



LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CELEBRATES THE CREATION OF IACHR LGBTI RIGHTS RAPPORTEUR TO ENSURE THE RIGHTS OF LGBTI PERSONS IN THE AMERICAS

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has created a thematic Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, who will take office in February next year. The mission of this Rapporteur will be to support the work of the Inter-American Commission in its mandate to promote and protect human rights in the Americas.

This decision confirms the commitment of the Commission to human rights related to sexual orientation and gender identity and is the result of increasing demands, requests and reports received by the IACHR on the continuing violations, discrimination and violence against LGBTI people in the Americas.

In addition to these issues, the IACHR extends the range of issues of this new Rapporteurship to include body diversity as part of its mandate - a key matter to ensure human rights of other people, such as intersex people.

As an LGBTTTI Coalition of organizations in the region that has been working for six years in the Organisation of American States (OAS) system, we express our support and appreciation for this momentous decision that will give more relevance and visibility to the issue in the region and in OAS member states.

Since 2010, when the Coalition began to think about a Rapporteurship, we welcomed the creation and operation of the LGBTI unit. At this time, with the accumulation of experience, hearings, reports, precautionary measures, and case-work information gathered, we believe that the establishment of a specific thematic rapporteur is the necessary next step to take.

Likewise, we recognize and appreciate the work of the LGBTI Unit of the Commission led by Commissioner Robinson and the efforts of Fanny Gomez, Human Rights Specialist at the IACHR Secretariat, in the years since its creation in 2011, with whom we established a regular collaboration, which will now give way to this thematic Rapporteur. The significance of this decision is shown by the function and mandate of the rapporteurs of the Commission, namely: to make recommendations to the member states of the OAS from visits to States and consultations with experts; publication of thematic studies and country reports; and to process petitions and individual cases where human rights violations, in this case related to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression and bodily diversity, are alleged.

LGBTTTI Coalition of Organizations working within the framework of the OAS:

1. AKAHATA Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Género - Argentina
2. United Belize Advocacy Movement (UNIBAM) - Belize
3. Red Nacional de Mujeres Trans en Bolivia (REDTREBOL) - Bolivia

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4. Articulação Política das Juventudes Negras - Brasil
5. Grupo Ativista de Travestis, Transexuais e Amig@s (GATTA) - Brasil
6. Grupo Esperança - Brasil
7. Rede Nacional de Negr@s e Afros LGBTTT (Rede-afros-lgbts) - Brasil
8. Organización de Transexuales por la Dignidad de la Diversidad (OTD) - Chile
9. Sindicato Amanda Jofré - Chile
10. Asociación Líderes en Acción - Colombia
11. Colombia Diversa - Colombia
12. Fundación Santamaría - Colombia
13. Mulabi - Espacio Latinoamericano de Sexualidades y Derechos - Costa Rica
14. Dominica Chapter of the Caribbean HIV and AIDS partnership (ChapDominica) - Dominica
15. Asociación Alfil - Ecuador
16. Taller de Comunicación Mujer - Ecuador
17. Asociación Aspidh Arcoiris - El Salvador
18. Grenada Chapter of the Caribbean HIV and AIDS Partnership (GrenCHAP) - Grenada
19. Organización Trans Reinas de la Noche (OTRANS) - Guatemala
20. Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD) - Guyana
21. Colectivo Unidad Color Rosa - Honduras
22. Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG) - Jamaica
23. Letra S SIDA, Cultura y Vida Cotidiana - México
24. Red Mexicana de Mujeres Trans - México
25. Red Nicaragüense de Activistas Trans (REDTRANS) - Nicaragua
26. Asociación Panameña de Personas Trans - Panamá
27. Aireana Grupo por los Derechos de las Lesbianas - Paraguay
28. Asociación Panambi - Paraguay
29. Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (PROMISEX) - Perú
30. Instituto Runa - Perú
31. Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities (CARIFLAGS) - Regional
32. Global Initiative for Sexuality and Human Rights - Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights (GISHR-HA) - Regional
33. Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Personas Trans (REDLACTRANS) - Regional
34. Colectiva Mujer y Salud - Republica Dominicana
35. United & Strong - St Lucia
36. Women's Way - Suriname
37. Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO) - Trinidad and Tobago
38. Asociación Trans del Uruguay (ATRU) - Uruguay
39. Colectivo Ovejas Negras - Uruguay
40. Diversidad y Igualdad a Través de la Ley (DIVERLEX) - Venezuela

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