

ILGA Asia

Annual report

2020



ILGA
ASIA

Asia Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association *or ILGA ASIA*

ILGA is the world federation of national and local organisations dedicated to achieving equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people across the globe. Established in 1978, ILGA enjoys consultative status at the UN Ecosoc Council. It speaks and lobbies in international fora on behalf of more than 1,200 member organisations from 132 countries.

ILGA Asia is the Asian Region of ILGA, representing more than 100 member organisations in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Yemen.



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Executive summary

Despite the outbreak of the pro-democracy protests in Bangkok in 2020, the general political environment for the operation of the non-profit sector within the country has not been severely curtailed. Thailand, for the most part, has been able to control the spread of the virus, with occasional surge in new cases every few months. ILGA Asia has managed the office's daily function throughout the year. In the face of widespread transmission of COVID-19 across the globe, ILGA Asia adopted flexible and effective measures to maintain its work on advocacy and capacity building. None of the newly recruited staff arrived in Thailand last year, and the team worked with each other virtually throughout the year. In addition, ILGA Asia modified our activities and plans accordingly, and that helped us strengthen our influences among our members, local activists and organisations, and further enhance the collaboration with them at all levels.

2020 in summary

In 2020, we have worked hard on five key activities:



Activation of knowledge sharing and use to produce data driven responses



Promotion of understanding and acceptance of the public and allies



Solidarity of LGBTI communities in Asia through networking and collaboration



Sustainability and expansion of LGBTI communities in Asia



Strengthened capacity of LGBTI civil society on human rights advocacy

Review of activity results



Activation of knowledge sharing and use to produce data driven responses

Breakthrough research initiatives

In order to collect the strategic information and data informing the up-to-date situation facing LGBTI persons on the ground and thus guide our future efforts, throughout the last quarter of 2020, ILGA Asia worked closely with 18 local consultants from 16 Asian countries and regions, namely, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Japan, India, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, resulting in a series of country analysis reports through consultations and interviews with approximately 200 of ILGA Asia members and local stakeholders.

These reports provide a snapshot of the current context — up to 2020 — of LGBTI activism in each of the jurisdictions, comprehensive analysis of community priorities and recommendations for future work for both ILGA Asia, other international partners, and the regional LGBTI movement in general. Individual contexts highlight that vulnerabilities, as well as social and economic precarity of LGBTI communities, remain unresolved and COVID-19 has only served to exacerbate these dilemmas.

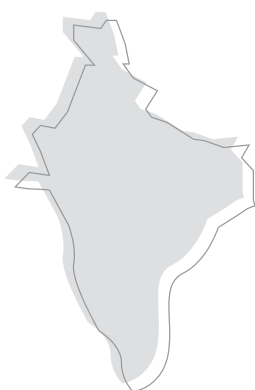
This research initiative is a breakthrough project led by ILGA Asia. The information we strategically collected, including the practical strategies, best practices, and creative solutions can greatly benefit the LGBTI movement across Asia. All the reports were planned to be published and disseminated by mid-2021.

We worked in **16** Asian countries.

We worked with **18** local consultants.

We engaged **200** ILGA members + stakeholders

To produce **16** in-depth country analysis of LGBTI activism



Visit ilgaasia.org/publications

Throughout the last quarter of 2020, ILGA Asia worked closely with **eighteen local consultants** from **sixteen Asian countries** and regions, namely, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Japan, India, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, to produce sixteen in-depth country analysis of LGBTI activism.



Communicating regional solidarity through the lenses of the LGBTI community

Going into the pandemic, ILGA Asia's strategic objectives on communications have been adapted to highlight the activities by its member organisations in their respective communities. As impacts of pandemic hit particularly hard on LGBTI young people, this demographics has also been a focus of engagement throughout ILGA Asia social media.

In July, ILGA Asia launched a series of #CommunitySpotlight. The first highlight of the series featured 'Solidarity for LGBT Human Rights of Korea', a local South Korean LGBTI organisation. The series also featured Sayoni, a LGBTI organisation based in Singapore. This series will be expanded to highlight more member organisations in 2021.



Our #CommunitySpotlight series on social media highlights diverse LGBTI movements in Asia.

In July and August, ILGA Asia published three articles and reports in collaboration with LGBTI regional organisation outlining key issues surrounding mental health, quality of life, socio-economic impact and social protection as well as stigma, discrimination and gender-based violence among LGBTI young people in Asia.

Domestic violence against LGBTI youth by their family members during quarantine was reportedly increasing, so ILGA Asia published a joint statement with other regional LGBTI organisations and those working on domestic violence to inform the society about the issue and call for support to LGBTI young people in Asia..

On Transgender Day of Remembrance in November 2020, ILGA Asia

released a statement to memorialise the reported 21 transgender lives around the Asian region lost within the past year due to hatred and violence. As many as 16 Asian countries still outlaw gender expression of transgender and non-binary people.

In December 2020, ILGA Asia published a statement applauding Bhutan's Parliament landmark move to repeal a law criminalising LGBTI people. While Bhutan becoming the latest country that decriminalises consensual same-sex sexual relations, the Asia region remains at forefront in the fight against oppressive laws on LGBTI people around the world. Consensual same-sex relations is still criminalised in as many as 21 countries and territories in Asia.

ILGA Asia collaborated with Youth Voices Count on the QueerxBodies video and article series that celebrates young queer activists and influencers in the Asia-Pacific region with an emphasis on the intersection between being queer and other lived experiences. The collaboration with Youth Voices Count went further in a series of webinars "Getting Back Up" in conjunction with Human Rights Day.

