



# **GLOBAL INNOVATIVE ADVOCACY SUMMIT**

**SUMMIT REPORT  
2016**



**HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN  
FOUNDATION**<sup>TM</sup>



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Thank you to our 2016 Global Innovative Advocacy Summit partners: MetLife Foundation and Open Society Foundations.

**MetLife**



**OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS**

## DEAR FRIENDS,

In March, we were pleased to welcome a group of twenty-six remarkable advocates for LGBTQ equality from five continents to Washington, D.C. for HRC's inaugural Global Innovative Advocacy Summit. These advocates have distinguished themselves by creatively and courageously fighting for equality in the face of criminalization, stigma, discrimination and even violence.

Inspired by the incredible work being done by these global innovators, we set out to showcase their achievements and foster an exchange of ideas, learning and best practices between them and HRC. We also wanted to learn from them. One of the many powerful exchanges I was fortunate to participate in was a roundtable discussion that focused on how other movements address the pervasive violence that transgender communities face in different countries.

Ever since we launched HRC Global three years ago, we have imagined convening smart, passionate and creative activists to share ideas, learn from each other and return home equipped with new strategies for strengthening their movements. By investing in local leaders and creating opportunities for them to connect, share, learn, inspire and commit, we believe we can build a community dedicated to advancing equality worldwide.

The inaugural Global Innovative Advocacy Summit achieved precisely those purposes. These amazing individuals -- who have organized thousands of allies in Singapore and passed national gender identity protections from Argentina to Nepal -- exceeded our expectations and filled us all with hope.

As we continue our efforts to complete the unfinished task of gaining equality here in the U.S., we are proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with global innovators from around the world in solidarity and community. The fight for LGBTQ equality is a global endeavor that must be pursued with greater urgency than ever before. Our victories show us that we have the power to effect great change. And by working together, we will continue to make the world a more just and equal place for all.

I want to thank Ty Cobb, Director of HRC Global, and his talented and hardworking team at HRC Global for pulling off a successful, informative and energizing Summit. We look forward to many more editions of the Summit in the years ahead!



**Mary Beth Maxwell**

Senior Vice President for Programs, Research and Training  
Human Rights Campaign Foundation

**“ IF LOVE IS U  
THEN THE FIGHT  
ALSO BE UN**

Anonymous, Lebanon

**UNIVERSAL,  
IT FOR IT MUST  
UNIVERSAL.”**

**LGBTQ ADVOCATES  
WORLDWIDE:  
RESILIENT AND  
INNOVATIVE**



## **RESILIENCE OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY**

The LGBTQ community is resilient. Advocates do not see challenges as defeats, but faced with them find opportunities to engage in different kinds of activism. Across the world, they have come up with innovative approaches that continue to move equality forward, despite the obstacles and dangers faced by LGBTQ people.

## **THE GLOBAL INNOVATIVE ADVOCACY SUMMIT**

Inspired by the incredible work being done across five continents, HRC launched its inaugural Global Innovative Advocacy Summit in 2016. The Global Summit brought together twenty-six established and emerging advocates for the exchange of ideas and practices for advancing LGBTQ equality. In a dynamic environment, these global innovators, including HRC staff, showcased projects and approaches that have improved the lives of LGBTQ people in their countries and communities.

### **QUICK FACTS:**

- Same-sex sexual relations are criminalized in 72 countries.
- Same-sex sexual relations may be punishable by death in up to 10 countries.
- So-called “anti-propaganda” laws inhibit LGBTQ advocacy in three countries.
- At least 200 murders of transgender people were reported in more than 20 countries around the world in 2015.
- Most countries do not have national legislation to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in education, employment, housing and in other areas.
- Owing to stigma, discrimination and violence, LGBTQ youth experience higher rates of HIV incidence, depression and mental health challenges and are susceptible to bullying in schools in every region of the world.

