



WORLDPRIDE  
HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CONFERENCE  
JUNE 25-27, 2014  
TORONTO

POST  
CONFERENCE  
REPORT  
#WPHRC14





**“I TRULY HAVE NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR THE BRILLIANT ORGANIZATION OF THE ENTIRE EVENT. THE SPEAKERS WERE EXCELLENT AND SO INSPIRING. THE EVENT WAS TRANSFORMATIVE FOR ME TO HEAR FROM DELEGATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD TELL THEIR STORIES AND SHARE THEIR WORK AND EXPERIENCES. I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR HAVING BEEN AFFORDED THIS OPPORTUNITY. –DELEGATE**

# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS BRENDA COSSMAN AND DOUG KERR



For three incredible days in June 2014, over 500 LGBTQ activists from 52 countries gathered in Toronto for the WorldPride Human Rights Conference 2014. Hosted by the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto, the Conference was an opportunity to share stories, build strategies and engage in a much needed dialogue about LGBTQ human rights. It was also a centerpiece of WorldPride Toronto 2014, and an important part of its overall success.

We want to thank everyone who made this conference such a triumph. First of all, the speakers and attendees: you came from around the world to share your stories of resistance and hope. As organizers, we were truly humbled and inspired by your courage, commitment and resilience. Second, to our volunteers: none of this could have happened without you. Over and over again, conference participants praised the army of volunteers. From providing directions to problem solving, you made the conference participants feel welcome. And thanks to our many sponsors. Without your support we could never have brought this many people together to share, strategize, network and inspire.

Yes, there was room for improvement. We take to heart the accessibility challenges in the conference venue and residence rooms, and we heard many comments about food. Lots of participants wanted more of what was offered, especially on strategies and skills training. We realize that for many, three days was simply not enough. True, though we take that response as a good sign, that we were beginning an exploration of vitally important questions.

But friendships were formed, networks and alliances were built, as we move forward in the global struggle for LGBTQ human rights. While it is impossible to capture the excitement and energy of the three days in Toronto in June, we hope that the images and words in the following pages help to keep some of that energy and inspiration alive in our daily work, struggles and lives.

We hope we will have an opportunity to meet again in Madrid in 2017 for the next WorldPride.





**The Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies** at University College, University of Toronto offers an undergraduate program and a collaborative graduate program, hosts academic and community events, and promotes research into sexuality. It is a hub forging connections among faculty, students, and community members interested in questions about how we understand sexual diversity and sexual practices. The University of Toronto is one of the leading research and teaching faculties in North America, with more than 82,000 students across three campuses.



**WorldPride 2014 Toronto**, presented by Pride Toronto, was a 10-day global celebration incorporating activism, education and the history of LGBTQ2SA\* communities. Toronto was the first WorldPride celebration ever held in North America and the 4th such festival in the world. WorldPride brought people together from around the world to honour our past, celebrate the present and inspire a better future for all.

“THERE WERE SO MANY MOMENTS WHEN I THOUGHT TO MYSELF AFTER A CONVERSATION “THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TYPES OF CONVERSATIONS THAT WE WILL LOOK BACK UPON AND REMEMBER AS HAVING MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE, THE KINDS OF CONVERSATIONS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD.” WHEN WE FINALLY MARCHED AS A DELEGATION IN THE WORLDPRIDE PARADE, THERE WERE OVER 30 PEOPLE THAT WERE MARCHING WITH US, AND WE FELT LIKE WE HAD A REAL PRESENCE THAT REALLY STARTED AT THE CONFERENCE.”  
–DELEGATE







# SESSIONS

**“HEARING THE HEART-  
FELT STORIES FROM  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
GAY MARSHALLS,  
MOVED ME LITERALLY  
TO TEARS.”**