We targeted growth of ... for ... but achieved...

6 %
in impressions



1.8k %

60 %
in page reach



1.4k %

60 %
in reach



352 %

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ILGA Asia has issued multiple joint statements to shore up regional solidarity of the LGBTI community in Asia.

Apr 24 Joint statement on LGBTIQA youth in quarantine



Protect LGBTIQA young people and adolescents living with unsupportive families during quarantine, lockdown or curfew

Bangkok, Thailand
24th April 2020

The COVID-19 outbreak has been quickly escalating around the world in the past weeks and killing as many as 100,000 people worldwide. Things are rapidly changing and governments around the world have been placing various measures to curb the spread of the virus. Health experts have been calling for social distancing, which has turned into a city-wide, or sometimes a nation-wide lockdown in many countries. The outbreak disproportionately affects various groups, those who are already discriminated on a daily basis because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or sex characteristics (SOGIESC), have been shown to be particularly vulnerable. In many countries, SOGIESC people are not supported or protected by the countermeasures taken in this global health emergency. Youth and adolescents whose families or legal guardians are not supportive of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, discrimination, bullying and other forms of abuse, psychological abuse, discrimination, bullying and other forms of harassment during this period. That includes many young people living in Asia, whose parents or legal guardians constantly attempt to force them to conform to their own expectations of what a young person should be. In some sub-regions, where it is not possible to deal with it. Prolonged and constant verbal and physical abuse, especially during one's quarantine, lockdown or curfew, can have serious and long-lasting effects on their mental health and well-being. In some cases, it can lead to self-harm or even suicide. In the Asia region, 21 transgender people were killed in 2019, a record high for the region. In Asia, recent years have seen a rise in hate crimes against LGBTI people. However, the lack of legal protection, as well as the lack of support from family and community, has made the situation even more dire. In the Asia region, 21 transgender people were killed in 2019, a record high for the region. In Asia, recent years have seen a rise in hate crimes against LGBTI people. However, the lack of legal protection, as well as the lack of support from family and community, has made the situation even more dire.



Nov 20 ILGA Asia Statement on Transgender Day of Remembrance 2020

Protect Transgender and Gender Diverse People from the Pandemic of Violence and Discrimination

Bangkok, Thailand
20th November 2020

Transgender women and intergender non-conforming people are experiencing elevated stigma and discrimination and transphobic acts across a variety of aspects of their lives. As a result, transgender communities in Asia have faced horrifying hate crimes, including violence, colorism, physical and sexual assault, and even murder without any legal protection, as well as the loss of jobs and income. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those transphobic acts as well as being sex workers, the deprivation of their rights is even more acute.

Today, the 20th of November, ILGA Asia, along with our partners across Asia, are marking Transgender Day of Remembrance. In the Asia region, 21 transgender people were killed in 2019, a record high for the region. In Asia, recent years have seen a rise in hate crimes against LGBTI people. However, the lack of legal protection, as well as the lack of support from family and community, has made the situation even more dire.



Dec 17 Statement: ILGA Asia Applauds Bhutan's Parliament Move To Repeal Law Criminalising LGBTI People

Bangkok, Thailand
17th December 2020

ILGA Asia welcomes Bhutan's parliament move to decriminalise same-sex relations. A historic joint sitting in Bhutan's parliament last week on 10th December coincided with Human Rights Day approved a landmark bill abolishing Sections 213 and 214 of the Penal Code. The discriminatory provisions in the Penal Code which had been often interpreted to criminalize consenting same-sex relations have led to the marginalization and vulnerability of LGBTI people in Bhutan.

"The LGBTI community in Bhutan has worked hard for so many years to achieve equality. We are extremely pleased with this exciting development. It marks a monumental progress for LGBTI rights in Bhutan and contributes to higher Gross National Happiness for LGBTI Bhutanese." Tashi Tsheten, ILGA Asia Executive Board member said. "While the repeal of the law is pending the King of Bhutan's approval, it allows LGBTI community in Bhutan to enjoy their lives in dignity without fear of prosecution."

Bhutan celebrates their National Day on Dec 17. ILGA Asia would like to extend congratulations to the LGBTI community and allies in Bhutan for their achievement. This is another step forward in advancing human rights and equality for the LGBTI community in Bhutan, and will continue to support the LGBTI community in Bhutan, and will



Promotion of understanding and acceptance of the public and allies

Bridging gaps between the LGBTI and faith communities

ILGA Asia and Salzburg Global Seminar continued our collaboration to promote LGBTI inclusion in the religious communities through the organisation of a series of activities under the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum throughout the second half of 2020. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the activities were turned online to ensure the safety of those participating.

Between August and November 2020, the campaign published 16 blog posts from faith leaders, scholars, LGBTI activists around the world focusing on the two fundamental questions:

- What is needed for religious communities and leaders to be instrumental in promoting the wellbeing, equality, and inclusion of LGBTI people in faith communities?
- How do LGBTI people enrich and change their own religious communities?

The blog posts were shared on social media and generated extensive comments and discussions among fellows of the forum. They showcased and documented that a respected, humane and global conversation on LGBTI equality and inclusion in the religious community was not only possible, but had begun in many places.

The activities aimed to strengthen cooperation between religious and LGBTI leaders, their communities, and expand the global connections for support and knowledge-sharing.