# INNOVATION HAPPENING EVERYWHERE

## **ANDREA AYALA** *EL SALVADOR*

Andrea and her colleagues at ESMULES have conducted pioneering research on lesbian, bisexual and transgender women in El Salvador. Their findings have served as valuable tools for advocating for reforms of legislation and public policies.

## **JAEVION NELSON** *JAMAICA*

Working at J-FLAG, Jaevion has enlisted a wide range of allies in the fight for LGBTQ equality. They include the country's Ministry of Health, with whom J-FLAG partners to train public health workers to provide LGBTQ patients with non-judgmental and professional healthcare.

## **LUIS LARRAIN** *CHILE*

Luis is the president of Iguales, Chile's largest LGBTQ organization which led the fight for the passage of Chile's civil unions bill in 2015. This achievement provided the foundation for the ongoing campaign for marriage equality. Luis' other current priority is pushing for passage of a gender identity bill that has languished in Congress since 2013.

## **QWIN MBABAZI** *UGANDA*

Qwin is an LGBTQ rights activist in Uganda. She and her colleagues work under challenging conditions where being LGBTQ is criminalized and the LGBTQ community faces constant threat. Qwin courageously organized Uganda's 2015 Pride festival in a secret location so that hundreds of local activists could join in the annual celebration.

**TOMAS VYTAUTAS  
RASKEVIČIUS**  
*LITHUANIA*

Tomas works for LGL and managed the organization's campaign in 2015 that sought to convince policymakers to introduce legal gender recognition procedures in his country. At present, Lithuania is the only country in the European Union to have a so-called "propaganda" law that forbids LGBTQ activism and expression.

**ELVINA YUVAKAEVA**  
*RUSSIA*

In 2014 Elvina organized the Open Games - a gathering of LGBTQ athletes - in response to government-sponsored homophobia at the Sochi Winter Olympics. Given the challenges of LGBTQ organizing in Russia, the successful hosting of the Open Games was a major achievement.

**JENNIFER LU**  
*TAIWAN*

In January 2016, Jennifer's campaign for a parliamentary seat in Taiwan's general elections helped raise the visibility of LGBTQ people and issues. Jennifer, one of a handful of openly LGBTQ candidates to ever run for national office, played a major role in the 13th annual Taiwan Pride Parade, which set a record as Asia's largest pride event ever.

**EZGI ŞEREF**  
*TURKEY*

Ezgi works with human rights activists and lawyers to achieve legal protections for LGBTQ people in Turkey. Her organization, SPoD, is adapting HRC's Municipal Equality Index - a monitoring tool which measures the inclusivity of municipal policies and services - for use in Turkey.

**CARINA CAPITINE**  
*MOZAMBIQUE*

Carina of LAMBDA, Mozambique's leading LGBTQ organization, is implementing a creative communications strategy to increase the visibility and acceptance of the country's LGBTQ community that will help in the organization's campaign for official recognition.

# GLOBAL INNOVATORS 2016

THE GLOBAL INNOVATORS HAILED FROM TWENTY-SIX COUNTRIES. IN IDENTIFYING INNOVATORS, HRC CONSIDERED SEVERAL ELEMENTS SUCH AS GEOGRAPHIC, CULTURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DIVERSITY, AS WELL AS SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER AND GENDER IDENTITY. **MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE ADVOCATES BROUGHT A TRACK RECORD OF INNOVATIVE ADVOCACY.** THE FIRST COHORT OF OUTSTANDING GLOBAL INNOVATORS CAME READY TO CONNECT, SHARE, LEARN, INSPIRE AND COMMIT TO ACTION.



