



# IGLYO Annual Report

2025



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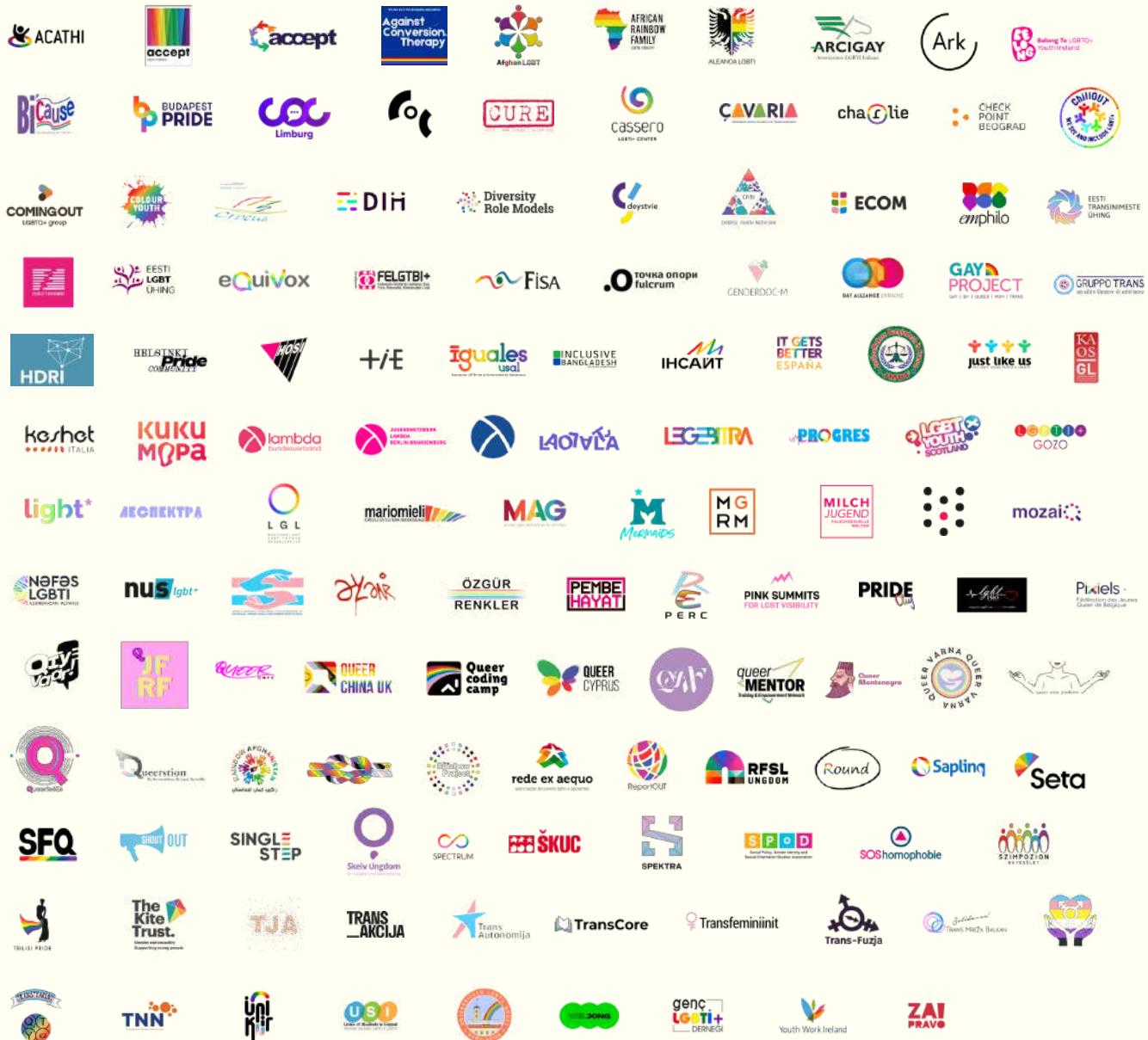


Government of  
the Netherlands



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# IGLYO Members at the end of 2025



