



Memo

To: Human Rights Committee InterPride
Cain Williamson
From: Frank van Dalen
Date: June 30th. 2014
Subject: Evaluation and proposed next steps Human Rights Conference World Pride

Introduction

For the second time during WorldPride a human rights conference was organized as part of the world pride program. This time the HRC took place during WorldPride 2014 in Toronto from June 25th till June 27th.

Objective

Undersigned participated in the conference. This document is to share some key-observation being relevant for InterPride in general and it's Human Rights Committee in particularly and proposes next steps to discuss.

Background HRC WorldPride 2014

The conference took place for three days. About 400 people (from over 50 countries as stated by the organizers) attended the conference, amongst about 50 persons with a scholarship. The daily layout had three blocks of workshops and one plenary session. All workshops (69 in total) gave floor to a number of presenters sharing experiences and an audience being able to ask questions. The plenaries had the same layout, however input from the audience was limited. Topics were divers*:

LGBTQ Youth / Family / education	10
Sexuality / HIV/Aids / health	13
Homophobia in sport, workplace	5
Hostile environments / state sponsored homophobia	17**
Pride-related / grand marshalls program	3
Open Forum – collection of topics	6
Others	15

* In 40 workshops Canada was present or played a key-role

** In 8 workshops Uganda played a key-role

Toronto Worldpride 2014 outsourced the organization of the HRC to the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies of the University of Toronto. There was no joined outcome like a statement or declaration.

General observations

- Taking in consideration this was the second time a HRC was organized within the context of WorldPride new standards have been set by the organizing committee. Having a conference organized via outsourcing by a specialized organization is a strategy that can give an impressive result as we have experienced.
- The number of workshops relating to pride was low considering the total amount of workshops. There was an over-representation of activists from Uganda. Some criticism of activists from other African countries was shared with undersigned. This related to scholarships from activists that were rejected and the by them perceived overwhelming

attention for Uganda pushing aside the attention to other equal problematic countries as well.

- Looking at the participants most of them were LGBTI advocacy activists. Pride organizers were merely absent.
- For those with a scholarship, most were invited in Toronto for the whole week. However, the program was limited to three days at the conference.

Considerations

- For InterPride, with its objective to continuously work on improvement of its organization and related events, the question can be put at the table whether IP wants to further develop the human rights conference as part of InterPride. Key is whether InterPride wants to differentiate the HRC in relation to other LGBTI human rights conferences. I.e. add more pride-related content to the conference and attract more pride organizations. If InterPride – or the WorldPride organizer – wants to more strongly influence the structure and content of the Human Rights Conference it can be advised to make a basic framework and include that in the defining structure of WorldPride as guidance for the collaborating partners. Obviously, the more budget or explicit capitalization of InterPride is made available or presented, the more influence will be accepted.
- In order to increase return on investment regarding scholarships and to support the development of pride movements around the world, one can consider organizing some “behind the pride scene” side events for those with a scholarship. This will not only provide education, but also strengthening the relation with InterPride. One can also investigate possibilities to influence the assignment of scholarships, having more pride-organizers from prides in hostile environment to be granted a scholarship instead of advocacy LGBTI-activists.

Proposed next steps

- Have a discussion within the human rights committee of InterPride about the function or role of the human rights conference within the context of WorldPride.
- Have a conversation with Madrid about their ideas and demands regarding the human rights conference at WorldPride 2014 and ways how InterPride can give support to them.
- Ask for a thorough evaluation of the conference from the Toronto Pride Organizing Committee and/or the HRC organizers with key-learnings for the future, to be shared with Madrid.