Through these publications and the resulting public discussions in social media, the project engaged more than 25,000 people worldwide (average of 1,500 per article) in conversations about how religious communities can promote the inclusion of LGBTI people and how LGBTI people enrich the communities of which they are a part.

Following the blog posts, two online discussions were convened on 15 September 2020 and 20 October 2020 to study the following emerging themes and the work and view of each participant:

“[God] could come from anywhere, look like anyone and is genderless. However, it is not exactly this faith that keeps me optimistic for a bright future as a transpinay. It is seeing others like me accept themselves and live their lives as if there is nothing painful surrounding our existence. I am inspired by my fellow transpinays and queer people.”



Brenda Rodriguez Alegre - academic, activist, choir soprano and expert on Filipino transgender history makes a passionate plea for Filipino queers to reemerge and be more visible and accepted in a religious society.

- **Secularisation:** The importance of a government was highlighted as a necessary step to foster dialogue. When governments are aligned with religious institutions and ideologies, there is a notion of “purity” which seems to cut across religious traditions and regions. This translates notably to very patriarchal and heteronormative gender norms.
- **Sharing our stories:** Whether a society is secular or theocratic, LGBTI communities still face challenges. While our societies navigate this strong intersectionality between politics and religion, it is important to empower LGBTI communities to be a part of this dialogue. Sharing LGBTI lived narratives and stories with religious leaders in safe spaces has proven to be an effective technique in fostering dialogue and progressing towards inclusion.

“I started to ask myself, what is stopping me from genuinely loving LGBT* people? Scriptures, church tradition, culture, ethnicity or the structural influences these may have had on me for all these years? I realized that loving is an essential part of my being and without putting that aspect into practice in the best way Indian Orthodox priest emphasizes the innate ability of each faith community to understand, accept and celebrate diverse gender identities and sexualities possible, I am not doing justice to my identity, as a child of God.”

Indian Orthodox priest emphasizes the innate ability of each faith community to understand, accept and celebrate diverse gender identities and sexualities.
- **De-colonisation:** Colonisation often had the effect of destroying gender diverse practices, and post-colonial leaders may continue that process, in the name of restoring tradition (postcolonial amnesia). Many postcolonial thinkers continue this destruction by reinforcing oppressive practices as an act of anti-colonialism, using an enhanced and institutionalised patriarchy.
- **Self-acceptance:** LGBTI people with faith often find their gender and sexuality incompatible with their religion, and struggle to accept themselves for having both of these incompatible identities. Deeper exploration of their own faith starts the process of self-acceptance starts when they discover the true teaching of their religion, which helps them reconcile with themselves.

On 24 November 2020, a public webinar was launched to introduce the essence of the discussions to the wider public, presenting ways to strengthen inclusive approaches to bridge different communities. This webinar, which consisted of two-panel discussions featuring seven authors of blog posts, brought together over 65 individuals from 23 countries, half of whom were not previously engaged with the forum.

Online campaigning for better understanding of SOGIESC and human rights

Between July and August 2020, ILGA Asia utilised social media to share tips for working from home, in order to promote the well-being of LGBTI activists during the lockdown. These tips were sourced from scientific journals and other online sources, and designed to attract the attention of LGBTI

audiences. These tips reached 10,000 people and were shared extensively by the audiences.

During August 2020, leading up to the Wear It Purple day, ILGA Asia ran a series of seven daily posts on social media to raise awareness about SOGIE-based bullying in school and to end school violence, with information from the previous studies done by UNESCO (From Insult to Inclusion: Asia-Pacific report on school bullying, violence, and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity), UNDP and USAID. The campaign reached approximately 13,000 people in the end.