IGLYO  
International LGBTQI Youth and Student Organisation  
Chaussée de Boondael 6, Brussels B-1050, Belgium  
Registration number: BE0808808665  
[iglyo.org](http://iglyo.org) | [education.iglyo.org](http://education.iglyo.org)

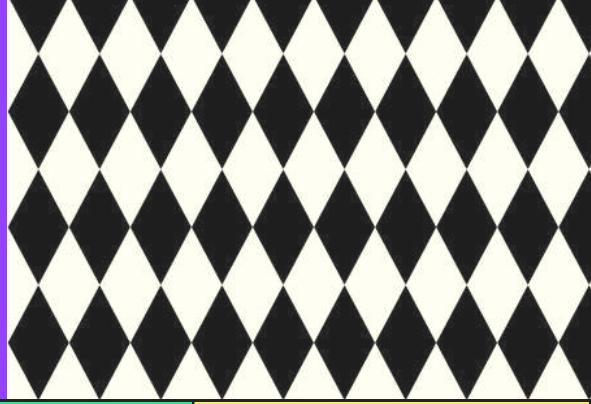


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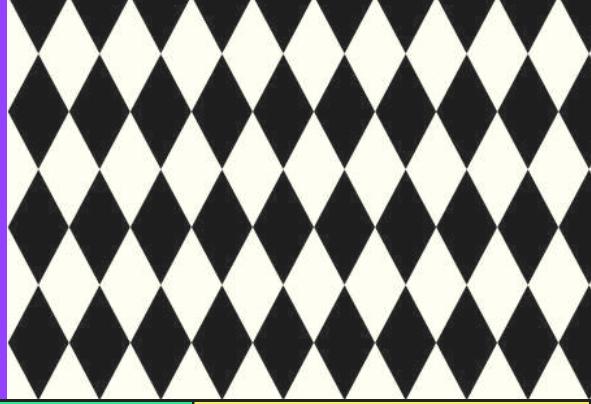


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# Preface

# Highlights & Acknowledgements

After turning to our past in 2024 with our 40th anniversary celebrations, 2025 was very much about looking forward and strategising around the future of IGLYO and the LGBTQI youth movement as a whole. We notably adopted a solid new Strategic Plan for the four years ahead as well as new internal policies that make the network more equitable and accessible for organisations led by minoritised groups within the LGBTQI community.

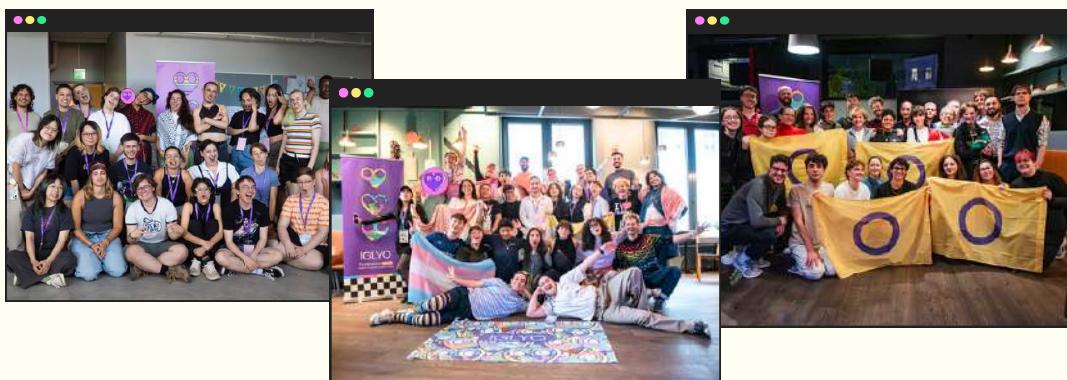
This year was not short on achievements. Besides our continued work with European institutions and through advocacy events, we also increased our work on three priority areas this year. We continued our work on inclusive education, including the launch of our updated LGBTQI Inclusive Education Map, Index & Report on a brand new website, new tools for policymakers and educators, our Proud Pupils Conference in Barcelona, and our Education Mentorship Programme that supported six member-led national projects working on inclusive education. We further increased our advocacy efforts for inclusion in sport with a new IGLYO Publication and an international youth conference in Brussels. And finally we developed our work in health and trans rights, including strategic coordination and new research on trans-specific healthcare.

