

A CELEBRATION OF COURAGE



About Us

In 2010 IGLHRC is celebrating twenty years of work around the globe. Guided by our values of **integrity, equality, respect, diversity** and **partnership**, IGLHRC works to improve the lives of those who experience discrimination and abuse because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and to achieve a world with human rights for everyone, everywhere.

How We Work

IGLHRC's work **spans the globe**, with staff in the United States, Argentina, Paraguay, the Philippines, and South Africa. We work at the **United Nations**, in other **regional human rights institutions** and with dedicated programs in **Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia** and the **Pacific Islands, Latin America** and the **Caribbean**, and the **Middle East and North Africa**.

IGLHRC **monitors, documents, and responds to human rights violations** and **supports domestic, regional, and transnational human rights movements** and **advocacy** relating to **sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression**.

Our 5 Core Goals to Support LGBT People's Rights Everywhere

1. Advocate for the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies and practices;
2. Support the enactment and implementation of anti-discrimination laws, policies and practices;
3. Reduce family, community and state-sponsored violence;
4. Promote economic, social and cultural rights; and;
5. Build a strong, effective and sustainable organization to leverage greater resources to achieve our mission and goals.

Our work is critically needed and we need your support. More than **80 countries still criminalize consensual same-sex intimacy**, and the rights of LGBT people around the world are under attack. Every day, in countries from Brazil to Botswana, Bulgaria to Bangladesh, those who challenge sexual or gender norms are **arrested, forced into psychiatric "treatment" or marriage, denied basic job protections, health care, and parental rights, and brutally attacked, tortured, and even murdered**.

We work for the day when people with diverse sexualities can flourish.

We work for the day when all human beings are valued, and treated with dignity and respect.

We work for the day when justice becomes a reality, everywhere.



INTERNATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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IGLHRC Highlights From the Past Year

- Worked with Lambda Legal to advise Nepali government and LGBT leaders developing constitutional protections for LGBT people in Nepal, at their request.
- Provided immediate direct financial support to the Haitian LGBT movement after the January 2010 earthquake.
- Hosted a panel on grave human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation at the United Nations, along with government and NGO partners, for Human Rights Day. At the event, in a vital statement of support, the Holy See denounced criminalization or violence because of homosexuality.
- Held a historic transgender Strategy Workshop in South Africa with co-host Gender DynamiX. Activists from across Africa gathered to address the needs of transgender people on the continent – a key step in building the African transgender movement.
- Attained official civil society status with the Organization of American States in May 2009.
- Organized a workshop with 15 activists from China, Malaysia, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Japan to strategize around combating violence against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women in Asia.
- Presented findings on violence and discrimination in Asia to nine national human rights institutions, obtaining a commitment from the Asia-Pacific Forum around adoption of the Yogyakarta Principles relating to human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Co-hosted a workshop on legal strategies for promoting LGBT rights in Africa along with Global Rights, Interights and the International Commission of Jurists (Kenya). Attended by 45 participants from 11 African countries, this was the first-ever dialogue between African LGBT leaders and lawyers working on LGBT rights.
- Mobilized international protest against the Philippines election commission's rejection of the application of an LGBT political party to run in the national elections, following which the Supreme Court issued a temporary order allowing the party to run.
- Provided emergency and ongoing support for grassroots LGBT activists in Uganda, galvanizing international opposition and responding to the proposed Anti-Homosexuality Bill.
- Provided support and emergency assistance to nine men arrested and convicted of homosexuality in Senegal, resulting in the successful overturning of their conviction in April 2009, and brought international scrutiny to an ongoing pattern of abuses.



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About The Felipa de Souza Award

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 Felipa de Souza Award embodies the spirit and story of Felipa de Souza, who endured persecution and brutality after proudly declaring her intimacy with a woman during a 16th-century inquisition trial in Brazil. Since 1994, IGLHRC has presented the award to inspiring and courageous advocates in the movement to advance the human rights of LGBT people everywhere.