—PRESENTER



## DAY ONE

LGBTQ PARENTS AND FAMILIES  
TWO-SPIRITED RESEARCH  
INTERSEX PILOT PROGRAM  
HOMONATIONALISM IN SPORTS AND EDUCATION  
LGBT REFUGEES IN CANADA  
INTIMACY AND HIV/AIDS  
CREATING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS  
TWO-SPIRITED ACTIVISM  
DOMESTIC LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN THE WORKPLACE  
INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES TO HIV/AIDS  
RUSSIA, EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CAUCASUS  
ASEXUALITY IN SEXUAL EDUCATION  
CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON HIV/AIDS  
DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING QUEER EDUCATORS  
GAY AND 2-SPIRIT MEN AGING WITH HIV  
THE POLITICS OF PRIDE PARADES  
LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL WORKPLACE  
SEX WORK ACTIVISM  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY  
LIVING WITH HIV

## DAY TWO

TEACHER EDUCATION  
HIV CRIMINALIZATION  
CHALLENGING COLONIAL LEGACIES  
MEDIA REPRESENTATIONS  
ACTIVISM IN THE DIASPORA  
ASIAN TRANS\* WOMEN IN TORONTO  
COMPETING INTERESTS  
EMPOWERING YOUTH AS ADVOCATES AND ACTIVISTS  
HIV/AIDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
CRIMINAL LAW AND SODOMY  
HOMOPHOBIA IN THE MEDIA  
TRANS\* ASIA  
RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE IN UGANDA  
PRIDE TORONTO'S INTERNATIONAL GRAND MARSHALLS: PART I  
YOUTH AND QUEER IDENTITY  
QUEER HEALTH  
BOTHO: LGBT LIVES IN BOTSWANA  
CRITICALLY QUEER  
LAW, STATE, AND POLITICS  
PRIDE TORONTO'S INTERNATIONAL GRAND MARSHALLS: PART II





## DAY THREE

SUPPORTING YOUTH  
DISABILITY RIGHTS AND ACTIVISM  
HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA  
TRANS\* ACTIVISM  
STATE INTOLERANCE  
ASIAN LGBT DIASPORA IN CANADA  
UNIONS AND LGBTQ RIGHTS  
YOUTH AND HIV/AIDS  
AGING  
LGBT LIVES IN THE CARIBBEAN  
LGBTQ2 YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
STATE ADVOCACY  
VIOLENCE AGAINST LBT PEOPLE IN ASIA  
POVERTY AND INEQUALITY  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ONTARIO  
LATIN AMERICA  
ADVOCACY IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS  
RELIGIOUS IDENTITY/ RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION  
INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS\* AND INTERSEX ASSOCIATION (ILGA)  
ANTI-LGBT VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT





52

COUNTRIES  
REPRESENTED

80

CONFERENCE  
VOLUNTEERS



# 64

## SESSIONS

**“I GOT TO MEET MANY PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND DEVELOP GREAT CONNECTIONS, UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT ISSUES FACING DIFFERENT PEOPLE...A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.”**

—DELEGATE





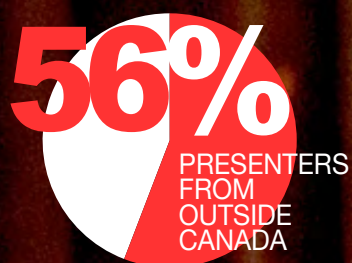




# 195

## PRESENTERS

110 FROM OUTSIDE CANADA







**2400**  
ATTENDEES  
FROM  
**52**  
COUNTRIES



# PUBLIC PLENARY SESSIONS

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 25**

Pathbreakers



Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir  
Jónína Leósdóttir  
Edith Windsor  
Justice Harvey Brownstone



**THURSDAY JUNE 26**

Pathbreakers



Piya Chattopadhyay  
in conversation with  
Dr. Frank Mugisha and  
Justice Monica Mbaru



**THURSDAY JUNE 27**

LGBTI Rights in Russia  
Jian Ghomeshi in  
conversation with

**Masha Green**

Building A  
Global Trans\* Movement  
Jian Ghomeshi in  
conversation with

**Tamara Adrián**





# SELECT MEDIA

HUFFINGTON POST CANADA  
World Pride: Celebrating  
Freedom For All

GLOBE AND MAIL

Voices of WorldPride: LGBT  
activists in their own words

CTV NEWS

International  
gay rights Takes  
Centre Stage

STRAIGHT.COM

WorldPride Toronto conferences address  
human rights and asexuality

CBC NEWS

WorldPride: A gay rights  
activist on being outed  
in Uganda

TORONTO STAR

Human Rights  
Conference  
reminds pride  
revellers the  
struggle  
continues

CBC THE NATIONAL

LGBTQ activists  
share thoughts  
on human rights  
successes and  
setbacks

DAILY XTRA

WorldPride to host  
human rights conference

GLOBE AND MAIL

Ugandan gay rights  
activists granted visas  
for Canadian visit

TORONTO LIFE

Five gay things  
(other than the parade)

TORONTO STAR  
TORONTO  
BECOMING  
A HUB FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
LGBTQ ADVOCACY



# LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAVID ONLEY AND HIS WIFE RUTH ANN ONLEY WELCOMED THE DELEGATES FOR A CELEBRATION IN THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SUITE AT QUEEN'S PARK AT THE END OF THE WORLDPRIDE HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE. NEWLY ELECTED ONTARIO PREMIER KATHLEEN WYNNE AND HER PARTNER JANE ROUTHWAITE WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

BOTH THE HONORABLE DAVID ONLEY AND PREMIER KATHLEEN WYNNE ADDRESSED THE GATHERING AND SPOKE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR LGBT RIGHTS AT HOME AND ABROAD. THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ALSO REMARKED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLIES ACROSS EQUITY SEEKING GROUPS, INCLUDING THE RIGHTS AND ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. THE EXCITEMENT, INSPIRATION AND SHEER PRIDE WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY FINALE TO AN EXTRAORDINARY THREE DAYS.







# CONFERENCE LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS

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Brenda Cossman  
Director, Bonham Centre for  
Sexual Diversity Studies

Doug Kerr, WorldPride Human  
Rights Program Team Co-Lead

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“

I REALLY APPRECIATE  
HEARING AND SHARING  
OUR STORIES AND  
CREATING VALUABLE  
AND INSPIRING HISTORY  
REGARDLESS IF IT IS  
GOOD, BAD OR UGLY.

IT IS OUR HISTORY  
AND THE STORIES  
ARE BEING TOLD.

”

—DELEGATE







LGBT YOUTH  
AND EDUCATION

LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN THE WORKPLACE

TRAVEL SPONSOR



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

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VIDEO

THE  
READING  
SALON

Faculty of Arts and Science  
University of Toronto Libraries  
School of Graduate Studies  
Sexual and Gender Diversity Office  
Faculty of Law  
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)  
Department of Political Science  
Department Slavic Languages and Literature  
School of Public Policy  
Women and Gender Studies Institute  
Department of East Asian Studies  
Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies  
Hart House  
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**RAINBOW WALL  
INDIEGOGO CAMPAIGN**

