

**HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE.
EVERYWHERE.**



I G L H R C

**INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**2006
ANNUAL REPORT**

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.

Letter From the Board Chairs

Dear Supporters and Friends,

As the world of human rights and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) advocacy shifts, so does the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC). This year has been a time of re-tooling, re-envisioning and expansion for IGLHRC as we continue to play a vital role in global human rights advocacy. Here are some IGLHRC highlights from this past year:

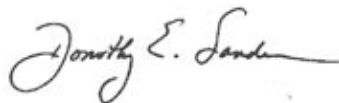
- 1) We are especially proud to announce that we met our budget goals this year and we moved into a new office in New York. With a new staff structure and the dedicated support from our funders, IGLHRC has strengthened and deepened its regional program structure. We carried a number of ongoing projects to completion, while continuing to provide ongoing emergency response, training and human rights capacity building for partners, and engaging in documentation to support longer-term advocacy goals.
- 2) We are pleased with the dedication of our many generous institutional funders. Core supporters of IGLHRC's work have helped the organization to move awareness of and response to systematic human rights violations against people on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual expression or practices from the margins of the human rights movement more solidly into the mainstream. IGLHRC will be focusing our efforts on increasing our membership base and fostering increased donor involvement over the next three years.
- 3) Since most LGBTI people relate to us through email and our website, IGLHRC is building our communications and technology capacity. IGLHRC is creating a more interactive website to make our work accessible to a global audience to expose human rights abuses and collaboration with local groups to move toward greater global tolerance and acceptance for LGBTI people and fewer violations of our rights.

Thank you for your continued support of our shared mission to secure fundamental human rights on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and/or HIV status.

Sincerely,



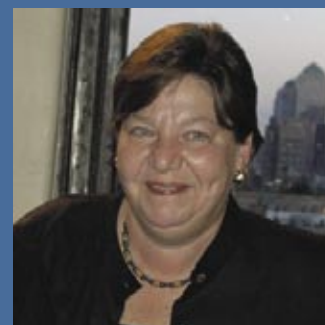
Tom Dougherty,
Co-Chair, Board of Directors



Dorothy Sander,
Co-Chair, Board of Directors



Tom Dougherty



Dorothy Sander



Paula L. Ettelbrick

Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

As this annual report for IGLHRC's 2006 fiscal year goes to print, we—the collective global community of LGBTI and sexual rights advocates—have achieved an important breakthrough at the United Nations (UN). After years of ignoring or defeating the efforts of LGBTI groups to achieve consultative status at the UN, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) finally voted in December 2006 to grant the applications of three long-standing groups.

This vote brings to an end the unofficial policy of exclusion of LGBTI people from the workings of the world's foremost global and human rights entity. It was a policy stridently promoted by the United States when former Senator Jesse Helms balked at the inclusion of the International Lesbian and Gay Association more than a decade ago. As we report in these pages, US resistance to LGBTI inclusion at the UN persisted until last January when the US voted against the groups' applications.

One important lesson of our history at the UN is how incredibly important each LGBTI group working in each country around the world is to helping all of us realize our overall goals of equality and an end to the violence that marks the lives of so many of us around the world. Thanks to the work of activists, countries such as South Korea, Panama, Colombia, Japan, Brazil, Mexico and Costa Rica helped make the majority of nations who supported inclusion of an LGBTI voice at the United Nations. Oh, and yes...the United States did vote "yes" as well!