**Esteban Paulón**  
**ARGENTINA**  
he/him/his

*Vice President,  
Federación Argentina  
LGBT/FALGBT  
(Argentinian LGBT  
Federation)*



**Luis Larrain**  
**CHILE**  
he/him/his

*President,  
Fundación Iguales  
(Equality Foundation)*



**Anonymous\***  
**CHINA**



**Tereza Pelechová**  
**CZECH  
REPUBLIC**  
she/her/hers

*Program Director,  
Prague Pride*



**Anonymous\***  
**EGYPT**

*Independent activist,  
@eGAYpt*



**Andrea Ayala**  
**EL SALVADOR**  
she/her/hers

*Executive Director,  
Espacio de Mujeres  
Lesbianas  
Salvadoreñas por la  
diversidad/ESMULES  
(Association of  
Salvadorean Lesbians  
for Diversity)*



**Tamás Dombos**  
**HUNGARY**  
he/him/his

*Board Member,  
Hungarian LGBT  
Alliance, Háttér  
Society*



**Sarah Kala-Meir**  
**ISRAEL**  
she/her/hers

*Executive Director,  
Jerusalem Open  
House for Pride and  
Tolerance*



**Jaevion Nelson**  
**JAMAICA**  
he/him/his

*Director of Projects  
and Strategy, J-FLAG*



**Ruslan Kim**  
**KYRGYZSTAN**  
he/him/his

*Head of Advocacy,  
Kyrgyz Indigo*



**Anonymous\***  
**LEBANON**



**Tomas Vytautas  
Raskevičius**  
**LITHUANIA**  
he/him/his

*Policy Coordinator,  
National LGBT\* Rights  
Organization (LGL)*



**Adrián González**  
**MEXICO**  
he/him/his

*Former HRC Global Fellow, Human Rights Campaign*



**Anonymous\***  
**MOROCCO**



**Carina Capatine**  
**MOZAMBIQUE**  
she/her/hers

*Communication and Documentation Officer, Associação LAMBDA (LAMBDA Association)*



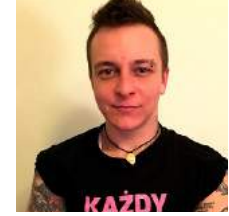
**Hla Myat**  
**MYANMAR**  
he/him/his

*Program Manager*



**Manisha Dhakal**  
**NEPAL**  
she/her/hers

*Executive Director, Blue Diamond Society (BDS)*



**A. Chaber**  
**POLAND**  
they/them/theirs,  
he/him/his

*Executive Director, Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH)*



**Elvina Yuvakaeva**  
**RUSSIA**  
she/her/hers

*Project Leader, Russian LGBT Sport Federation*



**Darius Zheng**  
**SINGAPORE**  
he/him/his

*Activist, Pink Dot*



**Rosanna Flamer-Caldera**  
**SRI LANKA**  
she/her/hers

*Executive Director, EQUAL GROUND*



**Jennifer Lu**  
**TAIWAN**  
she/her/hers

*Senior Research Fellow, Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association*



**Ezgi Şeref**  
**TURKEY**  
she/her/hers

*Volunteer, Social Policies, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation Studies Association (SPoD)*



**Qwin Mbabazi**  
**UGANDA**  
she/her/hers

*Human rights defender, UHAI EASHRI*



**Florencia Forrissi**  
**URUGUAY**  
she/her/hers

*LGBT Health Referent, Colectivo Ovejas Negras (Black Sheep Collective) and Health Ministry*



**Tam Nguyen**  
**VIETNAM**  
no pronouns preferred

*Activist and Fulbright scholar, Viet Pride and Work with Pride*



**HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION™**

\* Several innovators must remain anonymous due to privacy and/or security concerns.

**GLOBAL  
INNOVATIVE  
ADVOCACY  
SUMMIT 2016**

## AT THE GLOBAL INNOVATIVE ADVOCACY SUMMIT 2016, ADVOCATES MET TO SHARE STRATEGIES FOR ADVANCING LGBTQ EQUALITY, WITH A FOCUS ON HOW CHALLENGES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND OVERCOME ACROSS THE WORLD.

