

# **Equality and Diversity Alive in La Francophonie : culture, health, and safety**

**Égides International  
Conference Report  
(summary)**

**Ahmed Hamila, PhD**

**Prefaced by:  
Role and Responsibilities of  
Cities in Anti-Discrimination  
and LGBTIQ+ Human Rights  
Advocacy (summary)**

**Report from the  
pre-conference organized by  
the City of Geneva**

**Ella Hautier**

The statements in these reports are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of Egides or the City of Geneva.

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This is the summary of a report on Égides’s international conference “Equality and Diversity Alive in La Francophonie: culture, health, and safety” held at the University of Geneva from June 29 to July 2, 2021.

It was written and edited by Ahmed Hamila, PhD.

The report “Role and Responsibilities of Cities in Anti-Discrimination and LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Advocacy” emerged from a pre-conference organized by the City of Geneva on June 29, 2021, in the lead-up to the conference. The pre-conference report was prepared by Ella Hautier (she), MA candidate in gender studies at the University of Geneva (Switzerland) and front-line worker for the community organization Vogay— dedicated to sexual and gender diversity in the canton of Vaud— and staff member at the Fondation PROFA. The author was LGBTIQ+ intern for the “Agenda 21” Sustainable City Section at the City of Geneva from June to September, 2021, supervised by Guillaume Mandicourt.

Combining the two reports in one document made sense as a way to convey the shared outlooks expressed by the various institutional, academic and activist stakeholders, given the complementary priorities reflected in their contributions at both the pre-conference and the international conference.

This document is a summary of the two reports. The original versions were written in French and prevail on this translation.

The full reports are available on Egides's website :

**<https://www.egides.org/rapportconferenceEgides2021>**



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Alliance internationale francophone pour l'égalité et les diversités

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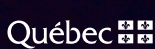
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## Word from Égides Co-Presidents

Looking back at our first international conference, we would like to express our tremendous pride, on behalf of the Égides board of directors, in the work that was accomplished these past two years. The conference allowed us to provide a unique platform for our members and for francophones worldwide to organize and share ideas on the advancement of LGBTQI human rights. With over 40 presenters — above all, activists, academics, experts and people affected by the issues at stake — the Égides International Conference was a virtual forum for the convergence of culture, research and activism from throughout the French-speaking world over the course of three days.

The adjoined pre-conference on inclusive cities was organized by the City of Geneva. This event allowed for unique and mutually beneficial reflection on the issues, while foregrounding action being taken on local government levels. Pairing these two events felt like a win-win, and hence, the publication of the two reports in a single document struck us as the best way to convey the commonalities and synergies that emerged therefrom.

The depth and diversity of the discussions and learning that defined the week showed us the need, now more than ever, for LGBTQI francophone activists to have a safe space to meet and work together in the French language; the events further demonstrated the relevance of an organization such as Égides, which provides support to its 160 members from throughout the French-speaking world. It is crucial that we fill in missing data on LGBTQI rights issues in la francophonie, since the availability of such information affects the visibility of the realities and needs of activists and communities working to promote their rights.

The take-aways presented in this conference report will be compounded and built upon, further enriching our own reflections and those of our members on how to adapt strategies for organizing, advocacy and action in the year to come. What we have learned about the stories of LGBTQI francophone people will be brought into international venues for advocacy, allowing these experiences to amplify a critical take on intercultural relations, shared understandings of one another, and solutions for repairing inequalities. For this newly formed organization, knowledge acquisition is a huge step in building a collective vision for shedding light on specific issues affecting our communities, and thereby bolster progress on LGBTQI human rights in the French-speaking world globally.

In closing, we would like to thank the co-organizers and all those who worked to make the conference happen for your contributions to the cause of equality and diversity.

**Laurent Breault and Camille Ben**  
Égides Co-Presidents

## Word from the Executive Council member

As a city actively committed to local and international LGBTIQ+ human rights advocacy, the City of Geneva is very happy and proud to have been chosen by Égides to host, alongside the University of Geneva, this first international francophone conference. I would sincerely like to thank the Égides team for trusting us with this fruitful collaboration in spite of the challenging public health conditions under which the conference was organized.