We truly thank all of you for supporting a global, progressive vision for LGBTI people everywhere. We have so much we can and must do to ensure that the promise of human rights extends to every individual, regardless of their sexuality, gender, or HIV status. There is no doubt that the momentum of change is with us, as you will see in the following pages. And with your help, we can keep it going.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula L. Ettelbrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Paula L. Ettelbrick
Executive Director

IGLHRC Responds to Human Rights Crises

IGLHRC believes in breaking the silence. Through its 8,000 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 people with HIV. Examples of our crisis response work this year include:

Challenging Homophobic Arrests in Cameroon

The criminalization of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people is a premiere human rights issue that IGLHRC is dedicated to challenging. In May 2005, eleven men were arbitrarily arrested in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and charged with violating the country's criminal law forbidding homosexual acts. Working closely with human rights organizations and individuals within Cameroon, other African countries, and the United States, IGLHRC demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners, declaring that the arbitrary arrests and detention of the men violated human rights treaties, including the United Nations (UN) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the African Charter. IGLHRC also began providing emergency supplies and food to the prisoners, helped them retain Cameroonian human rights attorney Duga Titanji, and raised money for legal expenses.

In the absence of evidence that any sexual activity had taken place, the prosecutor ordered the men to undergo “medical anal examinations” to determine whether they were gay. IGLHRC challenged this order by coordinating a joint global effort to protest the proposed exams as a violation of privacy, and an example of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment that had no scientific value. Though the Cameroonian Minister of Justice, Mr. Amadou Ali, justified the continued detention of the men as a means to ensure “that positive African cultural values are preserved,” the exams were never conducted. On June 13, 2006, seven of the accused men were found guilty of “sodomy” and sentenced to a ten-month jail term. Since the men had already been detained for more than a year, they were released for time served.

IGLHRC, in partnership with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and Cameroonian activists, submitted a complaint to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, asking the UN to intervene with the Cameroonian government. The Working Group declared that the detention of the men on the basis of their presumed sexual orientation constituted an arbitrary deprivation of liberty contrary to the ICCPR. The UN human rights body further called on the government of Cameroon to adopt necessary measures to remedy the situation, including the possible repeal of the offending law. (This ruling marked the second time the UN Working Group has responded to detentions of gay people—the first as a result of IGLHRC's request four years ago in response to the arrests and detentions of the “Cairo 52”).

IGLHRC is pleased to note that a number of Cameroonian activists working on this case have joined together to form Alternatives-Cameroun, a local support group for LGBTI people. IGLHRC continues to provide support and technical assistance to Alternatives as the work against state-sponsored homophobia in Cameroon continues.

“[W]e have learned that the Prosecutor's Office has ordered the men to undergo a medical examination, in the belief that such a test would prove definitively whether the men have engaged in homosexual conduct. This treatment, in its intrusiveness and invasiveness, amounts to cruel and inhuman treatment—a violation not only of the ICCPR but of the UN Convention Against Torture, to which Cameroon acceded in 1987.”

— Excerpt from IGLHRC letter to Mr. Amadou Ali, Cameroon Minister of Justice, November 30, 2005



Some of the Cameroon detainees with human rights defender Alice Nkom.

Supporting LGBTI and HIV-Positive People Seeking Asylum

Each year, thousands of LGBTI people face persecution and are forced to leave their homes. IGLHRC's long-standing Asylum Documentation Program (ADP) was the first initiative to systematically gather documentation on human rights abuses on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and HIV status. By gathering and publishing documentation on the experiences of LGBTI people and people living with HIV/AIDS in 144 countries, IGLHRC has supported thousands of successful asylum claims enabling people who are not safe in their home countries to seek refuge elsewhere. During the past year, ADP has responded to 463 requests for assistance worldwide and has received confirmed reports that asylum was granted in 29 of these cases.

Human Rights Abuses in Iran

For the past 27 years, close to 70 million Iranians have been living under an oppressive theocracy which, among other things, limits the access of its citizens to the international community, subjects them to harsh punishments for the most venial offenses, and deprives them of their basic social and political rights. Gay men and lesbians are particularly vulnerable since the regime considers homosexuality among the most serious crimes, on a par with murder, armed robbery, and rape. Fortunately, the Iranian civil society is not sitting silent. Over the past decade, numerous grassroots movements have arisen in Iran.