### **The Global Summit was organized around thematic pillars on three successive days.**

On the first day, the global innovators discussed strategies for organizing communities for effective advocacy. The following day, they discussed ways of identifying and approaching individuals and institutions who can be enlisted as allies for change. Finally, on the closing day, they explored how to galvanize supporters to advance equality. Most importantly, the innovators recognized that all three of these pillars of advocacy occur simultaneously and complement each other.

**Day 1: Engaging the LGBTQ community**

**Day 2: Expanding support for the LGBTQ community**

**Day 3: Mobilizing members and supporters for equality**

With twenty-six global innovators bringing their unique perspectives on advocacy and thirteen presentations by HRC experts, the methodologies were designed to enable maximum sharing and impact:

**Focused presentations.** Thematic presentations on strategies were distilled to their essential points - how advocates identified a challenge, how they came up with innovative approaches to overcome the challenge and how they evaluated impact.

**Innovation labs.** Global innovators gathered each day in groups to discuss the theme of the day and projects presented, delving into what could be implemented at home. At the conclusion of the Global Summit, they put time and thought into which strategies they plan to launch when they return to their countries, discussing these action plans with their group and the group at-large.

**Small group learning.** Global innovators met in small groups throughout the summit to connect and for the chance to share more on their work. In one fast-paced, dynamic afternoon session called *World Cafe*, advocates visited three of four different stations for flash presentations on broadening support for the LGBTQ community. In plenary, they reflected on their learning in the small sessions.

**Commitments.** At the closing session, the global innovators committed themselves to one specific action, large or small, to be undertaken on their return home. They presented these commitments to their fellow innovators.

**“ I HAVE SO  
IDEAS TO IM**

Elvina Yuvakaeva, Russia



**MANY NEW  
IMPLEMENT.”**

# CONNECTING



AT THE GLOBAL SUMMIT, THE INNOVATORS GATHERED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WHERE THEY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME, MEET A RANGE OF HRC STAFF AND EXPERTS, AND NETWORK WITH SENIOR U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, NONPROFIT AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROFESSIONALS AND U.S. ADVOCATES.



“ I was inspired seeing lots of activists working for the same thing, working towards the same goals around the world. As a political leader in my country, I look forward to building on the friendships established at the Global Summit to collaborate on activism that spans borders and regions.”

**Jennifer Lu, Taiwan**

“ What really struck me in this summit is that we have a movement globally... we are on the right side of history, and we are going to make it, sooner or later.”

**Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius, Lithuania**

“ The Global Summit was amazing and allowed me a great networking opportunity with other LGBTQ leaders. Uruguay is small but has made big advances that I shared with my fellow activists. I look forward to keeping in touch with the friends I have made and establishing a global network of leaders.”

**Florencia Forrasi, Uruguay**

# SHARING

THE GLOBAL INNOVATORS SHARED HOW THEY PLANNED, LAUNCHED AND CARRIED OUT UNIQUE ADVOCACY PROGRAMS THAT ACHIEVED NOTABLE RESULTS IN THEIR COUNTRIES. MANY OF THEM CARRIED OUT THESE PROGRAMS DESPITE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES SUCH AS CRIMINALIZATION OF THEIR IDENTITIES, REPRESSIVE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENTS, CENSORSHIP AND EVEN FATAL VIOLENCE.

“At the beginning of our movement 15 years ago, we only had six volunteers. Today I am proud to say that Blue Diamond Society has over 800 staff and more than 40 offices all over the country. While Nepal promulgated a new constitution last year that assures LGBTQ people of equal rights, a lot remains to be done in terms of raising social awareness about LGBTQ people.”

**Manisha Dhakal, Nepal**

“We started Pink Dot Singapore in 2009 to advocate for the support of freedom to love. Our event was deliberately designed to attract both LGBTQ people and allies, as there is strength in numbers. Despite the fact that same-sex relations are criminalized in Singapore, last year we attracted more than 28,000 people to Pink Dot, a massive growth from the first year when 1,000 people turned up.”

