOKEN

INTERNATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE. EVERYWHERE.

WINTER 2013 / 2014

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Shreen Asem

DR. BINNAZ TOPRAK, *Outspoken Award* recipient, JESSICA STERN, IGLHRC's Executive Director, YASEMIN ÖZ, ESQ., *Felipa De Souza Award* recipient, CYNTHIA NIXON and MAULIK PANCHOLY

Dear Friends,

I write with good news.

Each year at our annual **Celebration of Courage** event in New York City, we recognize one of our global partners in the fight for LGBT equality. This year, IGLHRC's **Outspoken Award** went to Dr. Binnaz Toprak – parliamentarian, ally, and advocate of universal human rights in Turkey, including LGBT rights. As we had hoped, the award was extensively covered by major mainstream Turkish newspapers, which used the opportunity to publicly address the issues facing LGBT people across the country.

Dr. Toprak is a member of the CHP party, Turkey's second biggest political party. When she returned home from the IGLHRC award ceremony, she carried her proposal to investigate human rights violations of LGBT people to the floor of Parliament, where she delivered an impassioned speech about the appalling lack of LGBT rights in her country and the dire need for the government to respond. Opponents accused Dr. Toprak of "defending immorality" and referred to homosexuality as "abnormal behavior." Although the motion was defeated, the courageous efforts of Dr. Toprak and her

colleagues energized the CHP base, which is now advocating to mainstream LGBT rights. This is a major victory!

In June, in the face of violent government crackdowns on public gatherings of all kinds, thousands marched in Istanbul Pride, including Dr. Toprak and (for the first time!) allies from other major political parties. The CHP Youth Movement branch on the Asia side of Istanbul then launched a study group called the *Commission on the Study of LGBT Rights*, the first known institutional group within a national political party to focus on homophobia and transphobia. They are working with Turkish LGBT organizations and IGLHRC partners to publish this unprecedented report before the end of the year.

I also want to thank YOU for your ongoing support of IGLHRC's work. Working together, with LGBT rights defenders and allies like Dr. Toprak, we are making progress in the global movement for LGBT equality.

With warmth and solidarity,

Jessica Stern
Executive Director

- Three years ago, IGLHRC's Asia Program launched the *LBT Violence Documentation Project*, a groundbreaking project to document public and private violence against lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women in five countries – Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. Partnering groups used human rights documentation tools developed with IGLHRC to complete 392 interviews with LBT people and key stakeholders, including family, religious leaders, medical providers, and educators. From scant to virtually non-existent documentation of violence against LBT people in these countries, there is now credible data in 9 languages about experiences of violence, primary perpetrators, coping strategies, and gaps in support and protection. The documentation process was eye-opening for many of the interviewees themselves who had not previously described their experiences as “violence” nor perceived them as human rights violations. This year, IGLHRC led the researchers through the process of sifting, coding, and analyzing the interviews, and trained them collaboratively in the methods necessary to report on the findings in a way to drive toward change.

- As documented in a Philippines shadow report to the UN Human Rights Committee written by IGLHRC in partnership with more than 35 grassroots and national LGBT organizations, reports of abuse from local police ranged from verbal insults and refusal to aid LGBT persons seeking police assistance, to more serious offenses such as hate violence, extortion, illegal arrests, and blackmail. Together with the *Ladlad* LGBT political party, IGLHRC formed a precedent-setting partnership with the Philippines National Police Human Rights Affairs Office (PNP-HRAO) to provide LGBT sensitivity training for police officers. What began as 6 training sessions resulted in a cultural overhaul for the 16 major police

precincts across Metro Manila. Thanks to a deluge of positive feedback from the initial training, IGLHRC and allies are now working with the PNP to implement a “train the trainers” for other police precincts nationwide. The PNP is also seeking to use the module co-created by IGLHRC as part of required curriculum inside the Philippines National Police Academy.



Arus Pelangi

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) recently became Asia's first-ever human rights monitoring body. Unfortunately, its first declaration did not include reference to either sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). Two years ago, 20 LGBT activists came together to create the ASEAN SOGI Caucus and called for a more inclusive declaration, but their demands were ignored. Recognizing the need for resources and organizational know-how, they have requested IGLHRC's assistance in building the institutional infrastructure, technical skills, and credibility necessary to guarantee protections for LGBT people in the AICHR. Although state repression prevents many of the organizations in the Caucus from operating freely in their home countries, it has already accomplished a great deal. Managerial and capital support from IGLHRC will strive to ensure that the Caucus' advocacy and education initiatives result in SOGI representation in subsequent human rights declarations, including around state accountability for anti-LGBT violence and discrimination. 🌈

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ASIA PROGRAM



IGLHRC's Grace Poore meeting with members of the National Women's Coalition of Indonesia in Jakarta.



Taken in Jakarta at the 2011 ASEAN People's Forum where activists from different social justice movements gathered to build solidarity around common priorities in the region. This photo shows LGBT activists meeting for the first time at an IGLHRC workshop to discuss human rights in the ASEAN region. This workshop subsequently led to the formation of the ASEAN SOGIE Caucus.

Arus Pelangir



Thai LGBT activists strategizing with IGLHRC on how to work with National Human Rights Institutions.