Colombia Diversa

Based in Bogotá, Colombia Diversa was formed by a group of LGBT activists in 2003 and since then, their steadfast work has made critical inroads for LGBT Colombians. Colombia Diversa has worked through a variety of political, social, cultural and academic channels, including through human rights reports and training materials, an on-line virtual LGBT community and wide-ranging advocacy campaigns.

In a context where human rights monitoring, reporting and response is often difficult and dangerous, Colombia Diversa has been on the frontlines. With general reporting on human rights, documentation of homophobia in schools, and critical analyses of the way LGBT people are discussed or made invisible in the media, Colombia Diversa has consistently worked to raise awareness and mobilize support for the fundamental rights of LGBT persons. They have built partnerships and strengthened ties with other human rights organizations domestically and globally. In 2008, they presented their findings on violations of LGBT rights in Colombia before the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, one of several efforts that are placing LGBT people firmly on the regional and international human rights agenda.

Their documentation has frequently been used as an advocacy tool for political and legal change. In 2009, they were able to obtain the same rights for same-sex couples as those of unmarried heterosexual couples. Colombia Diversa is monitoring the implementation of these rights, and pushing for related family and adoption rights. The group is also doing groundbreaking work to challenge stereotypes and build LGBT communities. Their archive cataloging how various media cover LGBT issues and people is being used to shape their campaign promoting LGBT rights in the mass media. This has improved public opinion and involved journalists, politicians, and academics as participants and supporters in the fight for LGBT rights in Colombia.

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Along with Profamilia and the Corporación Social Arco Iris (Theatron), Colombia Diversa has also launched the first LGBT community center in Latin America, pairing their national advocacy with attention to the needs of individuals and communities.

Colombia Diversa has proven itself to be an influential and impactful force for human rights in the region, winning strategic and much-publicized victories on behalf of LGBT people while working to change social conditions that lead to exclusion and marginalization.

Previous Felipa de Souza Awardees

Helem, Lebanon, 2009.

Iranian Queer Organization, Iran; Andres Ignacio Rivera Duarte, Chile, 2008.

Blue Diamond Society, Nepal, 2007.

Rauda Morcos, AWAT, Palestinian Activist from Israel, 2006.

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), Zimbabwe, 2005.

The Gender/Sexuality Rights Association of Taiwan (G/SRAT), Taiwan, 2004.

Lohana Berkins, Argentina, 2003.

Elizabeth Calvet, Brazil; Marta Lucia Tamayo Rincon, Marta Lucia Alvarez Giraldo, and Alba Nelly Montoya, Colombia; Cui Zi En, China; Maher Sabry, Egypt, 2002.

Companions on a Journey and Women's Support Group, Sri Lanka; Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays, Jamaica; Luis Gauthier (1950-2000), Chile (*Honorary Posthumous Award*), 2001.

Dejan Nebrigic (1970-1999), Serbia (*Honorary Posthumous Award*); Ditshwanelo - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, Botswana Intersex Society of North America (ISNA), USA; William Hernandez, El Salvador, 2000.

Aung Myo Min, Burma; Prudence Mabele, South Africa; Kiri Kiri and Chingu Sai, Korea; Simon Nkoli (1957-1998) South Africa (*Honorary Posthumous Award*), 1999.

Círculo Cultural Gay (CCG), Mexico; Dr. Tal Jarus-Hakak, Israel; Dédé Oetomo, Indonesia; Nancy Cárdenas (1934-1994), Mexico (*Honorary Posthumous Award*); Carlos Jáuregui (1958-1996), Argentina (*Honorary Posthumous Award*), 1998.

Demet Demir, Turkey; Genc Xhelaj, Albania; The Sister Namibia Collective, Namibia; Wilfredo Valenci Palacios, El Salvador (*Honorable Mention*), 1997.

The Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Group (TGLRG), Australia; Anjaree, Thailand; Luiz Mott, Brazil, 1995.

Juan Pablo Ordoñez, Colombia; ABIGALE, South Africa; Lepa Mladjenovic, Belgrade, 1994.