As reports and stories of persecution faced by gay men and lesbians in Iran have circulated throughout the international LGBTI community, many Western activists have called for demonstrations and other action intended to draw attention to the issues. In particular, the executions of two young Iranian men on July 19, 2005, which were reported in some media outlets as being gay-identity-related killings, sparked intense debate within the international LGBTI community and raised important questions for Western-based advocates who are concerned about global human rights violations.

In the summer of 2006, IGLHRC and Human Rights Watch (HRW) coordinated a community dialogue in New York City about the persecution faced by LGBTI people in Iran. Speakers included a range of human rights advocates from the United States, Iran, and Pakistan.

IGLHRC believes that inaction and silence in the face of such horrendous and consistent persecution in Iran is not an option for human rights activists. Yet it is also not an option to respond without working in close partnership with the Iranian gay and lesbian community, including both activists operating within Iran and expatriates who have been forced to seek asylum in other parts of the world. Lesbian and gay Iranians, and their fellow citizens, are entitled to humane treatment by their government.



Media coverage of human rights abuses in Iran

IGLHRC Supports Local Human Rights Advocacy

IGLHRC believes that local human rights advocacy is key to global change for LGBTI people. 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. By providing technical assistance, emergency funds, strategic partnerships, and resources to groups from Argentina to Zimbabwe, IGLHRC contributes significantly to changing laws, practices, and cultural beliefs that promote discrimination and human rights violations against LGBTI people.

Fighting Discrimination Against Lesbian Parents in Chile

When Karen Atala, a judge in Chile, was deprived of custody of her children because she was living with her same-sex partner, IGLHRC's Latin America staff was asked by her lawyers to provide documentation from throughout the region on the status of LGBTI parents. When the Chilean Supreme Court affirmed the ruling, IGLHRC continued to support Ms. Atala's case in a precedent-setting appeal to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

IGLHRC also asked Argentinian legal expert Susana Chiarotti to submit an amicus curiae brief to the Commission. In addition, IGLHRC joined an amicus brief written by lawyers at Momson & Foerester, based primarily on IGLHRC's research and documentation.

Highlighting Discrimination Against Lesbians in the Workplace

IGLHRC has prioritized its commitment to fighting workplace discrimination in Latin America, and has kicked off its work by documenting discrimination against lesbians. In January of 2006, IGLHRC and a number of partner organizations in the Latin America region released our report *Unnatural, Unsuitable, Unemployed!: Lesbians and Workplace Discrimination in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, and Mexico* at the Hemispheric Social Forum in Caracas, Venezuela. The launch included a panel comprised of representatives from each of IGLHRC's partners on the report – Marina Bernal from Artemisa (Mexico); Indyra Mendoza from Cattrachas (Honduras); Ynggrid Guzman from Simbiosis (Bolivia); Jurema Werneck from Criola (Brazil) and Elizabeth Castillo from Red Nosotras LGBT (Colombia) – as well as IGLHRC's Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) program staff. Also attending were representatives from the union movements in Mexico and Colombia, and from the feminist and women's movements in Bolivia and Honduras.



Rosa Posa, IGLHRC's Latin America and the Caribbean Institute Project Consultant, at a launch for IGLHRC's report *Unnatural, Unsuitable, Unemployed!: Lesbians and Workplace Discrimination in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, and Mexico*.



Heavy police presence among the marchers at a congested corner halfway through the 2006 Zagreb Pride March.

The report was also presented at the Brazilian Social Forum to more than 200 activists, including representatives from the Brazilian black, lesbian, and feminist movements, as well as trade unionists from different regions of Brazil. The report sparked critical discussion around the intersections between racism and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender. Further report launches followed in Honduras, Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay – paving the way for extensive ongoing activities around advocacy and public education.