In the lead-up to the conference, the City of Geneva organized a pre-conference to examine more closely the stakes, responsibility, and means by which cities and other local public administrations might engage in LGBTIQ+ human rights advocacy. Considering their proximity to the general population, cities have a vital role to play in fighting discrimination. Planning this gathering was a way for the City of Geneva to promote sharing experiences and networking among francophone cities by providing an opportunity for them to find validation, mutual support, and encouragement in this crucial common mission, one that is too often misunderstood and mired in needless polemics or controversy.

Combining theory and practice, the pre-conference was also a forum for various points of view and backgrounds to intersect: experts in public policy on LGBTIQ+ issues met with representatives from municipalities and urban networks. They shared their practices, achievements and challenges around such issues. I extend my warmest thanks to the many cities with which Geneva regularly works in tandem, particularly those in the Rainbow Cities Network, and the member cities of the Association internationale des maires francophones (International Association of Francophone Mayors).

The report included here, written and edited by Ms. Ella Hautier, conveys the depth of the discussions that took place, comprising, along with the video recordings of the event, a valuable resource for best practices and areas where more action is required. This joint presentation with the main conference summary report is the outcome of the willingness, from the project's outset, to encapsulate a convergence of inclusive cities within the larger discourse of the Égides conference. The report also illustrates the many reminders, throughout the four days of discussions, of how useful and necessary it is for LGBTIQ+ communities to be included in the process of developing public policy that affects them. Working with organizations and collectives that have garnered expertise, developing participatory projects, and creating partnership initiatives are indeed the best ways to stay connected with real-life experience and to thereby respond to specific needs of the various groups which comprise the LGBTIQ+ population.

I would hope that these documents might encourage and assist a great many cities and municipalities to better support their LGBTIQ+ citizens and to become involved in safeguarding and advocating for their rights, in the view of creating more just and more sustainable societies, for the benefit of all.

Such cities will find in the City of Geneva both a partner and an ally.

### **Alfonso Gomez**

Executive Council Member for  
Equality and Diversity, City of Geneva



# Role and Responsibilities of Cities in Anti-Discrimination and LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Advocacy

**Report on the pre-conference  
held June 29, 2021, organized by  
the City of Geneva in the lead-  
up to the Égides International  
Conference (Geneva, 2021)  
“Equality and Diversity Alive  
in La Francophonie: culture,  
health, and safety”**

**Ella Hautier**

**September, 2021**



# Presenters

## Welcome

**Alfonso Gomez** (he), Executive Council Member at the City of Geneva, in charge of Equality and Diversity, head of the Department of Finance, Environment, and Housing.

**Guillaume Mandicourt** (he), LGBTIQ+ project manager for Agenda 21 - The Sustainable City Section at the City of Geneva. Coordinator of the pre-conference and moderator of Panel III.

Introduction : The value of cities taking on LGBTIQ+ issues and their responsibilities in this regard

**Arnaud Alessandrin** (he), sociologist at the LACES laboratory for cultures, education, and societies, Université de Bordeaux. He is co-director of the journal Les cahiers du LCD and member of the academic advisory board for DILCRAH (inter-ministerial delegation against racism, anti-Semitism, and anti-LGBT hate). Also moderator of Panel I.

Panel I: Cities taking anti-discrimination to heart, academic and activist viewpoints

**Antoine Le Blanc** (he) professor of geography at the Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale at Dunkirk (France).

**Carine Landolt** (she), co-founder of Pride@Work, trainer at the City of Geneva (Switzerland).

**Clémence Zamora Cruz** (she), Policy representation for the organization Au-delà du Genre (beyond gender) and board member of the Fédération Sportive Gay et Lesbienne (France).

**Milan Bonté** (he), Doctoral candidate in geography at the Université de Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Panel II: Speaking of municipalities, what are the issues in inclusive policy implementation?