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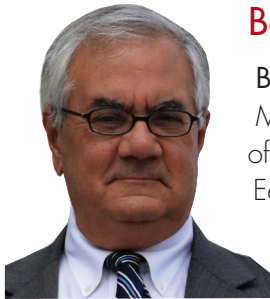
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About the Special Recognition Award

The **Special Recognition Award** honors notable individuals, corporations, or organizations whose contributions to 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.



Barney Frank

Barney Frank represents the Fourth Congressional District of Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives and is Chairman of the Financial Services Committee and the Co-Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus. A supporter of IGLHRC's work from its inception, Rep. Frank traveled to Russia in 1992 to protest that country's sodomy law, which was subsequently repealed. For the last three decades, he has sponsored legislation and policies to

improve the lives of LGBT people worldwide.

Frank won a seat in the Massachusetts State House of Representatives in 1972 and there introduced legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual preference in housing, employment and public accommodation.

In 1980 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and began an effort to repeal a provision of U.S. law that banned gays and lesbians from entering the country either as legal immigrants or as tourists; a goal accomplished after nine years of effort.

He was part of efforts in the 1980s to prevent the U.S. House of Representatives from using its power to undo progress on sodomy law repeal. His efforts at this time included work to increase AIDS funding and to block right wing legislation that would have hampered the fight against AIDS. In 1987 he became the first member of Congress to voluntarily acknowledge that he was gay.

In 1990, Frank challenged then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell on the ban on gays in the military. He elicited from them the acknowledgment that the ban was not based on any question about the reliability of gay and lesbian service members. He led efforts to persuade President Clinton to initiate a repeal of this ban and worked to support officials to overcome the significant resistance they faced. In the face of the failure of these efforts he led the debate in Congress against the adoption of the now infamous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and continues with efforts to repeal that policy.

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Frank also successfully persuaded the Clinton administration to take important steps to respect LGBT rights including abolishing a 40 year-old policy preventing LGBT people from obtaining security clearances, and including persecution based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the list of grounds for asylum in the US. He also persuaded the President to issue a strong statement against discrimination against sexual minorities in federal employment. He continues to work to award domestic partner benefits to federal employees.

In 1996, he was the major opponent in Congress of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Although successful in getting a majority of Democrats to vote to strike a provision banning any federal recognition of same-sex marriages, Republican opposition defeated the amendment. He has since worked to repeal the law.

Representative Frank has been a strong supporter of amending the Hate Crimes Act to include LGBT people in the legislation. The bill, finally signed into law by President Obama, is the first civil rights law that explicitly includes LGBT people.

Barney Frank has remained the main sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and introduced a bill fully inclusive of all LGBT persons. In a move that caused some controversy, he worked with Speaker Pelosi to pass a bill covering only sexual orientation when the votes did not exist to do more; believing that advancing the bill in that way would advance the chances of ultimately passing a fully-inclusive bill. In the current Congress, with a larger Democratic majority, and with increased education on transgender issues having gone forward, he is now working closely with the House leadership to get a fully-inclusive ENDA passed.

Previous Special Recognition Awardees

Microsoft, 2009.

IBM, 2008.

Paul Albert and Andrew Tobias, 2006.

Julie Dorf, *Founding Executive Director of IGLHRC*, 2005.



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The OUTSPOKEN Award

The **OUTSPOKEN Award** recognizes the leadership of an ally to the global LGBT community whose public support has contributed substantially to advancing the rights and understanding of LGBT people everywhere. The OUTSPOKEN Award was created to recognize that prominent individuals or entities speaking out in support of human rights for LGBT people play a special and critical role in advancing global understanding of and commitment to the rights of our community.

The OUTSPOKEN Award is not merely an honor, but also a call for leadership by accomplished and effective leaders on behalf of the LGBT community worldwide.



Michel Sidibé

Michel Sidibé is the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). UNAIDS brings together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland, with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. UNAIDS' co-sponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Mr Sidibé's appointment was effective 1 January 2009, with the rank of Under Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Before joining UNAIDS, Mr. Sidibé spent more than 25 years in public service. Mr. Sidibé began his career in global health and development when he became concerned with the health and welfare of the nomadic Tuareg people in the Timbuktu region of his native Mali.