Grace Poore



Edgar Oscar Otadero, Philippines gay activist at the Advocacy Institute that IGLHRC convened in Singapore to discuss ways to use the findings from the LBT Violence Project.

Grace Poore

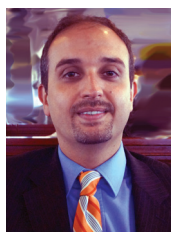
OTHER RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Spearheaded by the St. Lucia-based United and Strong, IGLHRC co-sponsored the first-ever LBT Caribbean women's 3-day conference in September. Forty attendees from throughout the region built new alliances and learned human rights documentation and legal strategies for confronting violence.
- In recent months, IGLHRC conducted 3 LGBT sensitivity trainings for 60 broadcast professionals reporting on breaking news from Iran. A critical resource of the training was the new IGLHRC Persian and English language publication, ***How to Discuss LGBT Issues: A Comprehensive Media Guide for Persian Language Journalists***. As a result, editors from the *Deutsche Welle* asked IGLHRC to serve as an advisor as it newly establishes a Persian language news program and website dedicated to gender and sexuality in Iran.
- In honor of *International Human Rights Day*, December 10th, IGLHRC co-organized a major panel at the United Nations featuring the High Commissioner for Human Rights, sports stars, and 3 LGBT human rights defenders to draw attention to homophobia and transphobia on the eve of the Olympics in Russia.
- By the end of the year, IGLHRC had helped strengthen the capacity of more than 60 LGBT activists in Cameroon, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to conduct human rights documentation by holding 3-day trainings in each country. In October, with IGLHRC's support, LGBT activists from Malawi and Cameroon presented their reports on human rights violations to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, a regional human rights monitoring body. 🌍



IGLHRC's Ging Cristobal conducting one of the LGBT sensitivity trainings to Philippine police officers.

MEET IGLHRC'S REGIONAL COORDINATORS



Hossein Alizadeh (Regional Program Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa) has over a decade of experience in international relations. He previously worked as the Fellowship of Reconciliation Coordinator for Iran and Iraq and served as a board member of the Muslim Peace Fellowship. A native of Iran, he was a researcher for the Institute for Political and International Studies, the Iranian Foreign Ministry's think

tank, where his portfolio included Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. Most recently, he oversaw the research, writing and production of 5 IGLHRC manuals in Persian about LGBT rights intended for journalists, lawyers and activists in Iran. He holds an M.A. in International Relations from the National University (Teheran, Iran) and an M.A. in International Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame (United States).



Damian Ugwu (Regional Program Coordinator for Africa) was described by a peer as one of the "best human rights researchers in Nigeria." He has consulted with organizations including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Open Society Justice Initiative and contributed to publications focused on torture, violence and impunity, extrajudicial killings, and children's rights in Nigeria. He has been an advocate for the

LGBT rights movement in Nigeria, working to oppose homophobic legislation in the Nigerian parliament. He leads global advocacy and capacity strengthening initiatives for IGLHRC's Africa Program and is based in Johannesburg, South Africa. He holds a Masters Degree in International Law and Diplomacy from the University of Lagos.



Grace Poore (Regional Program Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific Islands) is from Malaysia. She oversees documentation and advocacy projects in Asia, conducts trainings on human rights documentation, and facilitates LGBT engagement with UN mechanisms, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). She co-wrote the video, "Courage Unfolds" about LGBT activism in Asia

and *The Yogyakarta Principles*. Her other two documentary films on domestic violence and surviving child sexual abuse have been viewed in eighteen countries. Grace holds a Masters Degree from Syracuse University Newhouse School of Communications and is a frequent contributor to online journals such as *The Huffington Post* and *The New Civil Rights Movement*. She has spearheaded the Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Violence Project, a unique five country study to be released in spring 2014.



María Mercedes Gómez (Regional Program Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean) is a Colombian academic and human rights activist. Her work explores the challenges of understanding, preventing, and reducing violence based on sexual prejudices in the U.S. and Latin America. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science, and a M.A. in Gender Studies and Feminist Theory from the New School for Social Research in NYC, a graduate degree in

Criminal Law from Universidad Nacional, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia. She has taught at Eugene Lang College in New York, Universidad Javeriana and Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, and Dalhousie and Saint Mary's universities in Halifax, Canada. 🌍

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,067,273	\$ 987,847
Accounts receivable	7,527	9,131
Grants and contributions receivable	266,904	624,333
Contracts receivable	48,212	
Prepaid expenses	33,948	7,779
Total current assets	1,423,864	1,629,090

Grants and contributions receivable, net	510,373	695,981
Property and equipment, net	18,712	19,499
Security deposit	28,234	29,134
Total assets	\$ 1,981,183	\$ 2,373,704

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 125,931	\$ 172,692
Contract advances and deferred revenue	397,079	151,502
Total liabilities	523,010	324,194

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:		
Board designated - general program	500,000	400,000
Undesignated	15,156	167,393
Total unrestricted net assets	515,156	567,393
Temporarily restricted	924,663	1,463,763
Permanently restricted	18,354	18,354
Total net assets	1,458,173	2,049,510
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,981,183	\$ 2,373,704

SAVE THE DATE
MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014



2014 HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

A CELEBRATION OF
C O U R A G E