**Adama Zerbo** (he), head of the International Relations Department at the City Hall of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

**Alain Lavoie** (he), Manager of the Service de diversité sociale at the City of Montréal (Canada).

**Aline Distexhe** (she), analyst at the Brussels-Capital Region Observatory for Prevention and Security (Belgium).

**Hélène Dureux** (she), Project manager on LGBTIQ+ issues at the City of Paris (France).

**Karine Duplan** (she), PhD in geography and assistant professor at the Faculty of Social Science at the University of Geneva (Switzerland). Moderator of Panel II.

**Yolande Gerber** (she), deputy delegate of the Observatoire de la sécurité et des discriminations of the City of Lausanne (Switzerland).

Panel III: Going deeper and sharing best practices, why networking matters

**Manuel Rosas Vásquez** (he), coordinator of the Rainbow Cities Network.

**Michaël Arnaud** (he), executive director of Égides, the international francophone alliance for equality and diversity.

**Mohammad Mousa** (he), Programme Officer for social sciences, humanities and youth at the Canadian Council for UNESCO and coordinator of the Coalition for Inclusive Municipalities (CIM).

Presentation of the Égides Conference theme “Equality and Diversity Alive in la Francophonie: culture, health, and safety”

**Stéphanie Palancade** (she), event planning coordinator for Égides - the international francophone alliance for equality and diversity.

Closing Remarks

**Sami Kanaan** (he), Executive Council Member at the City of Geneva, head of the Department of Culture and Digital Transitions, and bureau delegate for the Association internationale des maires francophones (AIMF).

# Summary

This report is about the role and the responsibilities of cities in fighting discrimination and in LGBTIQ+ human rights advocacy. The content is based on the presentations and materials included in the Pre-Conference on Inclusive Cities organized by the City of Geneva on June 29, 2021, in the lead-up to the Égides Conference “Equality and Diversity Alive in la Francophonie: culture, health, and safety”.

This text attempts to synthesize the main issues at stake in implementing public policies that are inclusive of LGBTIQ+ people. These issues fall into three main categories that were brought up again and again in the course of the Pre-Conference: public space, collaborations and partnerships, and the internal policies of municipalities.

It has been shown that access to public spaces and services are not accorded to all people equally. Furthermore, evidence shows that safety is not a given for LGBTIQ+ people, who experience multiple forms of discrimination on a daily basis and who are often afraid to fully reveal their sexual/romantic orientation or their gender identity/expression in public spaces. In fact, people affected by this reality are not necessarily visible in these spaces, which have been designed primarily by and for those who are not part of a sexual or gender minorities. A wide array of tools and examples of best practices already exist that foster greater inclusion in public space of people affected by this issue, the purpose of which is to provide them with more access, safety, and visibility. Appropriate tools and practices can and should be adapted to the local realities of LGBTIQ+ people.

Collaborations and partnerships are necessary for crafting public policy that is inclusive of sexual and gender diversity. Working with local, national, and international organizations makes such policies easier to draft and to put in place so that they can be both effective and consistent. Collaborating with LGBTIQ+ community organizations is essential, since they have the front-line skills and know-how needed to respond to this population's particular needs. Such organizations, however, often lack funding and function on volunteer labour, so it is important to provide them with the means to participate actively in public policy implementation.

In order for such measures to be consistent, municipalities' internal policies must also be taken into account; local government administrations should set an example by applying inclusive policies that support and respect their employees. To insure this, everything from hiring processes to contracts and by-laws should systematically reiterate the municipality's inclusive values. Sensitivity training on LGBTIQ+ subjects on a regular basis, with adequate

corresponding human resources and materials, is also essential in instilling and communicating management's commitment to this issue.