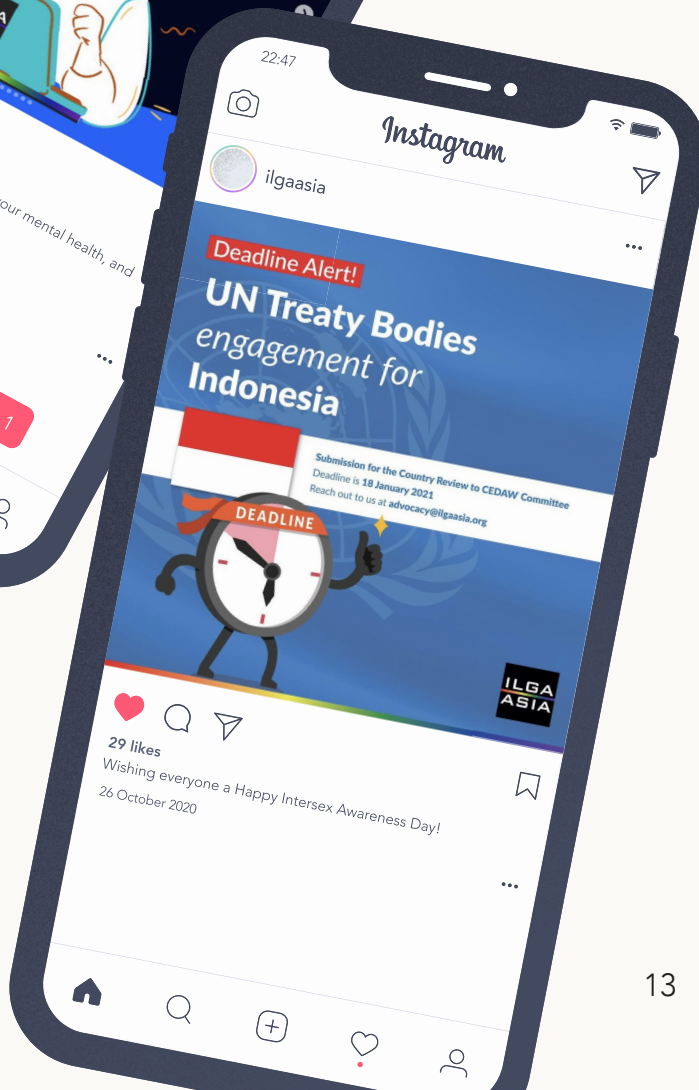
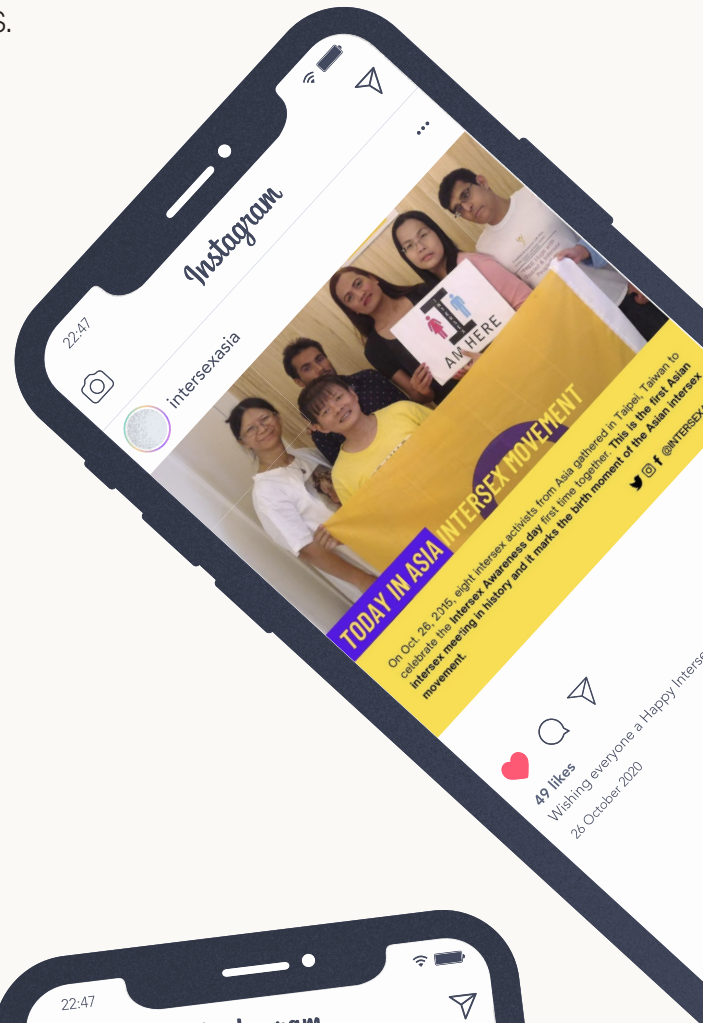
Between October and November 2020, ILGA Asia collaborated with Intersex Asia to launch a series of five posts on social media to raise the intersex awareness and visibility with a statement on intersex issues at the Human Rights Council, a statement from the Asian intersex community, and information from the UN Factsheet.

ILGA Asia also used social media and customised emails to remind members and LGBTI activists in the region to submit cases of human rights violations to the UN bodies. A total of 21 Information Notes have been disseminated to the targeted activists, groups and organisations from more than 15 Asian countries. The approach has increased the response and participation of LGBTI activists in the region.

Our 'Rainbow News' was released 1-2 times a month throughout the year of 2020, reaching over 1,000 people across the world, compiling all the media highlights and opportunities within the LGBTI movement in Asia.

Visit [instagram.com/ilgaasia](https://www.instagram.com/ilgaasia)

In 2020, ILGA Asia actively utilised social media for online campaigning of better understanding of SOGIE/SC and human rights.





Strengthened capacity of LGBTI civil society on human rights advocacy

Trainings on international human rights mechanisms and documentation of human rights violations

During the 4th quarter of 2020, ILGA Asia partnered with COC Netherlands and the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia-Pacific to organise a series of online training of trainers on UN mechanisms for LGBTI activists in South and Southeast Asia. A total of 20 participants attended, covering twelve organisations and coalitions from 4 countries in the South Asian region, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and 1 from Southeast Asia — the Philippines. All the attendees indicated a high level of satisfaction with the workshops which have strengthened their knowledge and skills in designing and implementing human rights-related training and expressed their strong interest in collaborating with ILGA Asia on reporting to UN mechanisms and engaging in international advocacy broadly.

ILGA Asia supported the organisation of a series of in-person or online, subjected to the local outbreak of COVID-19 during that period, human rights training workshops for local communities in Thailand (1), Bangladesh (2), Pakistan (1), Sri Lanka (2), the Philippines (1) respectively, reaching a total of approximately 160 local activists and community members.

“This project and support received from the ILGA ASIA benefited in so many ways to identify issues, gaps, understandings, misunderstandings and limitations we have with the LGBTIQ community. We are really wanting to work with ILGA ASIA in the future also. Thank you for given support, courage, guidance and all the advices.”