Responding to Proposed Crackdown in Nigeria

The growing global backlash against same-sex marriage is fueling anti-gay legislation. In Nigeria, a new law has been proposed which would criminalize sexual rights advocacy, gay marriage, adoption by gays and lesbians, and other public manifestations of gay identity. The bill allows penalties of up to five years in prison and goes well beyond any intention to prevent same-sex marriages. If this bill becomes law, anyone who publicly advocates for LGBTI rights would be considered a criminal. Anyone forming or taking part in a gay or lesbian club or support group would face arrest. Critical HIV prevention efforts that target same-sex practicing men would be jeopardized as a result of the silencing effect of this legislation.

Consensual homosexual acts between adults are already illegal in Nigeria. Chapter 42, Section 214 of the Nigerian Federal Code penalizes consensual same-sex acts by 14 years imprisonment and the Islamic law states that punishment for “sodomy” can be death. Meanwhile, there has been virtually no public advocacy for same-sex marriage in Nigeria. Clearly, the bill is designed to silence the increasingly vocal and visible local LGBTI community and its supporters.

IGLHRC, along with Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and a number of other international, African regional, and Nigerian human rights defenders, wrote a letter of protest that went to Nigerian government authorities. IGLHRC also worked with Nigerian activists gathered at the ILGA conference in Geneva in March of 2006 to develop strategies for blocking the bill. IGLHRC gathered testimonies and reactions to the bill from LGBTI Nigerians into a report entitled *Voices from Nigeria*, which has been sent to the Nigerian Parliament and other key decision-makers. (The report is also available on the IGLHRC website at www.iglhrc.org.) As the bill appears likely to pass, IGLHRC is preparing to support Nigerian colleagues in the face of what will be a major crackdown on their freedoms.

Protecting Freedom of Assembly and Expression During Eastern European Pride Events

The ability to be publicly visible is essential to human rights advocacy. This includes the right to organize LGBTI pride events and rallies. All too often, pride organizers in many Eastern European countries are met with hostility, refusal by authorities to grant permits, and uncontrolled violence from the sidelines, if not directly from the police. IGLHRC worked this year with a number of pride organizers in sending global action alerts and generating letters to public officials. On June 2006, Caroline Sykora, IGLHRC's Policy and Research Associate and a specialist on Eastern Europe, conducted an IGLHRC/ILGA-Europe human rights documentation training and participated in a round table discussion entitled 'The Freedom of Assembly and Pride Violence.'

Strengthening the Work of Transgender and Intersex Activists in Latin America

From October 19 to November 1, 2005, IGLHRC launched its inaugural two-week-long human rights training institute as part of an overall strategy to strengthen the capacity of regional human rights organizers and to build on the depth and sophistication of the LGBTI movement in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. The first LAC Training Institute focused on transgender and intersex activists and issues, and brought together nineteen transgender and intersex individuals from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Highlighting the Status of Women with Alternative Sexualities in Lebanon

IGLHRC provided assistance to Helem: Lebanese Protection for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, Intersexed, and Queers, in submitting a report entitled *The Status of Women with Alternative Sexualities in Lebanon* to the United Nations treaty monitor which oversees the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The CEDAW committee was reviewing Lebanon's human rights record on women. In addition to providing technical assistance, IGLHRC raised the funds to bring Rasha Mounmeh from Helem to present the report in person at the CEDAW session in New York in July of 2005, raising further awareness at the UN around critical issues facing lesbians in Lebanon.



A group photo of some of the participants at the LAC Training Institute: Andres Rivera, Marlene Wayar, Belissa Andia, Yhajaira Marciano Bravo, Diana Sacayan, Marcelo Ferreyra, Silvia Martinez, Jana Villayzan, Rosa Posa, Monica Hernandez, Alejandro Escobar, and Danielle Pulido Alamo.

INSTITUTIONAL
MEMOIR OF THE
2005 INSTITUTE
FOR TRANS AND
INTERSEX ACTIVIST
TRAINING



International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission



The LAC Institute *Memoir*, documenting the activities and dialogue from the Institute, is now available on IGLHRC's website at www.iglhrc.org.