**Darius Zheng, Singapore**



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to learn

GLO  
ADVOC  
#HR  
G US: Human Rights Campaign

# LEARNING



THE GLOBAL INNOVATORS AND HRC STAFF WERE COMMITTED TO LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER OVER THE COURSE OF THE GLOBAL SUMMIT. THE INNOVATORS AND HRC LEARNED ABOUT HOW TO STRENGTHEN LGBTQ MOVEMENTS IN THEIR COUNTRIES BY ENGAGING THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY, EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY, AND MOBILIZING MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR EQUALITY. HRC STAFF ALSO SHARED EXPERIENCES IN BUILDING A MEMBERSHIP, FINDING COMMON GROUND WITH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, ADVOCATING FOR WORKPLACE EQUALITY, WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, ENGAGING FUNDERS AND CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS.



“When I get back to Vietnam, I'll share what I learned with colleagues and partners. With hard work and the new connections I made at the summit, I hope to expand the scope of the Vietnamese LGBTQ rights movement.”

**Tam Nguyen,  
Vietnam**

“Gathering with advocates to discuss trans equality on the Transgender Day of Visibility was inspiring. Hearing from these amazing activists and learning more about incredible work being done across the world offered us new perspectives for our own work.”

**Jay Brown, HRC**

“It has been a really good learning experience just hearing from others in a very constructive and positive way. [...] I feel as though the agenda for this meeting has been structured to provide us with a space to sit and discuss and find new ways of working or improving what we are already doing, and I find that very, very valuable.”

**Jaevion Nelson, Jamaica**

# INSPIRING

AFTER HEARING ABOUT THE COURAGEOUS AND INSPIRING WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THEIR COLLEAGUES, THE GLOBAL INNOVATORS RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRIES WITH NEW KNOWLEDGE, IDEAS AND A POWERFUL NETWORK OF ALLIES AROUND THE WORLD. THE GLOBAL SUMMIT NOT ONLY EQUIPPED THEM WITH NEW STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MOVEMENTS BUT ALSO PROVIDED THEM WITH SPACE TO REFRESH AND RECOMMIT TO THEIR WORK.





“ It is beautiful seeing the success of others, and it also gives you hope. It gives you hope of, ‘Uganda can also get there,’ or ‘We can also take baby steps and reach where they are.’ I applaud HRC for this platform.”

**Qwin Mbabazi,  
Uganda**

“ The Global Summit has had a deep impact on me, and I am inspired to go back home and work on expanding our work and educating people about the human rights and dignity of LGBTQ people. I plan to engage in dialogue with all actors using an anti-discrimination lens and to enlist allies to our cause.”

**Ruslan Kim, Kyrgyzstan**

“ Met an inspiring group of LGBT activists from around the globe, whose work paves the path for others in their shoes.”

**Tweet from  
Susan Rice,  
U.S. National  
Security Advisor**

“NOTHING  
IMPOSSIBLE

Anonymous, Morocco

ING IS  
SIBLE.”

# COMMITTING

INSPIRED, CONNECTED AND EQUIPPED WITH NEW IDEAS AND ENTHUSIASM, THE GLOBAL INNOVATORS COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENT AT LEAST ONE NEW STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MOVEMENTS. WHILE RESOURCE AND POLITICAL LIMITATIONS EXIST IN EVERY MOVEMENT TO VARYING DEGREES, GLOBAL INNOVATORS COMMITTED TO SEEKING OUT CREATIVE WAYS TO ADVANCE THEIR WORK FOR EQUALITY AND INCLUSION.

“ I’m leaving the summit so committed to putting in place the Turkish version of HRC’s Municipal Equality Index. Talking about the project with my fellow innovators motivates me even more to work for change at home.”

**Ezgi Şeref, Turkey**

“ My organization is committed to planning and launching a Hungarian-style ‘On the road’ campaign to go out into towns and villages around the country and raise awareness about the human rights of sexual and gender minorities using creative strategies.”