But that's not all: Our programmes this year such as the Activist Academy in Tampere trained and built the capacities of over 100 LGBTQI young people and activists. Our Annual Members' Conference in Zurich saw a record number of 98 Members present or represented via proxy. Our IGLYO Grants Programme supported 5 Members' projects in Czechia, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, and Sweden. Our Board and staff represented the voice of LGBTQI youth in over 90 international events, and our online posts were seen over 1.5 million times.

All these achievements and the many more for you to discover in this Annual Report would not have been possible without the work of the many activists and stakeholders involved in the development and flourishing of our network.

First of all, thank you to all our Member Organisations for their dedication and trust. We also thank our many partner organisations and colleagues in other youth and LGBTQI NGOs, Intergroups, and institutions for collaborating on the same goals. We furthermore extend a warm thank you to the donors who have supported our work this year, and to our funders for their long-standing support. And of course, a warm thank you to all the bodies of the organisation — the IGLYO Board, the Secretariat, the Anti-Racism Panel and the Governance Team — for turning this work into a reality every day.

Thank you for 2025, and see you all in 2026 for another year of queer youth activism!



# Foreword by the Board Chair

Dear IGLYO Members,

This past year has revealed, with unsettling clarity, the shifting and increasingly hostile realities faced by LGBTQI+ people across Europe. Pride bans in Hungary, violent backlash in Georgia, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, arrests of Turkish activists for daring to speak their truth, and genocides unfolding in real time; all expose a region where democracy is not only fragile, but actively eroding. What was once considered a bloc of human-rights defenders is now home to governments that legitimise discrimination, curtail fundamental freedoms, and embolden narratives that place entire communities at risk. These are not isolated incidents; they form a systemic pattern we must confront with honesty and urgency.

At the same time, our movements continue to confront internal challenges. Racialised, migrant, and non-white-passing activists remain disproportionately sidelined; even within spaces that publicly champion inclusion. This year made these contradictions visible. We witnessed large mobilisations for Hungary's Pride, while the country's mandatory HIV-negative requirement for migrants received almost no attention. Famous detained activists figures continued to be centred, while the frequent arrests and deportations of queer migrants and asylum seekers rarely entered our shared narrative. These tensions do not erase the important work happening across civil society, but they remind us that solidarity is not complete if it is selective.

Yet within these realities, resilience has taken a more grounded and intentional form. It is visible in the racialised board, staff, advisory bodies and the BIPOC member's willingness to engage in honest conversations about power, representation, and accountability. It is visible in the organisational steps we have taken this year; including reviewing our governance practices, strengthening transparency mechanisms, and creating more accessible processes for member participation.

This year marked a turning point. The membership approved a new Strategic Plan that places intersectionality, accountability, and lived experience at its core. Unlike previous cycles, this plan was shaped through broad, intentional engagement and is directly rooted in our Manifesto — a Manifesto that calls on us to confront inequalities honestly, centre those most marginalised, and rebuild our structures from the ground up. This plan reflects a collective demand to reorient the network toward those most affected by systemic injustice. It shifts us from reacting to inequality toward transforming the systems; including our own; that allow it to persist.

The year ahead will require continued courage and consistency. Strengthening this network means confronting external hostility while addressing internal patterns that undermine solidarity. But it also offers an opportunity: to build a more accountable, representative, and values-aligned organisation capable of responding to the world as it is, not as we wish it to be. As we move forward, we remain guided by clarity and commitment: to uphold our manifesto, to honour the trust our members place in us, and to build a network that represents and protects all of us — not only in principle, but in practice.



Yassine C. (They/He)

Board Chair

# Foreword by the Executive Director

This has been a critical year for IGLYO; we launched our LGBTQI Inclusive Education map, trained and supported hundreds of LGBTQI youth activists, and finalised our new strategic plan, which will guide us for the next 4 years.

Our strategic plan was developed by the IGLYO Board in close collaboration with our Members and shows LGBTQI young people want real, meaningful change that uplifts the most marginalised in our communities. LGBTQI young people want justice, equity, and a bright future; their sense of what's right is unshakeable, and they will not compromise in their goals, nor should they.

The anti-rights movement has been targeting LGBTQI children and young people specifically because they have less of a voice in society. The LGBTQI youth community has been under attack, and we witness this with policies which target inclusive education, policies that ban trans affirming care for young people, and policies which undermine the right to seek asylum. We are living in a time of unprecedented hostility. Nearly every week we hear of new anti-LGBTQI laws being passed, or one of our siblings being arrested, or of an LGBTQI young person losing their life.

It can be difficult to be hopeful, but hope is a practice, it's a verb, it's something you do. In this environment, LGBTQI young people are so used to milking every Euro for what it's worth, and they do the same to themselves as well. There has never been a more important time to invest in the resilience of those at the forefront of the LGBTQI rights movement, and that is exactly what IGLYO is doing through our capacity building programmes.

I have an incredible amount of admiration for the Board of IGLYO, which oversees the organisation's governance and strategy. Yassine, Taj, Spyros, Yasemin and Osk – it has been an honour to work with you. There is no IGLYO without your hard work and dedication. To the Secretariat, your effort, passion, and dedication are what make it easy to be hopeful.

2026 will mark a new chapter for IGLYO —the next four years will be absolutely critical. We take the kind praise and criticism we have received and start anew next year, ready to hold ourselves to a higher standard.

The work we have done this year lays the foundation for the years ahead. We begin this journey with critical hope, determination, and a renewed commitment to our values.

**Ar Scáth a Chéile a Mhaireann na Daoine**  
People survive in the shelter of each other



Bella FitzPatrick (She/Her)  
Executive Director

## Chapter 2

# About IGLYO

Founded in 1984, IGLYO — The International LGBTQI Youth and Student Organisation is the largest member-based youth and student network in the world, with 139 Member Organisations in 40 European countries. Our work focuses on the empowerment, freedom and protection of LGBTQI young people under 30 years old.

IGLYO's mission is to advance the rights of LGBTQI youth, fight for equality and inclusion, and empower LGBTQI youth voices through international training and events, thematic research and advocacy, online tools and resources, networking activities, and many more activities.

At IGLYO, we work closely with our Members and partners to design and implement programmes and initiatives that meet the needs of LGBTQI young people. We advocate for LGBTQI young people's rights, build the capacity of our Members and partners to better serve their youth communities, and provide a platform for LGBTQI youth to connect and share experiences internationally.

# Organisation Structure in 2025



## Executive Board in 2025

The Executive Board consists of 5-9 LGBTQI young people between 18-30 at the time of their election who are nominated by Members and mandated for a term of three years by the General Assembly to oversee the leadership, governance and strategy of the organisation. In 2025, the IGLYO Board worked hard on strategising for the future of the organisation by notably putting together a solid Strategic Plan for 2026-2029, bringing about two new membership-related policies, and solidifying their internal processes related to the network's governance.



**Hrefna Ósk Mariudóttir** (She/her)  
Board Member Oct. 2022-2025



**Spyros Boviatsis** (He/him)  
Board Member May 2022-2025  
(Secretary in 2024 & Treasurer in 2025)



**Taj Donville-Outerbridge**  
(They/them), UK/Bermuda  
Board Member Oct. 2023-2026  
(Treasurer in 2024)



**Yasemin Bahar** (They/them), Türkiye  
Board Member Oct. 2023-2026  
(Secretary in 2024)



**Ophélie Masson** (She/her)  
Board Member May 2022 -  
Resigned in June 2025  
(Chair in 2024)



**Yassine C.** (They/He)  
Board Member May 2023 -  
Resigned in December 2025  
(ARP Coordinator in 2023-25  
& Chair in 2025)

While Taj and Yasemin continue their mandate until the AMC 2026, we thank outgoing Board Members Yassine, Ophélie, Spyros and Ósk for their mandate and their dedication to the network!