“IGLHRC submitted a briefing memo on LGBTI human rights defenders to the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, who expressed interest in receiving the information in preparation for an upcoming report.”

IGLHRC Advocates for Global & Regional Human Rights

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.

United Nations

Promoting Women Human Rights Defenders

IGLHRC played a prominent role in the preparations for a three-day International Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders attended by 180 human rights activists in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from November 29 to December 2, 2005. The meeting, which brought together 180 women activists and those who work on women's rights specifically, was designed to address the challenges and obstacles facing women who advocate for the rights of women. IGLHRC staff worked to develop a process to ensure full participation of lesbians in the consultation. Given that the major cross-cutting theme was how gender norms and women's sexuality are used to diminish the work of many women activists, the new edition of *Written Out: How Sexuality is Used to Attack Women's Organizing*, published jointly by IGLHRC and the Center for Women's Global Leadership, received a great deal of attention and interest.

Promoting Visibility within the UN on LGBTI Human Rights Defenders

In December 2005, drawing on extensive documentation, IGLHRC submitted a briefing memo on LGBTI human rights defenders to the UN Special Representative on Human Rights activists, who expressed interest in receiving the information in preparation for an upcoming report. The highly respected World Organization Against Torture/Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT) - the world's largest coalition of non-governmental organizations fighting against arbitrary detention, torture, summary and extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, and other forms of violence – is also making use of information from this memo, and as a result has requested closer collaboration with IGLHRC to address abuses against LGBTI human rights defenders.

Challenging Discrimination by the United States at the United Nations

In January, the United States voted to deny official United Nations consultative status to two LGBTI non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Consultative status is an important means by which human rights groups of all sorts have the ability to directly participate in UN proceedings, and approximately 3,000 non-governmental organizations have such status. IGLHRC, along with HRW, the Human Rights Campaign, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, formed a coalition of 40 human rights organizations who sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice calling for an explanation of a vote that denied the voice of LGBTI human rights activists at the UN. IGLHRC also led a delegation of US activists present at the

ILGA conference in Geneva in March 2006 to meet with the US mission in Geneva to protest the vote. As a result of these protests, the United States reversed its position to support the application of Germany's Lesbian and Gay Federation and the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA)-Europe for consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). (For more information on the status of the ECOSOC vote, please refer to Executive Director's Letter on page 2.)

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Organization of American States

Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance

In 2005, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States voted to establish a working group to draft a new treaty to govern all of the Americas to address the specific incidents of racism and other forms of discrimination. IGLHRC's staff in Latin America has played a leading role, along with colleagues at Global Rights, in promoting the inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and HIV status as forms of discrimination that must be addressed in the Convention. As a result, the draft text includes sexual orientation, and IGLHRC continues working to ensure the inclusion of gender identity/expression and HIV status.

Convention on Sexual and Reproductive Rights

In contrast to the anti-racism convention, which was initiated by the OAS, the campaign to adopt a convention on sexual and reproductive rights for the Latin American region is a grassroots initiated effort. IGLHRC has taken the lead on promoting the Convention and gathering the support of LGBTI, feminist, sex worker, and youth groups throughout Latin America and engaging their participation in the drafting of the convention. IGLHRC has worked with local groups to coordinate meetings throughout the region to collect the experiences and suggestions for the treaty.