The text of this pre-conference report highlights the many existing tools and best practices for implementing inclusive public policies for LGBTIQ+ people, as well as the need to make these tools available by activating our networks. The report further confirms the role and responsibilities of cities in tackling LGBTIQ+ issues by showing that such tactics can be put in place irrespective of the size or resources available in a given municipality. The report underscores the proven need to collaborate with community organizations, since they are the experts in the field and most qualified to bring about solutions for improving the living conditions of people affected by these issues.







Alliance  
internationale  
francophone  
pour l'égalité  
et les diversités

# **Equality and Diversity Alive in La Francophonie: culture, health, and safety**

**Report on the Égides  
International Conference,  
held from June 30 to  
July 2, 2021**

**Ahmed Hamila, PhD**

**February 2022**

# Presenters

## June 30: Living in a Network: cultural and strategic connections in the francophone world

### Opening Ceremony

**Alfonso Gomez** (he), Executive Council Member in charge of Equality and Diversity for the City of Geneva.

**Déon Mejri**, Égides co-president.

**Esther Léa Ledoux** (she), Égides co-president.

**Juan Rigoli**, Chair of the Scientific Committee at the Centre Maurice Chalumeau en sciences des sexualités (Switzerland).

**Lorena Parini** (she), Co-chair of the Conference Advisory Board and member of the Centre Maurice Chalumeau en sciences des sexualités (Switzerland).

**Michèle Boisvert** (she), Personal Representative of the Prime Minister for La Francophonie, Government of Canada (Canada).

**Nathalie Fontanet** (she), Councillor of State for the Canton de Genève (Switzerland).

**Stéphanie Palancade** (she), Event planning coordinator at Égides (France).

**Yves Flückiger** (he), Rector of the University of Geneva (Switzerland).

### Opening Panel: LGBTQI Francophone Realities and Decolonial Issues

Facilitator: **Lorena Parini** (she), Co-chair of the Conference Advisory Board and member of the Centre Maurice Chalumeau en sciences des sexualités (Switzerland).

**Barrack RIMA** (she/he), Artist (Lebanon, Belgium).

Panel: Decolonizing bodies, liberating voices, and centring the margins

Facilitator: **Stéphanie Palancade** (she), Event planning coordinator at Égides (France).

**Chamindra Kumari Weerawardhana** (she), Researcher, ILGA World.

**Marianne Chbat** (she), Postdoctoral Researcher (Canada).

Round Table 1: Reviving erased memories, preserving our cultures and identities

Moderator: **Khookha McQueer** (she), Member of the Conference advisory committee (Tunisia).

Facilitator: **Carolina Topini** (she), (Switzerland).

**Soufiane Hennani** (he/they), Co-founder of the Elille collective (Morocco).

**Sylvie Cachin** (she), Director of the Everybody's Perfect Festival (Switzerland).

**Weema Askri** (he), Coordinator of the Mawjoudin Queer Film Festival/ Mawjoudin Equality Initiative.

Round Table 2: Visibility issues and capacity-building for LGBTQI women

Moderator: **Lorena Parini** (she), Conference advisory committee co-chair and member of the Centre Maurice Chalumeau en sciences des sexualités (Switzerland).

**Maramé Kane** (she), Administrating coordinator of EL\*C (Senegal/France).

**Nicky** (she), Executive Director of Women African Freedom (Côte d'Ivoire).

**Sandrine Ateh** (she), Executive Director of AVAF (Cameroon).

**July 1: Living in safety: protecting and providing safety for LGBTQI people in the francophone world**

Conference: Decriminalizing sexual practices: comparative approaches from Africa, the Americas, and Europe

Moderator: **Fernando Miranda** (he), Executive Director of the Centre Maurice Chalumeau en sciences des sexualités (Switzerland).

**Alice Nkom** (she), Lawyer (Cameroon).

**Caroline Mecary** (she), Lawyer at Caroline Mecary Law Firm (France).

**Elisabeth Brousseau** (she), Lawyer at McCarthy Tétrault Law Firm and Secretary of the Égides board of directors (Québec, Canada).

Round Table: Advocacy Tools for Francophone Communities

Moderator: **Mirja Trilsch** (she), Director of the Clinique internationale de défense des droits humains (CIDDHU), Advisory Committee co-chair (Canada).