Participants from Equite Sri Lanka

On average, more than half of the participants of the in-country training workshops manifested the improvement of understanding and knowledge of LGBTI-related human rights issues and awareness of human rights documentation as well as the UN mechanisms, based on the reports from our local partners. Additionally, the concrete outputs made through the above-mentioned interventions include:

- Production of a UPR shadow report for Sri Lanka's 3rd cycle of UPR mid-term review
- Publication of a handbook in the Urdu language on UN Human Rights Mechanism
- Production of an English version of UN Human Rights Mechanism Trainers' Handbook by our partners from Bangladesh

After the workshops, ILGA Asia created a mailing list serving as a platform to improve the communication among all the participants, and share the information and opportunities for engaging with UN mechanisms or other international platforms for SOGIESC-rights advocacy.

Along with the training on human rights, ILGA Asia also identified gaps in

online security and designed a training on the issue to equip human rights defenders with the rights skills and knowledge in dealing with risks when documenting and reporting human rights violations. Between June and December 2020, an online learning needs assessment of ILGA Foundation's local partners was produced, followed by a webinar on how to develop and facilitate online training, and a webinar on online security and safety.

The findings from the assessment reveals promising grounds to advance on the topic. There is a new and emerging opportunity for ILGA Asia and partners for advocating, lobbying with local governments, and bridging spaces within UN systems and grassroots community organisations. Based on a survey for the study, almost 92% of the population access the internet, 97% use smartphones and spend almost 70% of their time on social media. This means that there are promising opportunities for online learning; nevertheless, a cautious and customised approach towards online learning for LGBTI communities.

“We believe ILGA Asia attempted its most efficient and possible ways to assist in designing and implementing the training program. Year-long engagement of the trainers, providing access to various resources and robust activism skills can be the best support for us that ILGA Asia can extend.”

Participants from Inclusive Bangladesh and Noboprohaat, Bangladesh

Tailored technical support and engagement on UN mechanism

Throughout the year, ILGA Asia supported members, activists and/or organisations from four countries, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China and Indonesia, in the preparation and drafting of their submissions to a number of treaty bodies, including CEDAW and CESCR. Meanwhile, we also supported a group of advocates from Sri Lanka on the preparation of their UPR mid-term report, and provided technical assistance to an LGBTI organisation from Nepal in their UPR lobbying efforts.



Solidarity of LGBTI communities in Asia through networking and collaboration

Bringing communities together for the common goals

From 13-17 January 2020, Pan Africa ILGA and ILGA Asia organised our first joint consultation, as part of a larger project to develop and strengthen the two regional networks' focus areas for advocacy, networking opportunities, and potential strategic collaborations across the regions by the networks and their member organisations. The meeting was attended by eleven selected participants from both networks, as well as two staff members each from PAI and ILGA Asia secretariats.



Pan Africa ILGA and ILGA Asia organised a joint consultation attended by eleven members from both network to foster cross-continent solidarity and collaboration. Taken in Bangkok, 2020.

'Well-being' and 'integrated security' were a running theme and practice throughout the convening. In addition to specific sessions on self/collective care, we incorporated breathing & body movement practices and daily techniques throughout the meeting. We also explored alternative space for convening and organised a group outing in a park for a day for reflection and discussion about self & collective care.

Overall participants felt the convening achieved the goals and objectives set for it. They affirmed that the methodology created the space for participants to generate a lot of contextual learning, solidarity building, and indeed surfaced many areas for possible continued work and collaborations particularly around security needs. The discussions on advocacy were powerful, but we recognise it would require more preparatory work in order to really begin exploring joint strategising, supporting existing advocacy efforts, and strengthening cross-regional collaboration. Still, there were a lot of ideas generated about how PAI and ILGA Asia could strengthen

their members' work, including through increased communication and engagement beyond the regional conferences. There was also a clear desire by participants to continue learning from each other's regions, and where possible, collaborate more across Asia and Africa.

To further strengthen the solidarity of the LGBTI community and members in Asia, ILGA Asia planned for a five-day workshop with members from across Asia in Thailand in the 3rd quarter of 2020. The consultation in the end was alternatively divided into a number of local consultations with members and stakeholders in each country because of the traveling constraints imposed by COVID-19 situation. Throughout the last quarter of 2020, ILGA Asia was working with 18 local consultants from 16 Asian countries to organise those consultations, either online or in-person, subject to the prevalence of COVID-19 and lockdown policy in that area.

All the consultants were working together and in coordination with the lead consultant, DSIL to share their concerns and solutions regarding the organisation of the consultations. All the consultations were conducted in the local language as much as possible to capture the local identities and context. At the end of December 2020, all but one of the consultations were completed and the consultants were already in the process of drafting the meeting reports and desk review of LGBTI human rights situation in their respective countries. The information will be used by the lead consultant to develop the new Strategic Plan for ILGA Asia, while all the country reports will be edited for publication in 2021, in time for the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, Bi-phobia, Intersexism. The consultations provided the team at ILGA Asia the closest picture possible of the challenges faced by LGBTI people across Asia and their priorities for the coming year, at a time when this kind of face-to-face meeting was impossible.

Throughout October and November 2020, ILGA Asia provided technical support and participated in the national conference "Stronger Together" aiming at healthy, equitable and sustainable development for the LGBTIQ community in Vietnam. ILGA Asia facilitated the first day of the conference focusing on human rights of LGBTIQ people.

In December 2020, ILGA Asia participated in China's Annual SOGIE Legal Rights Symposium organised by UNDP Being LGBTI in Asia and Pacific. During the conference, our staff was invited to share the experience on legal advocacy, particularly the international advocacy opportunities and strategies.