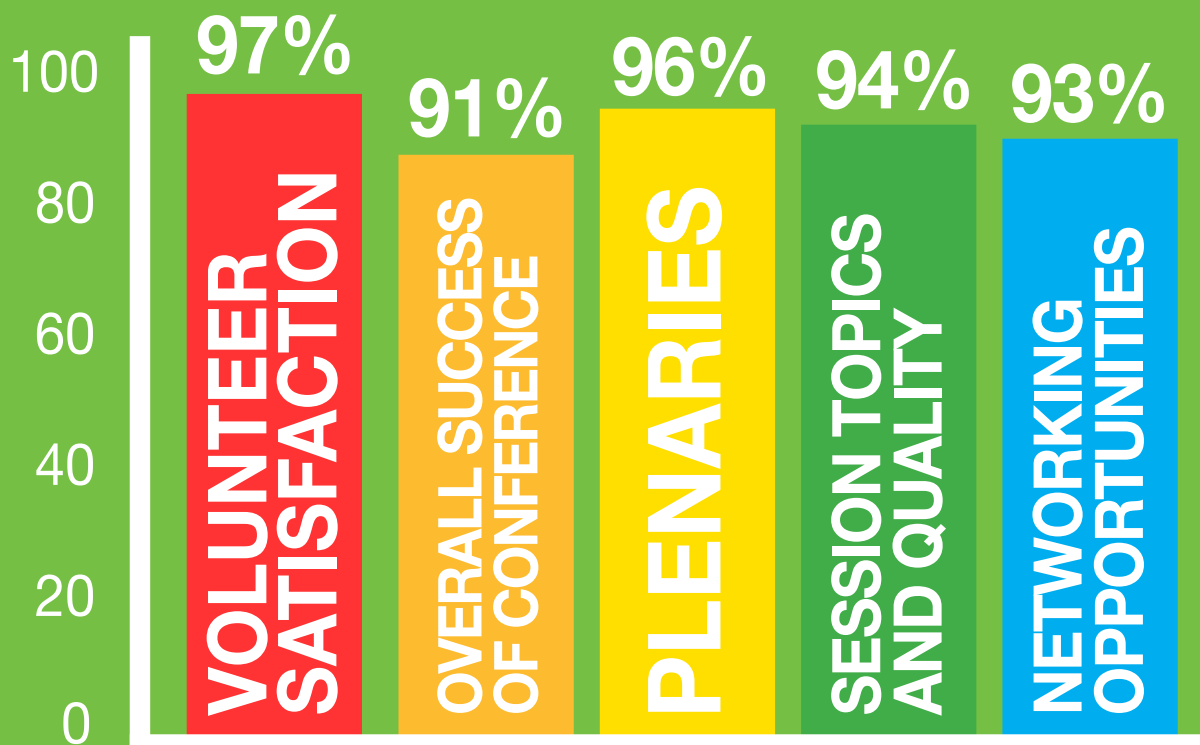
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Thai Nguyen  
Ceta Ramkhalawansingh  
David Rayside  
Scott Rayter  
Esteban and Bradley  
Schmale  
Peter Waite





# POST CONFERENCE SURVEY RESULTS

WE MET OR EXCEEDED  
EXPECTATIONS IN THESE AREAS











KYLE KIRKUP, TORONTO  
 JOHANNA SIGURDARDOTTIR, ICELAND  
 JÓNNA LEOSDÓTTIR, ICELAND  
 BRENDIA COSSMAN, TORONTO





SHIVANA GOWIN, FIJI









**“WITH THE SHEER NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES, THE RANGE OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED...I APPLAUD THE ORGANIZERS FOR THIS, BECAUSE IN SOME CASES, IT WAS NOT JUST ONE OR TWO DELEGATES THAT WAS EXPECTED TO SPEAK FOR ALL QUEERS, ALL SEXUALITY AND GENDER POLITICS IN THEIR NATIONS OR THEIR REGIONS, BUT 3 OR 4 OR 6; AND IN MY EXPERIENCE AT THE CONFERENCE, THIS CONTRIBUTED HUGELY TO OPENING UP THE RANGE, BREADTH AND DEPTH OF DISCUSSION. THE PANEL SESSIONS ONLY CRACKED OPEN THE COMPLEXITIES; THE BREAKS AND OTHER NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES, SESSIONS THAT BUILT ON SESSIONS, AND EVEN PLACES LIKE PLENARY LINE-UPS IS WHERE I FELT THE MOST CRITICAL ENGAGEMENT HAPPENED - AND THAT’S A MARK OF GOOD CONFERENCE AS WELL; IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT THE PANELS BUT WHO’S THERE IN THE ROOM, WHO’S PRESENTING BUT ALSO WHO’S LISTENING.” – PRESENTER**





# SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE REACH

**FACEBOOK FANS**  
5200+

**TWITTER FOLLOWERS**  
1300+

**COMBINED  
VIDEO VIEWS**  
14,000+

**UNIQUE  
WEBSITE  
VISITORS**  
18,500+

TOP 10 VISITORS:  
CANADA, UNITED STATES,  
UGANDA, UNITED KINGDOM,  
KENYA, NIGERIA, INDIA,  
GHANA, PAKISTAN





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