Facilitator: **Guillaume Mandicourt** (he), LGBTIQ+ Project Manager, City of Geneva (Switzerland).

**Carlos Villalobos** (he), Data and Statistic Advisor on human rights and sustainable development at the Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark).

**Gabriel Galil** (he), Senior Program Officer, ILGA World (Switzerland).

**Helen Nolan** (she), International Service for Human Rights (Vietnam).

**Moetsi Duchatellier** (she), Regional Advisor on Gender for the UN High Commission for Human Rights in West Africa.

## Round Table 1: Protecting LGBTQI people in la francophonie

Moderator: **Nisa Zimmerman** (she), University of Geneva (Switzerland).

**Dimitri Verdonck** (he), President of the European Federation of Shelters (Belgium).

**Luc Agblakou** (he), President of the Bénin Hironnelle Club Association (Bénin).

**William Fortin** (he), Bro bono counsel for Avocats sans frontières Canada (Canada).

## Round Table 2: Realities and issues of mobility, migration, and asylum for LGBTQI people in the francophone world

Moderator: **Monia Lachheb** (she), Teacher/Researcher at the Institut de la Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain.

Facilitators: **Quentin Markarian**, Ph.D candidate in law at the University of Geneva (Switzerland).

**Ludovic Mohamed Zahed** (he), Doctor and Imam, Calem Marseille (France).

**Meryem Benslimane** (she), AGIR Montréal (Canada).

## July 2: Healthy Living: Wellbeing and healthcare access / Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LGBTQI francophone communities

Panel: LGBTQI francophone communities vs. COVID-19

Moderator: **Guillaume Mandicourt** (he), LGBTIQ+ Project Manager, City of Geneva (Switzerland).

**Mariam Mannai** (they/she), Programme Officer at Égides (Canada).

**Victor Madrigal-Borloz** (he), Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Human Nations Human Rights Special Procedures.

Panel: Growing up intersex in la francophonie

Moderator: **Janik Bastien Charlebois** (she/they), Professor of sociology at the Université du Québec à Montréal (Québec, Canada).

Facilitator: **Deborah Abate** (she/they), Co-founder of InterAction Suisse and Project Coordinator at Be You Network (Switzerland).

**Ginette NTUMBI** (she), Coordinator of GIDE, Groupe intersexe désirs (Democratic Republic of Congo).

## Round Table 1: Empowerment and ageing with LGBTQI people

Moderator: **Carlos Ibidou** (he/they), Organizational Development and Human Rights Consultant, (Côte d'Ivoire).

Animator: **Geneviève Donnet** (she), Aîné·e·s LGBT (LGBT Seniors) Project Manager at Association 360 (Switzerland).

**Hamdi Khalifa** (he), Founding member and Board member at North Africa Centre for Strategic Partnerships (Tunisia).

**Julien Rougerie** (he), Director of Programming, Fondation Émergence (Canada).

**Stéphane Sauvé** (he), General delegate for Les Audacieuses & les audacieux (France).

## Round Table 2: Trans and non-binary people: from existence to resistance

Moderator: **Giovanna Rincon** (she), Executive Director of ACCEPTESS-T (Switzerland).

**Blake** (he), Coordinator of OUTCASTS Tunisie (Tunisia).

**Clémence Zamora Cruz** (elle), Policy representation for the organization Au-delà du Genre (beyond gender) and board member of the Fédération Sportive Gay et Lesbienne (France).

**Melody Boateng** (she), Founder of Synergie Trans Bénin (Bénin).

## Closing Remarks

**Esther Léa Ledoux** (she), Égides co-president.

**Guillaume Mandicourt** (he), LGBTIQ+ Project Manager, City of Geneva (Switzerland).

**Laurent Breault** (he), Director of Fondation Émergence and administrator on Égides board of directors (Québec, Canada).

**Michaël Arnaud** (he), executive director of Égides, the international francophone alliance for equality and diversity.