**Esteban Paulón, Argentina**

“ In Poland I will create a system of mobilization of LGBTQ activists that my country has never seen before. I plan to use the connections, skills and knowledge gained from the Global Summit to make a substantial difference for LGBTQ people back home.”

**A. Chaber, Poland**



### Certificate of Recognition

This certificate is awarded to

**Qwin Nabageraka**

Upon completion of the

Global Innovative Advocacy Summit  
April 1, 2016  
Washington, DC

in recognition of

Qwin's innovative work  
to improve the lives of  
LGBTQ people in Uganda

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ty Cobb".

Signed  
Ty Cobb,  
HRC Global Director



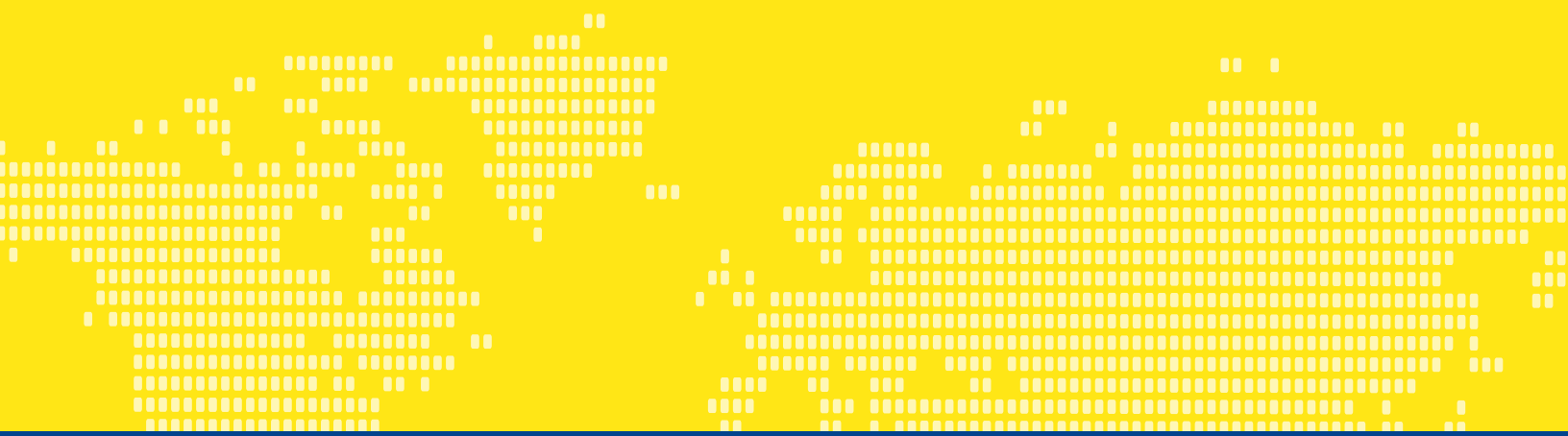


**“ WE NEED MORE PEOPLE,  
MORE LABS, MORE DATA.  
THERE IS STILL SO MUCH TO LEARN.”**

Luis Larrain, Chile



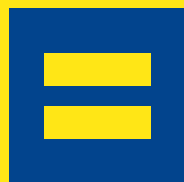
**PLE, MORE EXAMPLES,  
YS, MORE TIME. THERE  
ARN FROM EACH OTHER. ”**



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SUMMIT VISIT: [HRC.IM/GLOBALSUMMIT](http://HRC.IM/GLOBALSUMMIT)

INQUIRIES ABOUT BECOMING A GLOBAL INNOVATOR: [INNOVATIVEADVOCACY@HRC.ORG](mailto:INNOVATIVEADVOCACY@HRC.ORG)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUPPORTING FUTURE SUMMITS: [CARMEN.MILLER@HRC.ORG](mailto:CARMEN.MILLER@HRC.ORG)



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Thank you to our 2016 partners:

