

## Purpose statement

### What is The Gathering?

The ILGA-Europe Gathering Online is:

- A place for LGBTI activists to come together, to connect and to get inspiration.
- A space to listen to each other and to have conversations about how we continue to build a strong and inclusive movement.
- A space to show up for each other in solidarity.
- A moment for activists and allies to come together to reflect, to gain new perspectives, and to identify ways to move our collective work forward as a European and Central Asian LGBTI movement.
- A moment to experience togetherness and reaffirm our collective strength.

We believe that The Gathering can do this by offering spaces where we can:

- Identify ways to strengthen solidarity with each other and work towards a more inclusive movement.
- Build a picture of shared concerns and challenges within our movement and identify ways forward.
- Get new perspectives, generate new ideas and learn from each other.
- Have critical and challenging conversations about what we have to work on as a movement.

### The aims of The Gathering are:

1. To get inspired, learn and feel empowered by working together

This will happen through....

- **Opportunities to exchange experiences**, from useful resources and information, to lessons learned and new ideas for making change happen.
- **Networking opportunities** to allow people to get in touch and identify new partners via online tools.
- **Social spaces** where we can have fun, breathe, and celebrate our movement together.

2. To bring together a picture of shared challenges and opportunities for our movement and identify ways forward

This will happen by:

- **Gaining new perspectives on our current realities** during panels and workshops where we reflect on our wins and challenges, and have critical and challenging conversations on where we are at as a movement.
- **Identifying ways forward** during workshops where we learn from experiences, identify opportunities, get new ideas on how to make change happen, and explore innovative ways of working together.
- **Hearing different perspectives on a variety of issues** that are currently important for our movement, including through membership-led spaces (to be suggested by the membership).
- **Strengthening external support** by inviting political actors, NGO allies, funders and others to take part in conversations about the realities of LGBTI communities and how they can play a role in the change we need.

**Who is The Gathering for?**

- Firstly, it is for LGBTI activists from the European/Central Asian LGBTI movement.
- It is also for allies from other NGOs, institutions and governments, and funders, among others.

**What is ILGA-Europe's role?**

- To create a space where the diversity of the movement can come together and re-affirm what we have in common.
- To work to make sure that a diversity of voices are part of the programme and can be heard, especially those who are often under-represented. We will particularly do this by proactively supporting and enabling the participation of underrepresented groups.
- To identify current questions, reflections and trends that are shared by many in the movement.
- To facilitate spaces where activists can learn from each other on how to respond to common challenges, and build on opportunities.
- To offer a platform where activists and allies can strengthen cooperation.