**Mirja Trilsch** (she), Director of the Clinique internationale de défense des droits humains (CIDDHU), Advisory Committee co-chair (Canada).

# Summary

Égides is an international organization of recent founding whose mission is to advocate for equality and inclusion for people who are marginalized because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual characteristics, and to work towards their welfare, rights, and interests in the French-speaking world. Égides seeks to unite and support groups, communities, organizations, and associations internationally for the sake of LGBTQI people anywhere that French is a relevant language for support and action.

Égides was founded thanks to a grant from the Québec Ministry of International Relations and la Francophonie, building on commitments made by the Québec Government following the first international francophone conference held in Montréal in 2017. As an outcome of this conference, through a partnership with the Centre Maurice Chalmers en Sciences des Sexualités at the University of Geneva, Égides held its first international conference from June 29 to July 2, 2021, organized based on three main themes: 1) Living in a Network: cultural and strategic connections in the francophone milieu; 2) Living Safely: protecting the safety of LGBTQI+ people in the francophone milieu; and 3) Health Living: well-being and health access in the francophone milieu.

With this conference, Égides and its partners sought to facilitate a dialogue between academia and the activist world, as well as to determine priority areas for LGBTQI+ human rights advocacy at the local, regional, and international levels; its additional stated goal was to be a catalyst for activists and LGBTQI+ organizations in francophone spaces. The summary of the conference proceedings contained in this report has been created for the above purpose, and to be used as a tool in the future by Égides, its membership, and partners for action and outreach on locally, nationally, and internationally.

The challenges that LGBTQI+ people and organizations face throughout the French-speaking world are both numerous and complex. This report is not intended as an exhaustive summary of all such issues.

Regarding terminology, it pertains that there is no single universal term that applies to people who do not conform to sexual and gender binaries. Furthermore, organizations involved in rights advocacy around sexual and gender diversity themselves employ a variety of terms, including various acronyms. Keeping in mind the rich array of terminology, the acronym “LGBTQI+” has been employed here to refer to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans, queer/questioning, and intersex, in spite of any limitations that such a term may imply.

# Day 1:

## Living in a Network: cultural and strategic connections in the francophone milieu

The take-away from the first day of the conference was that, in order to “live in a network,” we first have to work on the historical baggage of structural oppression that lingers in the forms of colonialism and patriarchy, among others. Various strategies were suggested by presenters, starting with the need to reshape our collective history. One way of beginning this process of reshaping history is to engage in two-pronged deconstruction: using intersectional feminism and a decolonial approach together.

This two-pronged approach can be undertaken in various ways to instil greater equality and representation. One useful strategy for engaging in this twofold process is, of course, to centre activism and advocacy work around the most marginalized groups within LGBTQI+ communities, i.e. LGBTQI+ women, trans and racialized people, among others, so that they can occupy a place within our movement to bring up issues that affect them specifically.

Another unifying approach that can be considered complementary to the above is to engage with art and performance practices by organizing LGBTQI+ festivals, for example. Indeed, artistic practices are seen as political and therefore part and parcel with activism. Hence, we should try and foster spaces for what is called “artivism.”

These various approaches are vectors of change and transformation for pro-LGBTQI+ movements that tend to deny or even contribute, unfortunately, to the oppression of some marginalized groups within these communities. Positive transformation can be attained from an approach that attempts to decolonize these movements, centring the margins while leading to more diverse representation within LGBTQI+ movements. This solidarity is hard to achieve unless feminist movements combine forces with LGBTQI+ women’s struggles, or unless diverse cultural identities within the LGBTQI+ movement are shown solidarity and accorded space throughout the French-speaking LGBTQI+ world.