## Board Elections 2025: Meet the 7 New Board Members!

We're happy to introduce the seven new Board Members who were elected at the IGLYO AMC Zurich 2025 and will start their mandate in January 2026 alongside Taj and Yasemin:



**Alex Shah** (They/She),  
Nominated by LAOLATA,  
Moldova



**Joh von Felten** (They/them),  
Nominated by Milchjugend,  
Switzerland



**Artemis Akbary** (He/She/They),  
Nominated by the Afghan  
LGBTIQ+ Organisation, Czechia



**Samu/elle Striewski** (They/them),  
Nominated by Lambda Bund,  
Germany



**Eugénie Devevey** (She/her),  
Nominated by SOS homophobie,  
France



**Marta Di Giorgi** (She/They),  
Nominated by Cassero  
LGBTQIA+ Center, Italy



**Georgy Kalakutskii** (He/They),  
Nominated by University's  
LGBT Group, Lithuania

## Secretariat in 2025

Based in Brussels, the Secretariat is responsible for implementing the work plan and strategic plan voted on by Members at the General Assembly and carrying out the daily operations.



**Ale Carlucci Zambrano** (They/She)  
Projects & Events Officer



**Lucille Colin de Verdière** (They/them)  
Finance & Operations Manager



**Ali Bodo** (They/them)  
Programmes Officer



**Maruschka** (She/her)  
Administration Officer



**Amélie Waters** (They/She)  
Policy & Research Officer



**Rú Ávila Rodríguez** (They/them)  
Deputy Executive Director  
and Policy & Research Manager



**Ahmed El-Salawy** (He/him)  
Policy & Research Officer



**Viola Bianchetti** (She/her)  
Programmes Manager



**Bella FitzPatrick** (She/her)  
Executive Director



**Toryn Glavin** (She/her)  
Communications & Network Officer



**Jeremy Gobin** (He/him)  
Communications  
& Network Manager



**Merv & Nouille**  
Office Cuddlers



## Governance Team in 2025

The Governance Team is a volunteer advisory body supporting the Board and the Secretariat on specific issues such as governance, finances, and the General Assembly.



**Karoline Börner** (She/her),  
Germany/Belgium



**Léa Charlet** (She/her),  
France/Belgium

## Anti-Racism Panel in 2025

The IGLYO Anti-Racism Panel is a pivotal paid advisory body of IGLYO that supports both the Board and the Secretariat on matters related to racial equality and racial justice with the overarching objective of forging a safer and more equitable future for LGBTQI BIPOC and ethnic minority youth and students across Europe. You can read more about their work on the next page. We thank outgoing ARP member Purity for her work as part of the panel!



**Eppy** (They/them)  
ARP Member for Comms & Network



**Purity Tumukwasibwe** (She/her)  
ARP Member for Policy & Research



**Chougher Maria Doughramajian**  
(She/her), ARP Member  
for Programmes



**Yassine C.** (They/He)  
ARP Coordinator & Board Member



## Anti-Racism Panel Work in 2025



This year marked the Anti-Racism Panel's second year of work; a year shaped by both ongoing challenges and significant growth. As the battles faced by our communities continue to intensify across Europe, the emotional and structural labour required to address racism within and beyond our movements has only increased. At the same time, our resources — time, capacity, and well-being — have often been stretched thin. Despite this, the Panel has remained committed to strengthening its foundations and improving how we support IGLYO's wider work.

One of our key achievements this year was the internal restructuring of the Panel. We collectively revisited our ways of working and moved toward approaches that centre care, sustainability, and shared responsibility. This has allowed us to clarify expectations, create more stable processes, and ensure that racialised members of the Panel are not left carrying disproportionate burdens. These changes are not only procedural; they reflect a deeper commitment to practising anti-racism internally with the same seriousness that we demand externally.

A major milestone was the Panel's first Strategic ARP Weekend; an in-person meeting dedicated to examining the 2026 Work Plan and preparing for the challenges ahead. Over the course of the weekend, we engaged in critical discussions on priorities, political contexts, and the specific needs of racialised LGBTQI+ young people across our network. This collective deep dive enabled us to anticipate upcoming struggles and position ourselves more strategically for the coming year.

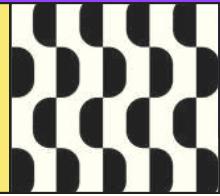
During the same week, we reviewed IGLYO's Strategic Plan with an anti-racist lens. This process allowed us to identify gaps, question underlying assumptions, and highlight areas where racial justice work may require stronger commitments or clearer actions. Our reflections will inform both the implementation of the plan and the internal accountability mechanisms needed to ensure anti-racism remains embedded across the organisation rather than treated as a separate strand of work.