ILGA Asia also participated in a number of online webinars organised our partners, such as the webinar "Our Response: At the Nexus of Human Rights, Gender, and Health in the COVID-19 Humanitarian Response" by Youth Voices Count in April, and the "Challenges and Ways Forward for LGBTIQ Inclusion at the private sector" organised by APCOM as a part of APCOM Community Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.



Sustainability and expansion of LGBTI communities in Asia

More LGBTI activists and organisations advocate for rights

From the end of 2019 and throughout 2020, ILGA Asia stepped into a partnership with Pan Africa ILGA, COC Netherlands and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Power of Voices program. Between 2021 and 2025, the alliance will aim to strengthen national/regional/global LGBTI movements and shift decision-making power to rights-holders through six different pathways: empowering LGBTI individuals, creating LGBTI communities, strengthening LGBTI civil society, growing LGBTI movement, mobilising allies, and influencing laws and policies. There are 22 focused countries in the program, including five from the Asian region: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iraq, Myanmar, and Pakistan. The program is expected to expand the resources available to LGBTI activists in Africa and Asia, enabling them to defend and protect their human rights.

In May 2020, ILGA Asia recruited an Advocacy Officer to provide technical support on UN mechanisms engagement to LGBTI activists in the region. A new Programme Officer was also appointed to support the planning and implementation of the above-mentioned Power of Voices program, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation at the organisation. ILGA Asia also started the recruitment of the new Research Officer to improve our research capacity and ensure evidence-based approaches to our advocacy and campaigning activities.

Emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic



During the pandemic, ILGA Asia rapidly deployed aid to affected LGBTI communities globally.

Throughout the first months of 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was affecting LGBT community across Asia. In March 2020, ILGA Asia continuously checked in with member organisations and their communities, revisited its work plan, responded to the urgent situation, and adapted to the new reality. By May 2020, ILGA Asia made the decision to move all activities online, and prepared to equip ourselves and our partners with sufficient skills to operate in this context.

Some of our member organisations were greatly affected. ILGA Asia

distributed a survey to analyse the situation on the ground and identify the needs. At the same time, ILGA Asia was in constant contact with partners and donors to inform them of the changes and how we could coordinate together.

Through thorough assessment and evaluation, ILGA ASIA provided emergency grants support, amounting to \$US 43,666 to 18 LGBTI led partner organisations from China, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Prioritising local needs and addressing domestic problems, ILGA Asia followed the lead of partner organisations to develop intervention activities, which ranged from online and in-person counselling services to online group activities on mental health, violence, parent-child relationship; from cash assistance for food and housing to temporary shelter provisions; from CD4 testing assistance to the distribution of ART medicine, IEC materials to raise awareness about CoronaVirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

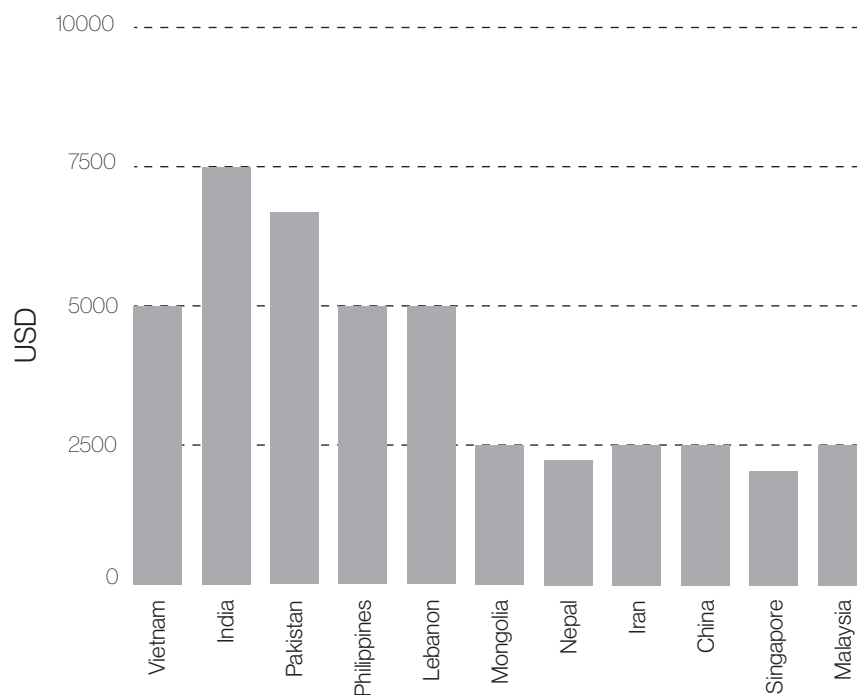


Figure 1: Grant receiving countries

Reaching 117 cities in eleven countries, 2,352 individuals directly benefited. Partner organisations were able to reach diverse groups within the LGBTIQ community that were in need for immediate assistance including refugees, adolescents, those under 18 years old, elderly over the age of 59, those living with HIV, those living with disability, those infected or recovered from COVID-19, people living in the rural areas where it is difficult to access services. The emergency responses from partner organisations aided beneficiaries to overcome the acute impacts of COVID-19 pandemic such as mental health problem, economic hardship, isolation and social exclusions, increasing discrimination and elevating incidence of violence.

Testimonies from organisations and beneficiaries

“To avoid the suicide in 2 cases, housing possibility in other 3 cases, and helping to create a job possibility in 2 cases (buying the tools for their work), health situation for another 4 persons with medicine and hospital costs, continuing the school in 2 cases.”