African Commission and the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Africa (ICASA)

Voicing African LGBTI Concerns at the African Commission on Human and People's Rights

For the first time, African LGBTI people have officially and openly voiced their concerns to the African Union (AU), the official international organization of African governments. This historic moment was part of a strategy meeting organized by IGLHRC during the 39th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, Gambia, with support from the Ford Foundation and the Open Society Institute. Twenty sexual rights activists—mostly African LGBTI leaders and organizers—trained each other and developed skills for promoting sexual rights and defending LGBTI people at the African regional level. Important links were made with African mainstream human rights NGOs, leaders, scholars,



Cameroonian activist Sybille Nyeck delivering the first-ever statement on LGBTI issues to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

“We organized a reception for LGBTI people and our allies at the Sheraton Hotel which brought people interested in MSM/WSW issues in the epidemic together in an environment where they could discuss these issues comfortably and frankly. The reception drew funders and international allies as well as African LGBTI people and local allies.”

and jurists. For the first time, the African LGBTI community and its supporters made a formal complaint to the African Commission on a case of unfair arbitrary detention and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of gay men and lesbians. Leaders of the African LGBTI community provided a clear mandate to carefully and thoughtfully continue to press sexual rights concerns at the Commission.

Increasing LGBTI visibility around HIV/AIDS in Africa

IGLHRC coordinated trainings to increase the quantity and quality of LGBTI participation at the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Africa (ICASA) and to focus attention on the vastly overlooked HIV vulnerability of LGBTI identified people as well as men who have sex with men (MSM) and women who have sex with women (WSW) who are non-gay identifying. IGLHRC arranged for nine activists to participate in the biannual ICASA conference on December 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria.

IGLHRC organized a one-day training to help prepare participants for the conference. This training included discussions on Sexual Rights, Human Rights and LGBTI Identity; Navigating the ICASA Conference; Joint Working Session with Network of Sex Work Projects on Sexuality and Sex Work; and Rectal and Vaginal Microbicides; Updates on Research on MSM HIV/AIDS Vulnerability in Africa; and HIV and Women who have Sex with Women. This initiative provided critical public opportunities for discussion of MSM/WSW issues. IGLHRC organized a reception for LGBTI people and allies at the Sheraton Hotel which brought people interested in MSM/WSW issues in the epidemic together in an environment where they could discuss these issues comfortably and frankly. The reception drew funders and international allies as well as African LGBTI people and local allies. Delegates collectively issued the “Abuja Declaration,” calling on African governments to recognize and address the specific HIV-related needs of African MSM and WSW.

Building Global Dialogue

Supporting Global Work of LGBTI Muslims

In March, LGBTI Muslims from Bosnia, South Africa, Malaysia, France, and Turkey presented a stellar panel on “Islam and Homosexuality” at the ILGA conference in Geneva. As a result of the enthusiasm the panel inspired for them and the audience, the activists decided to meet the following June in a retreat-like setting in Cape Town, South Africa, to discuss cross-cultural and global ways that they could work together. Invited to participate in that meeting, IGLHRC opted to make travel funds available for two Muslim gay men from Bosnia to attend.

Support for the Queer Iranian Organization

The Iranian Queer Organization (IRQO), formerly known as the Persian Gay and Lesbian Organization, is based in Toronto, Canada and works on behalf of Iranians seeking asylum and those already located elsewhere throughout the world. Thanks in large measure to a major donor of IGLHRC, we have been able to support their ability to buy computers, work with them directly on particular cases, and otherwise provide guidance in their development as a global advocate.

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Buenos Aires staff: Mauro Cabral, Marcelo Ferreyra, Alejandra Sardá, Rosa Posa.



Dusty Araújo, Asylum Documentation Program Coordinator, at a march in San Francisco.



New York staff: (L-R) Leigh Tomppert, Rebecca Wood, Caroline Sykora, Cary Alan Johnson, Rebecca Libed, Maria-Elena Grant, Paula Ettelbrick, Timothy Dorsey, Lisa Levy, Hossein Alizadeh, Adrian Coman.



A group photo from *A Celebration of Courage* in New York, May 23, 2006.

Top row: Hossein Alizadeh, Dorothy Sander, Paula Ettelbrick. Bottom row: Tom Dougherty, Rauda Morcos, Andy Tobias, Cary Alan Johnson.