Despite limited resources and the emotional weight that anti-racism work often carries, the Panel has continued to show resilience, care, and a strong willingness to push for change; both within IGLYO and across our wider movement. As we enter the next year, our focus remains on consolidating the structures we have built, strengthening accountability, and ensuring that racialised young people across Europe remain at the centre of our collective political agenda.

The ARP — Yassine, Chougher, Eppy and Purity



# A New Strategic Plan for 2026-2029



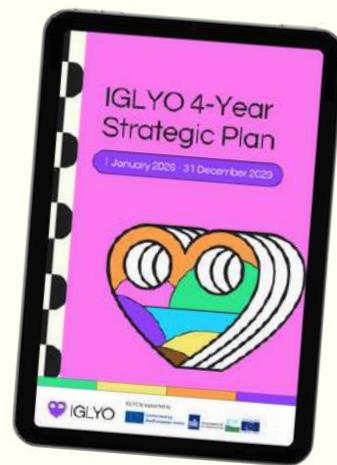
Our new Strategic Plan adopted at the IGLYO Annual Members' Conference Zurich 2025 marks an important milestone in IGLYO's journey as the world's largest LGBTQI youth-led network. Developed through a participatory process and shaped directly by the voices of our Member Organisations — particularly through consultations at the IGLYO AMC Ljubljana 2024 — this plan brings together the priorities of our network with the realities of the political, economic, and organisational context in which we operate.

Our new Strategic Plan responds to a difficult and urgent political moment. Across Europe and beyond, we are witnessing a sharp rise in far-right ideologies, anti-gender rhetoric, and growing conservatism — particularly among young people. Trans and intersex youth are being systematically targeted, LGBTQI inclusive education is under threat, and queer migrants and racialised youth continue to face institutional hostility. In this context, our commitment to centring the most vulnerable within our communities has never been more necessary.

In response to these challenges, our four-year strategic cycle will run from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2029, a timeframe providing IGLYO with a robust multi-year framework for growth and transformation while maintaining the flexibility to adapt to rapidly evolving political realities.

Ultimately, this plan is about deepening our commitment to those in our communities who are most at risk. It centers LGBTQI children and young people with multiple marginalised identities and outlines a more intersectional, accessible, and collective path forward. We believe it reflects not only where we are, but where we need to go — together.

[Download the Strategic Plan](#)



## Our 5 New Strategic Themes & Objectives



Centering Intersectionality  
& Cross-Movement Solidarity



Broadening Our Areas of Focus



Advocacy & Activism



Network Engagement & Development



Organisational Sustainability & Development

# Membership & Network

As the highest decision-making body of IGLYO, our Member Organisations are at the core of network. We involve them in all our activities: research, advocacy actions, mobilisation, events, training, and capacity building.

Since our establishment in 1984, IGLYO has grown steadily, with Member Organisations joining every year. In 2025, 21 new Member Organisations from 14 countries joined our network, raising our current international family to 139 Members in 40 countries across Europe.