From the endline report of an organisation based in Iraq

“We believe ILGA Asia attempted its most efficient and possible ways to assist in designing and implementing the training program. Year-long engagement of the trainers, providing access to various resources and robust activism skills can be the best support for us that ILGA Asia can extend.”

“During these tough times, I used to pray in hope of better days. Now that you have come with this ration package, I have no words to thank ILGA Asia. This ration will be sufficient for a couple of weeks for all of us living at the dera.”

A transgender beneficiary from Pakistan

“In the current pandemic, India is severely affected by the COVID-19 spread, and Transgender/Hijra communities are among the most impacted communities within the LGBTIQ spectrum. Support from ILGA Asia allowed us to provide rations and medicines to LGBTIQ communities in Mumbai, Delhi. The ration support could save the trans communities from hunger and starvation. ILGA Asia also addressed the need for rental support for those facing eviction by landlords. The rent support addressed the need for a safe shelter where the community continues to stay, providing timely support to the transgender communities who have lost their livelihoods due to this pandemic. Additionally, the support also provided access and adherence to ART medicines for PLHIV.”

From the endline report of an organisation based in India

“This project and support received from the ILGA ASIA benefited in so many ways to identify issues, gaps, understandings, misunderstandings and limitations we have with the LGBTIQ community. We are really wanting to work with ILGA ASIA in the future also. Thank you for given support, courage, guidance and all the advices.”

Participants from Equite Sri Lanka

“A nationwide mutual aid network for LGBT youth psychological support and companionship has been established, covering about 35 cities. Participants learned educational activity design and resource mobilisation in the project. Through the curriculum system, they have a detailed understanding of the process of entering the school, the curriculum design plan, and how to mobilise resources. Among them, more than 80 participants have started to prepare more than 60 diverse gender-inclusive activities.”

From the Endline report of organisation based in China

In addition to short-term reliefs, interventions in some countries have the possibility of having long-term impacts. An organisation from China was able to form a new network with the grants they received and were able to conduct activities with 80% of in-network participants, and an organisation in Vietnam created a defined list of challenges faced by service providers in times of crisis, as well as a baseline guidance for service providers on future engagement programs.

As the impact of the pandemic is on-going and evolving, many partner organisations are in need of long-term and continuous funding to better serve many people in the community who are still extremely vulnerable. There is an acute need for capacity development amongst partner organisations such as community mapping, relevant resource development, including human resource development and technical knowledge on financial management, community organising, reporting and proposal writing skills amongst grantees.

Moving Forward

Capacity building of intersex activists

In collaboration with Intersex Asia as part of its Fellowship Program launched in November 2020, ILGA Asia will deliver the series of workshops on organisational management and leadership for seven Intersex activists from Bangladesh, India, Monogolia, Pakistan, and the Phillipines. The workshop aims to strengthen the project management, strategic planning, financial management and proposal development skills of young intersex activists and enable them in participating, contributing and leading the national, regional and global efforts to advocate for the rights of intersex people. The workshop period will be from February to October 2021.

Advanced Training on Human Rights and UN Mechanisms

In 2021, ILGA Asia is planning to organise a series of advanced training workshops to strengthen the capacity of the LGBTI community in Asia on the use of UN mechanisms to promote human rights and domestic advocacy. The training workshops will prioritise the participants coming from Thailand, India, the Philippines, Korea, Japan, and Sri Lanka where there exist emerging opportunities to maximise the local advocacy efforts at the international level. The workshops are expected to take place during the period from July to November.

UPR Advocacy Week

As a Power of Voices Program partner, ILGA Asia, in collaboration with COC Netherlands, Pan Africa ILGA, and ILGA World, will organise UPR Advocacy Week activities starting from 2021. This year, ILGA Asia plans to support 1-2 activists from Thailand to join the UPR Advocacy Week enabling them to directly engage with the UPR-related advocacy activities in Geneva and obtain first-hand experience and skills on human rights mechanisms.

Continuous support and efforts on international advocacy

In 2021, ILGA Asia will continue our efforts in supporting our members and activists across Asia on international advocacy, enhancing their engagement on UPR, Treaty Bodies, and Special Procedures mechanisms, and organising relevant lobby & advocacy activities. Meanwhile, ILGA Asia will improve our direct engagement with these UN mechanisms, UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and other international platforms and instruments.

Strategic information and knowledge sharing

In 2021, ILGA Asia will embark on its research portfolio as part of the key arenas in our Strategic Plan and Theory of Change (ToC) for 2021 – 2025, and for the Power of Pride Programme. A Research Officer will be hired

to lead on the development and implementation of overarching research strategies to deliver publication outputs in relation to agreed priorities on specific countries or other geographical or thematic areas in Asia based on SOGIESC-related human rights developments. Through this new initiative, ILGA Asia will be publishing evaluation reports of our Humanitarian Grants Assistance Program in Response to COVID-19, Needs Assessment of ILGA Asia's Online Learning, and a series of 16 Country Reports on the Needs Assessment for LGBTIQ persons and the development of SOGIESC rights across Asia Pacific. Moving forward, ILGA Asia aims to engage in joint research projects, support partner organisations through capacity building on research and strategic information collection, and strengthen our commitment to knowledge sharing through developing a central regional database of information.

Note: a number of these activities have concluded at the time of publishing. Stay tuned for ILGA Asia's 2021 Annual Report to learn more about the results and impact.