A Celebration of Courage 2006

On May 23rd in New York and on May 25th in San Francisco, IGLHRC held its annual *A Celebration of Courage* event. Over 250 people attended both events to honor the achievements of three courageous individuals who have made a difference in advancing the human rights of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression and HIV status. The event raised over \$122,000 in sponsorship and ticket sales.

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 award embodies the spirit of Felipa de Souza, a woman who endured persecution and brutality after proudly declaring her intimacy with another woman during a 16th century Inquisition trial in Brazil.

The Felipa de Souza Award: Rauda Morcos

IGLHRC was pleased to present the 2006 Felipa de Souza Award to Rauda Morcos. Ms. Morcos is the co-founder of ASWAT, the first Palestinian gay women's group, and was herself the first Palestinian woman to come out of the closet. Her willingness to share her story, expose herself in a threatening culture, convene with and educate social workers, healthcare providers, and teachers on the issues that concern Palestinian gay women was a groundbreaking event. Throughout her work as general coordinator of ASWAT, she has been able to put the issues of homosexuality and lesbianism on the Palestinian social agenda. She has presented the ideological and political stance of Palestinian gay women through the media by advocating and outreach on the local, national, regional and international level. ASWAT continues to thrive under Ms. Morcos' leadership as it networks with local Palestinian NGO's and establishes cooperation with similar groups throughout the Arab world.



Rauda Morcos, Felipa de Souza Awardee, and Nisreen Mazzawi, also a member of the ASWAT Palestinian gay women's group.

The Special Recognition Awards: Andrew Tobias and Paul Albert

At *A Celebration of Courage*, IGLHRC presented the Special Recognition Awards to Andrew Tobias and Paul Albert at the New York and San Francisco ceremonies, respectively.

Mr. Tobias is the author of best-selling books including *The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need*, *Fire and Ice: The Charles Revson/Revlon Story*, *Getting By On \$100,000 A Year (And Other Sad Tales)*, and *The Invisible Bankers: Everything the Insurance Industry Never Wanted You to Know*—along with two more personal volumes, *The Best Little Boy in the World* and, 25 years later, *The Best Little Boy in the World Grows Up*. He has written extensively for New York, Esquire, Time, and Parade. As Democratic National Committee Treasurer, Tobias is the country's first openly gay national party officer. He is one of IGLHRC's earliest and most consistent supporters. He lives in Miami and New York with his partner, designer Charles Nolan.

The Special Recognition Award is designed to pay tribute to special individuals, companies and organizations whose contributions to advancing human rights regardless of sexual orientation or expression, gender identity or expression and/or HIV status have been particularly significant to IGLHRC and its work.

Paul Albert has made lasting contributions to IGLHRC's work. Mr. Albert has been involved as a volunteer with IGLHRC since 1992, assisting Julie Dorf and other IGLHRC staff on international human rights law and policy. A lawyer by profession, Mr. Albert wrote the human rights training manual that has guided IGLHRC's work all these years. Mr. Albert had a private law practice with cases involving gay rights, gay bashing, the rights of gay men to a security clearance, as well as significant involvement with the San Francisco Nicaraguan community and especially, for several years before and after the revolution, with groups associated with the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Mr. Albert published a law review article on the legality under international and U.S. law of the Reagan administration support for the repressive government of Guatemala (*The Undermining of the Legal Standards for Human Rights Violations in United States Foreign Policy: The Case of Improvement in Guatemala*, 14 Columbia Human Rights Law Review 231 (1983).) He was also the editor of the *AIDS Practice Manual: A Legal & Educational Guide*, National Lawyers Guild (three editions 1988-1993). Mr. Albert has been an activist for four decades on various social justice movements including international human rights, civil rights, gay rights and AIDS, which led to his involvement with IGLHRC. In addition, he was one of the first major donors to IGLHRC and has been a consistent and generous contributor since 1992.