These efforts evolved into a role as country director for the international development federation Terre des Hommes. In 1987, Mr Sidibé joined UNICEF in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In his 14 years at UNICEF he oversaw programmes across ten francophone countries in Africa. He also served as UNICEF Country Representative in several African countries including Swaziland, Burundi, and Uganda.

Mr. Sidibé became the Director of the Country and Regional Support Department for UNAIDS in 2001. In 2007, he was appointed as UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director of Programmes and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. In this capacity, he led UNAIDS' contributions to regional and country responses as well as UNAIDS' efforts in global policies, evidence, and monitoring and evaluation.

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Mr. Sidibé earned two Post-Master's Diplomas in Social Planning and Demography as well as in Development and Political Economy from the University of Clermont. He also holds a Master's Degree in Economics. In 2007, Mr. Sidibé was awarded an honorary professorship at Stellenbosch University of South Africa.

Born in 1952, Mr Sidibé is a citizen of Mali. He is fluent in English and French. He also speaks several African languages including Bambara, Mandingo, and Dioula. He is married and has four children.

Previous **OUTSPOKEN** Awardees

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and **Congressman Tom Lantos**, (*Presented Posthumously*), 2008.

The Honorable Mary Robinson, *President of Ireland, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*, 2005.



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From the Executive Director

On behalf of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), we are pleased to welcome you to *A Celebration of Courage*, our 20th anniversary gala. Our annual event offers the opportunity to honor those who have made a significant, lasting, and often heroic impact on the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people worldwide and to acknowledge the supporters who have passionately and consistently sustained our work.

IGLHRC was founded in 1990 with a tiny budget and an even smaller office, but it possessed a vision: that LGBT people and people living with HIV and AIDS are entitled to respect for and protection of their fundamental human rights. Twenty years later, IGLHRC's mission to advance human rights for everyone, everywhere is moving closer to reality. We are so very proud to present awards tonight to both individuals and organizations who have contributed to the movement toward positive change.

We are pleased to present the **2010 Outspoken Award** to **Mr. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS**. Under Sidibé's leadership, UNAIDS has taken a leading role in challenging the criminalization of consensual adult same-sex sexual behavior and has called on all nations to remove laws and policies that discriminate against LGBT people and those affected by HIV/AIDS.

With the **2010 Special Recognition Award**, we honor **Congressman Barney Frank** for his steadfast commitment to defending LGBT rights in the United States Congress and his sponsorship of legislation and policy to improve the lives of LGBT people worldwide. He has shown great dedication to IGLHRC's vision of a world in which LGBT people live without fear.

We proudly present the **2010 Felipa de Souza Award** to **Colombia Diversa**, an organization founded in 2003, which works toward the full enjoyment of human rights by promoting legislation, denouncing violations, and researching homophobia in Colombia. We are pleased to have **Executive Director Marcela Sánchez Buitraga** here with us to accept the award.

Thank you to all who have contributed to furthering IGLHRC's mission and to making *A Celebration of Courage* possible. We hope for your support over the next twenty years as we strive together to create a world in which human rights are guaranteed for everyone, everywhere.

Thank you,

Cary Alan Johnson, Executive Director



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For Immediate Release:

Colombia Diversa, Sidibé and Frank Honored for Advancement of LGBT Rights

IGLHRC Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Contact: Sam Cook, IGLHRC Director of Communications, 212-430-6023

(New York, March 11, 2010) – On its 20th anniversary, the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) is dedicating its annual signature fundraiser – *A Celebration of Courage* – to marking the past two decades of activism for LGBT equality. As Cary Alan Johnson, Executive Director of IGLHRC noted, “We have come a long way from our beginnings as a small group of activists in San Francisco at a time when there were very few organizations working on LGBT rights in an international way.”