## Day 2: Living in Safety: protecting and providing safety for LGBTQI+ people in the francophone milieu

The second day of the conference focused on the theme “living in safety” and saw many panellists present major examples of progress in LGBTQI+ rights in recent decades, while also addressing the long road that remains ahead in effectively protecting people of diverse sexualities and genders. It also came to light that, despite the presupposition of sexual liberation being already achieved as touted by leaders of the Global North, it is not the case that Northern countries constitute a beacon of LGBTQI+ rights and that countries in the Global South generally flout such rights. The reality is in fact more complex than that. Notwithstanding marked differences in legislation between various countries, harm to LGBTQI+ rights and dignity continue to occur in both hemispheres.

Multi-tiered action is needed in order to rectify this situation, i.e. on international, national, and local levels. Several advocacy tools are available at the international level that can be activated by LGBTQI+ communities and organizations, such as the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal

Periodic Review, the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10, and Voluntary Local Reviews under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs. At the national level, the option of demanding asylum is one way to ensure the protection of sexual and gender minorities, even though this recourse requires that the people who process such requests be given sensitivity training around issues that specifically affect LGBTQI+ asylum and refugee claimants. At the local level, projects like shelters can provide the safety net that is increasingly needed for LGBTQI+ youth who have been shunned by their families or by other people close to them.

Multiple panel presentations addressed the fact that effective protection for sexual and gender diversity requires action on numerous fronts. They suggested starting by training LGBTQI+ activists on the policy and advocacy measures available to them for defending their communities’ rights. Sensitivity training and outreach were also noted as essential for the general public, above all in schools and with youth, in order to deconstruct prejudices they may have regarding LGBTQI+ people.

## Day 3: Healthy Living: well-being and healthcare access in the Francophone world

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Multi-tiered action is needed in order to rectify this situation, i.e. on international, national, and local levels. Several advocacy tools are available at the international level that can be activated by LGBTQI+ communities and organizations, such as the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review, the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10, and Voluntary Local Reviews

under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs. At the national level, the option of demanding asylum is one way to ensure the protection of sexual and gender minorities, even though this recourse requires that the people who process such requests be given sensitivity training around issues that specifically affect LGBTQI+ asylum and refugee claimants. At the local level, projects like shelters can provide the safety net that is increasingly needed for LGBTQI+ youth who have been shunned by their families or by other people close to them.

Multiple panel presentations addressed the fact that effective protection for sexual and gender diversity requires action on numerous fronts. They suggested starting by training LGBTQI+ activists on the policy and advocacy measures available to them for defending their communities’ rights. Sensitivity training and outreach were also noted as essential for the general public, above all in schools and with youth, in order to deconstruct prejudices they may have regarding LGBTQI+ people.



# Recommendations



## 1. Advocacy

- › Encourage local movement-building and participative approaches to determine realistic advocacy goals adapted to local movements' demands.
- › Improve the knowledge and the capacities of LGBTQI+ people and the organizations that represent them in accessing international protection and advocacy mechanisms, especially by creating an array of accessible training sessions.



## 2. Programs

- › Foster the development of arts programs and the visibility of LGBTQI+ artists.
- › Promote the leadership and visibility of marginalized people within LGBTQI+ communities by creating specific leadership trainings that are tailored to them.



## 3. Capacity-building

- › Prioritize smaller organizations and their initiatives in capacity-building programs, including technical and financial support.
- › Ensure the survival and sustainability of LGBTQI+ community organizations by bolstering core funding rather than project-based funding.



## 4. Movement-building and networking

- › Ensure the integration of an intersectional, feminist, and decolonial approach in both organizational structures and human-rights promotion programs.
- › Foster and promote inclusive spaces and networks to build solidarity among community-based organizations across various contexts.

## 5. Research

- › Ensure that service provision and advocacy work are founded on reliable data by fostering inclusive participatory evaluation processes, research-action, and community-based research, especially where under-researched issues related to LGBTQI+ migrants and racialized, trans and intersex people are concerned.
- › Ensure that existing and future research is accessible for use by LGBTQI+ activists by creating knowledge management and mobilization systems.





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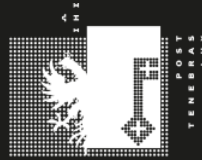
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