Special Recognition Award Recipient, Paul Albert, and Julie Dorf, IGLHRC Founder, at the *Celebration of Courage* award ceremony in San Francisco.



Maia Ettinger, Donna Daniels, Holly Reed and Paula Ettelbrick at *A Celebration of Courage* in San Francisco.

Volunteers, In-Kind Gifts and Donations of Professional Services

Professional Services:

David Berten, *AsylumLaw.org*, ADP website support

Harvey Brosler, Photography for San Francisco *A Celebration of Courage* event

Jim Stepp & Peter Zimmer, Office Equipment

A Celebration of Courage Volunteers:

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Donating Space for IGLHRC Meetings,

Events and Programs:

Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies
at CUNY Graduate Center

Travel & Accommodations:

DIVERSA Film Festival
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Special Thanks:

Law Office of Robert Jobe,
Donation of office space for
Asylum Documentation Program

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IGLHRC deeply appreciates the partnership of our donors and their generous financial support regardless of the size of the gift. Your support enables us to fulfill our mutual goal of securing the full enjoyment of the human rights of all people and communities subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and/or HIV status. Thank You!

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**We wish to pay special
tribute at the passing
of Ric Weiland and
Betsy Weedon, who
were both passionately
dedicated donors
and friends to IGLHRC
for many years. They
will be greatly missed.**

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Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2006

Assets

Cash and Equivalents	\$53,434
Money Market Funds	280,638
Investments	262,935
Unconditional Promises to Give	337,735
Other Receivables	3,185
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	47,051
Property and Equipment – Net	27,125
Total Assets	\$1,012,103

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	31,257
Accrued Expenses	15,943
Total Liabilities	\$47,200

Net Assets

Unrestricted	375,838
Temporarily Restricted	570,711
Permanently Restricted	18,354
Total Net Assets	\$964,903
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,012,103

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2006

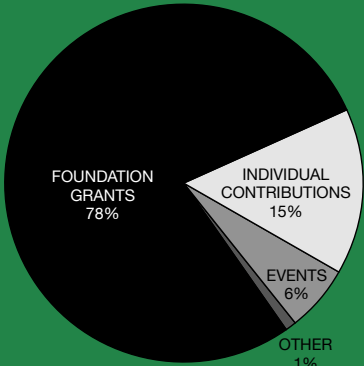
Revenue

Foundation Grants	\$1,260,292
Contributions	236,129
Special Events	92,645
Publication Sales	13,928
Investment Income	18,339
(Loss) on Disposal of Equipment	(437)
Total Revenue	\$1,620,896

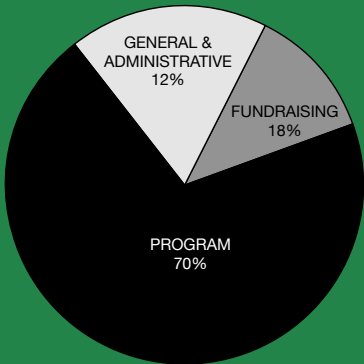
Expenses

Program	\$1,052,804
General and Administrative	189,393
Fundraising	280,199
Total Expenses	\$1,522,396
Change in Net Assets	\$98,500
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$866,403
Net Assets, End of Year	\$964,903

INCOME



EXPENSES





**International Gay and Lesbian
Human Rights Commission**

Headquarters:

International Gay and Lesbian
Human Rights Commission
80 Maiden Lane, Suite 1505
New York, NY 10038
phone: 212.268.8040
fax: 212.430.6060
email: iglhrc@iglhrc.org

**San Francisco Office for
Asylum Documentation Program:**

International Gay and Lesbian
Human Rights Commission
PO Box 558
San Francisco, CA 94104
phone: 415.398.2759
fax: 415.398.4635
email: asylum@iglhrc.org

**Buenos Aires Office for
Latin America and the Caribbean:**

IGLHRC
Av. Callao 339 Piso 5o
Buenos Aires, Argentina
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