Many dedicated individuals and organizations have played a part in achieving progress on LGBT rights. This year’s *A Celebration of Courage* galas – on March 15 in New York and March 18 in San Francisco – will honor **Colombian LGBT organization Colombia Diversa, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé, and Representative Barney Frank** for their important contributions.

“In this movement that offers so many challenges, it is important that we take the time to honor the progress that has been made,” said Johnson. These events offer an opportunity to remember milestones for equality; to honor those who have made a significant impact on the lives of LGBT people worldwide; and to acknowledge the supporters who have passionately and consistently sustained IGLHRC’s work. It is also an important moment to gather support – including financial support – that will allow IGLHRC to continue its work and partnerships with global LGBT activists.

It is the dedication to support local activists that is the hallmark of IGLHRCs work as it moves into the next decade. One such group, **the Bogotá-based LGBT group Colombia Diversa, will be awarded IGLHRC’s Felipa de Souza award for 2010**; an annual award, including \$5,000 to further the recipients’ work, given to an outstanding grassroots group or individual in recognition of their courage and activism for the promotion and protection of human rights for all people. “In a context where human rights documentation, reporting and responding can be difficult and dangerous, Colombia Diversa is on the frontlines. Their tireless work to bring about change has made critical inroads for LGBT Colombians and for the human rights of all people,” said Johnson.

Formed in 2003 by a group of LGBT activists, Colombia Diversa’s work in the political, social, cultural and academic spheres has achieved significant advances. Notably, their work led to a landmark Constitutional Court ruling in 2009 that achieved the same rights for same-sex couples as those of unmarried heterosexual couples. Colombia Diversa has successfully

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lobbied for political and legal change and widely reported on rights violations and homophobia in places like schools and the media; such efforts are placing LGBT people firmly on the regional and international human rights agenda. As a part of a broad coalition, Colombia Diversa launched the first LGBT community center in Latin America, pairing national advocacy with attention to the needs of LGBT individuals and communities. The organization is now working to secure the rights of same-sex parents and families, including the recognition of adoption by same-sex couples.

"The Felipa de Souza Award gives strong voice and respect to activists in human rights arenas all over the world," said Marcela Sánchez Buitrago, Executive Director of Colombia Diversa. "It gives Colombia Diversa a platform, allowing us to be heard and to improve our capacity to impact human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in Colombia and in Latin America."

The work of such local organizations is amplified and supported when prominent individuals use the power of their voice to advance the rights and understanding of LGBT people. UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé has done exactly this and is being honored by IGLHRC with the Outspoken Award. This award recognizes the leadership of an ally of the global LGBT community and has been accepted in previous years by luminaries such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson. Mr. Sidibé has been a vocal supporter of LGBT rights, calling for inclusive HIV and AIDS programming and an end to criminalization and discrimination. "It's my duty to speak out for people without a voice," said Mr. Sidibé. "We must end homophobia and strike down laws that discriminate against men who have sex with men, bisexuals, lesbians, and transgender people." Since his appointment in 2009, Sidibé has used his position to stress the link between the AIDS response and global human rights. He has taken forward the message that ending the stigma and discrimination faced by LGBT people is absolutely essential to breaking the trajectory of the AIDS epidemic.

IGLHRC is also honored to present the Special Recognition Award to Representative Barney Frank, who has been a strong ally and supporter of the organization's work since its earliest days in San Francisco. Rep. Frank has been a powerful force for LGBT equality worldwide, from his trip to Russia to speak out against the country's sodomy law in 1992 to his three decades of sponsoring pro-LGBT legislation and policies as a member of the US Congress that is ongoing to this day.

The galas in New York and San Francisco will be hosted by **performer and recording artist Bebe Zahara Benet, the winner of Season One of *RuPaul's Drag Race***. The gala on March 15 at the Rosenthal Penthouse at New York University will feature **poet and writer Staceyann Chin** and **jazz musician Amikaeyla Gaston** will perform at the March 18 gala at the W Hotel in San Francisco.

For a press pass to *A Celebration of Courage* events, please email scook@iglhrc.org.



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