About Us

Our Board



Candy Yun
Co-Chair, East Asian
Representative



Shadi Amin
Co-Chair, West Asian
Representative



Charbel Maydaa,
Alternate Co-Chair, West
Asian Representative



Ngo Le Phuong Linh
Alternate Co-Chair, Southeast
Asian Representative



Jennifer Lu
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Representative



Moon Ali
South Asian
Representative



Niluka Perera
South Asian
Representative



Brenda R. Alegre
Southeast Asian
Representative



Gopi Shankar Madurai
Intersex Representative



Wannapong (Nhuun)
Yodmuang
Trans Representative



Tashi Tsheten
Admin & Youth
Representative

Our Staff



Lieu Anh Vu
Executive Director



Yarinda Srisutat
Admin & Finance Officer



Ripley Wang
UN Advocacy Officer



Khine Su Win
Programme Officer



Dowha Kim
Campaigns &
Communications Officer
(till June 2020)



Numan Afifi
Campaigns &
Communications Officer
(July 2020 onwards)



Nguyen Minh Ha
Communication Intern

Our Supporters



Financial Statement

Revenues

Grant	11,806,552.08 THB
Interest	12,942.07 THB
others	0.61 THB
Total	11,819,494.76 THB

Expenditure

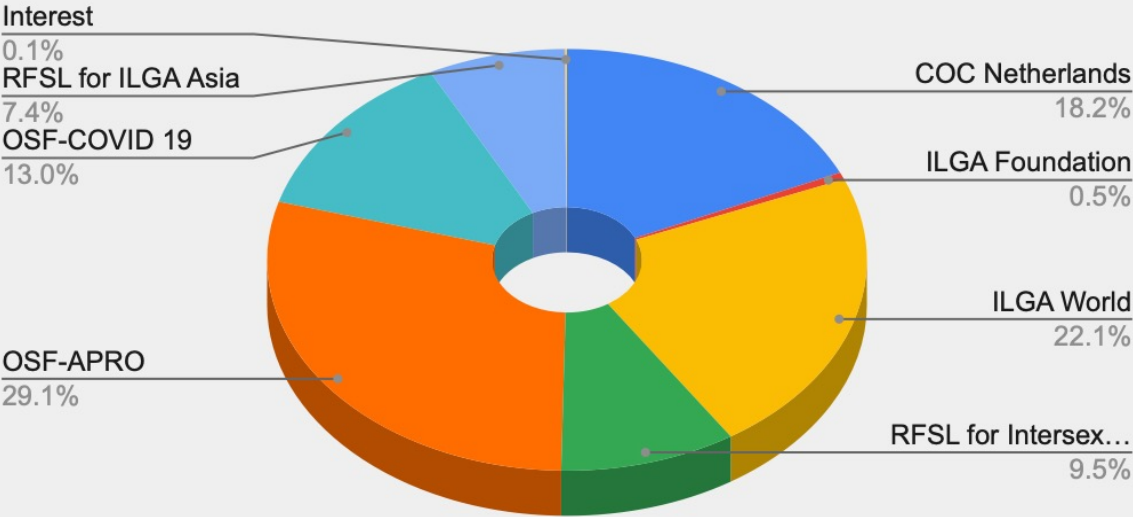
Activities	5,483,152.79 THB
Administrative	5,435,582.63 THB
Others	7,806.42 THB
Total	10,926,541.84 THB

Revenue over expenses before tax 892,952.92 THB

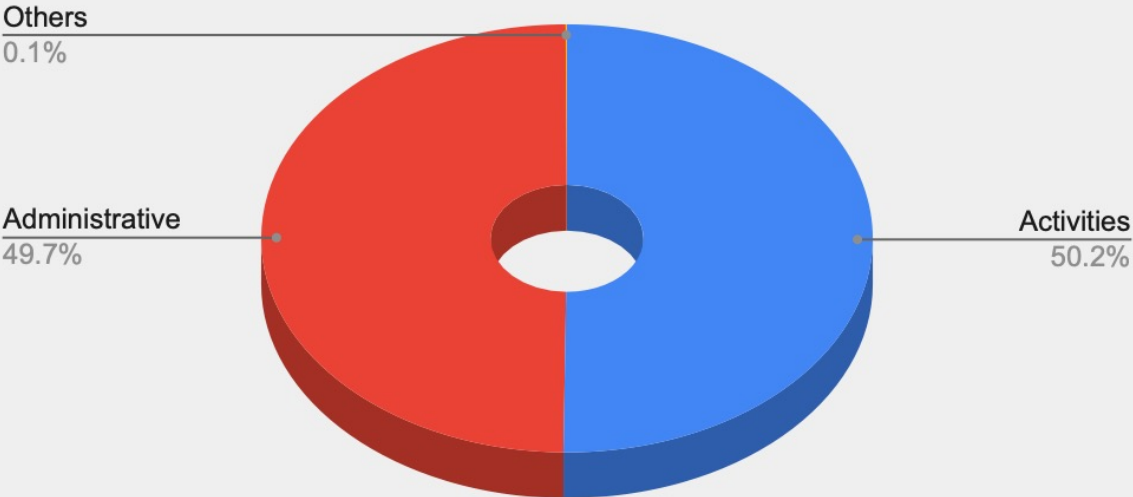
Tax 1,294.21 THB

Revenue over expenses NET 891,658.71 THB

Revenues



Expenditure





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