



20 October 2016

ILGA Secretariat
5th Floor - 20 Rue Rothschild
1202 Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Re: Hosting Bid, ILGA World Conference 2018

Ka ta^hki te tītī, ka ta^hki te kākā, ka ta^hki hoki ahau – tihei mauri ora.

Tēnā koutou, e ka ra^hkatira takatāpui puta noa o te Ao Whānui, kei ILGA. Tēnā koutou i ru^hka i te aroha ki a rātou mā kua whawhaitia te whawhai mo ā tātou tika tā^hkata, a kua wheturakitia - rātou ki a rātou ka moe. He mihi nui tēnei ki a koutou e whai ana i ā rātou tapuwae, nō reira ōku tino ra^hkatira – tēnā tātou katoa.

As do the birds of the sea and the birds of the forest, so now do I call out to you – behold the breath of life!

Greetings to the leadership of the LGBTIQ+ communities of the World, represented in ILGA. Greetings to you in the love we share for those who have fought for our human rights, and who have taken their place in the stars – we remember them always. Greetings to you, our chiefs of today, who follow in their footsteps – greetings one and all.

Purpose of this letter

I write to you to offer the endorsement of the New Zealand Human Rights Commission for the bid for Aotearoa-New Zealand to host the ILGA World Conference in Wellington in 2018.

Who are we?

The NZ Human Rights Commission (NZHRC) is New Zealand's National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) which currently holds an A-status accreditation as an NHRI in the United Nations framework. Our purpose is to promote and protect the human rights of all people in Aotearoa New Zealand. We work for a free, fair, safe and just New Zealand, where diversity is valued and human dignity and rights are respected.

Level 8, Vector Building, 44 The Terrace, PO Box 12411, Thorndon, Te Whanganui a Tara Wellington 6011
Aotearoa New Zealand

Waea Telephone 64-4-473 9981 Waea Whakahua Facsimile 64-4-471 6759
Infoline / Toll free 0800 496 877 / TTY (teletypewriter) 0800 150 111 / infoline@hrc.co.nz
www.hrc.co.nz

The human rights of people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities is included in the brief of the NZHRC and in the work the organisation does on a regular basis. Our organisation was recently accorded the Rainbow Tick, a certification mark awarded to organisations that have completed a diversity and inclusion certification process which assesses whether a workplace understands, values, and welcomes sexual and gender diversity. As another example, in 2008 the NZHRC published the final report into its enquiry into the rights of Trans* people [*To Be Who I Am / Kia noho au ki tōku anō ao*](#), which was a world first for a NHRI. The implementation of the recommendations of this report is ongoing and so far has required work by the NZHRC, government agencies, trans people and the wider community.

The proactive and responsive sexual orientation and gender identity work in the NZHRC's current Business Plan aligns very closely with the priorities identified by our community partners and stakeholders, and the three organisations collaborating on the bid cover the interests of a range of groups particularly vulnerable in our communities, being Māori people, intersex people, and young people.

NZHRC's support for the ILGA World Conference Bid

The NZHRC wishes to record its strong support the Aotearoa-New Zealand bid to host the 2018 ILGA World Conference for the following reasons:

- Aotearoa-New Zealand is a great place to hold a conference
- Wellington is a very attractive and accessible city to host a meeting in
- The host organisations have everything they need to be great hosts of a great conference.

The Country

Aotearoa-New Zealand is a small developed country in the South Pacific, with a very good human rights record. Aotearoa-New Zealand was a contributing party to the development of the United Nations (UN) Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a signatory to all the major UN human rights instruments. Same sex sexual activity was decriminalised in Aotearoa-New Zealand in 1986, anti-discrimination law covered sexual orientation from 1993, civil unions were legislated for in 2004, and same-sex marriages were first celebrated in 2013. Aotearoa-New Zealand has a democratic government, has a strong adherence to the rule of law, and has a high safety rating.

The City

Wellington is the capital city of Aotearoa-New Zealand, home to the NZ Parliament and the NZ Government as well as a substantial number of the country's other key institutions. With the CBD situated on the waterfront of its magnificent harbour, Wellington is attractive and compact, and it has a comprehensive public transport system making it more accessible than most cities in the country. For those who like to go out after the work is done, Wellington boasts a thriving nightlife.

The Host Organisations

ITANZ (Intersex Trust of Aotearoa-New Zealand), Tiwhanawhana Trust and Rainbow Youth Incorporated are all well-established, trusted and respected organisations in Aotearoa-New Zealand, with a national profile in the LGBTIQ+ space. All three organisations are seen by the NZHRC as key stakeholders, critical to our organisation's work in advancing LGBTIQ+ human rights, and we acknowledge the credibility that all three organisations have with government, with the iwi (Māori tribal), community and voluntary sector, and with the LGBTIQ+ communities that they work for and alongside.

In addition, we have viewed the draft programme for the event and we endorse the approach that the bid organisers are proposing for the running of the Conference.

The NZHRC is proud to support the bid to host the ILGA World 2018 Conference in Wellington, Aotearoa-New Zealand and commends the bid and its organisers to you.

Nō reira, kia piki te ora, te kaha me te maramataka ki a koutou – wishing you health, strength and enlightenment as you deliberate.

Heoi anō,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Tankersley', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

NEW ZEALAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Richard Tankersley
Commissioner