# IGLYO Membership in 2025



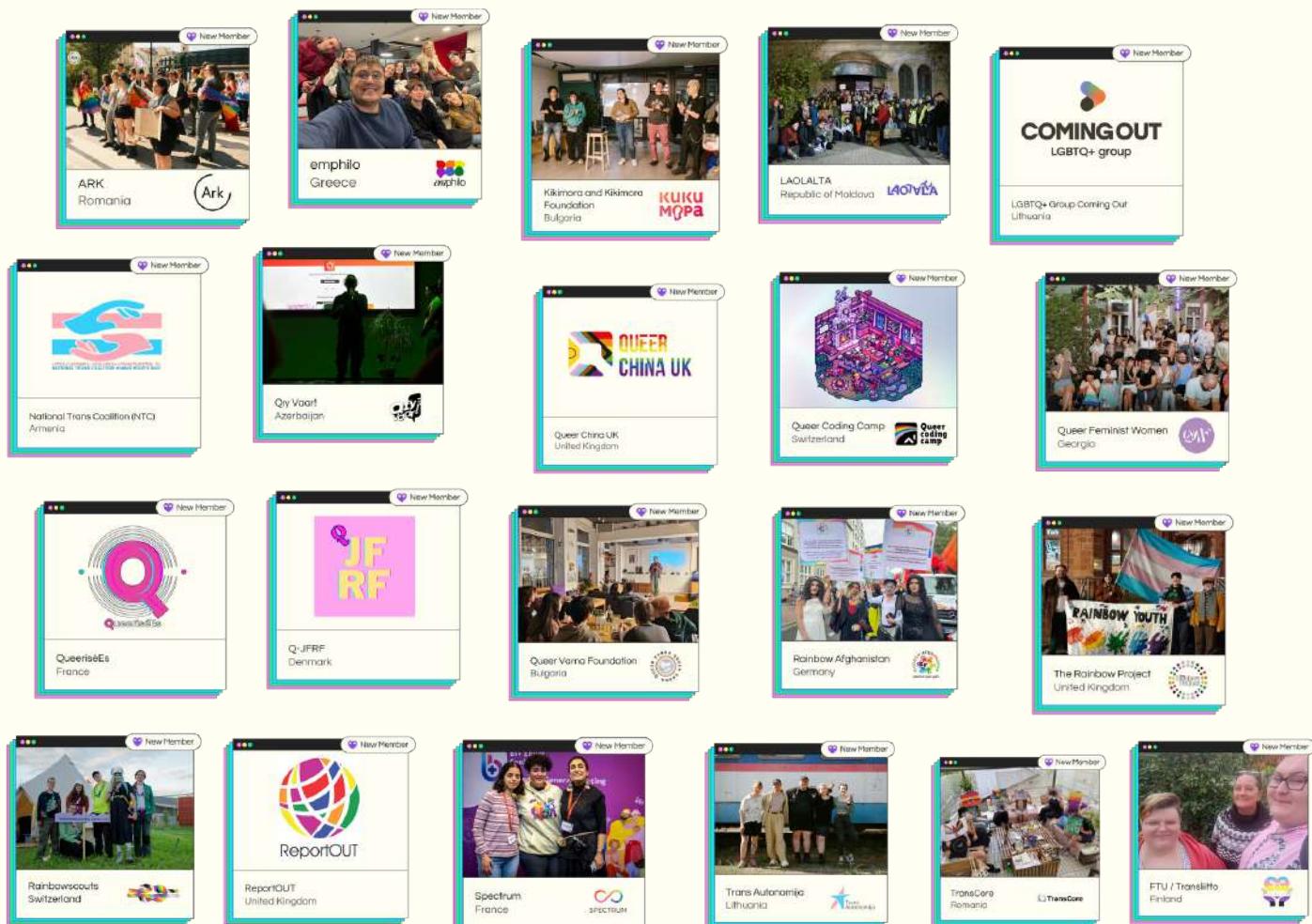
## Who are our Members?

Our Members are organisations which are based in the European region and represent or support LGBTQI youth and students, comprise mainly of LGBTQI youth, work with LGBTQI youth or issues, and/or have a specific department working for or with youth. Overall, they are hard working organisations that contribute to building a world where LGBTQI young people can be their true and authentic selves without apology.

[See all our Members](#)

## New Members in 2025

21 new Member Organisations from 14 countries joined our network in 2025. We extend them once again a warm welcome into our international family, and look forward to working with them long into the future!



Member Organisation	Country
<a href="#"><u>ARK</u></a>	Romania
<a href="#"><u>emphilo Greece</u></a>	Greece
<a href="#"><u>Kikimora and Kikimora Foundation Bulgaria</u></a>	Bulgaria
<a href="#"><u>LAOLALTA Moldova</u></a>	Republic of Moldova
<a href="#"><u>LGBTQ+ Group Coming Out</u></a>	Lithuania
<a href="#"><u>National Trans Coalition</u></a>	Armenia
<a href="#"><u>Qiy Vaar!</u></a>	Azerbaijan
<a href="#"><u>Queer China UK</u></a>	United Kingdom
<a href="#"><u>Queer Coding Camp</u></a>	Switzerland
<a href="#"><u>Queer Feminist Women</u></a>	Georgia
<a href="#"><u>Q-JFRF</u></a>	Denmark
<a href="#"><u>Queer Varna Foundation</u></a>	Bulgaria
<a href="#"><u>QueerisEes</u></a>	France
<a href="#"><u>Rainbow Afghanistan</u></a>	Germany
<a href="#"><u>Rainbowscouts Switzerland</u></a>	Switzerland
<a href="#"><u>ReportOUT</u></a>	United Kingdom
<a href="#"><u>Spectrum</u></a>	France
<a href="#"><u>The Rainbow Project UK</u></a>	United Kingdom
<a href="#"><u>Trans Autonomija</u></a>	Lithuania
<a href="#"><u>TransCore</u></a>	Romania
<a href="#"><u>Transliitto / FTU</u></a>	Finland

## Full Members' List 2025

<b>Albania</b>	<b>Czech Rep.</b>	<b>Greece</b>
Aleanca LGBT	Afghan LGBTIQ Org. (ALO)	Colour Youth Athens
PRO LGBT Albania	Charlie	emphilo
	Trans*Parent & QTY CZ	
<b>Armenia</b>	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Hungary</b>
Queer Sista Platform	Q-JFRF	Budapest Pride
National Trans Coalition (NTC)		Diverse Youth Network Assoc.
		Szimpozion Association
<b>Austria</b>	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Iceland</b>
HOSI Wien	ECOM – Eurasian Coalition on Male Health	Q (Association of Queer Students)
	Estonian LGBT Association	
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Estonian Trans Alliance	
Minority Azerbaijan		<b>Ireland</b>
Nafas LGBTI Azerbaijan Alliance		BeLonG To
Onlar Eylenir		Chill Out
Qiy Vaar!		Gay Project
		Shout Out
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Finland</b>	Union of Students in Ireland (USI)
Çavaria	Helsinki Pride Community	Youth Work Ireland
Les CHEFF	Seta	
Wel Jong Niet Hetero	Transfeminiinit	<b>Italy</b>
	Transliitto ry / FTU	Arcigay
<b>Bos. &amp; Herz.</b>		Cassero LGBTI+ Center
CURE Foundation		Circolo di Cultura Omosessuale Mario Mieli
		Gruppo Trans
<b>Bulgaria</b>		Keshet Italia
Crocus		
Deystvie		<b>Lithuania</b>
Kikimora & Kikimora Foundation		LGBTQ+ Group Coming Out
Lespectra		Lithuanian Gay League
Queer Varna Foundation		Tolerant Youth Association
Single Step Foundation		Trans Autonomija
		University's LGBT Group
<b>Croatia</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	
kolekTIRV	Equality Movement	<b>Malta</b>
Proces	Queer Feminist Women	LGBTI+ Gozo
Trans Mreža Balkan	Tbilisi Pride	MGRM — Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement
Za-Pravo		
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Moldova</b>
Accept LGBT Cyprus	Jugendnetzwerk Lambda e.V.	LAOLALTA
AFRICAN LGBTIQ+ CY	Jugendnetzwerk Lambda Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.	GenderDoc-M
Queer Cyprus	Jugendnetzwerk Lambda Nord e.V.	MOLDOX Association's Queer Café
	Pan-European Rainbow Chinese	
	Pink Summits	
	Queermentor	
	Rainbow Afghanistan	

**Montenegro**  
 Asocijacija Spektra  
 LGBT Forum Progress  
 Queer Montenegro

**Netherlands**  
 COC Limburg  
 COC Netherlands  
 Transgender Netwerk Nederland

**Poland**  
 Fundacja Trans-Fuzja

**Portugal**  
 rede ex aequo

**Romania**  
 ARK  
 Asociația Accept  
 Asociația Pride  
 eQuiVox  
 Identity.Education  
 MozaiQ LGBT  
 TransCore Association

**Serbia**  
 CheckPoint Belgrade

**Slovakia**  
 LIGHT\*  
 Round  
 Sapling

**Slovenia**  
 DIH — Equal Under the Rainbow  
 Legebitra  
 Ljubljana Pride Association  
 SKUC Magnus  
 TransAkcija

**Spain**  
 ACATHI  
 FELGTB  
 It Gets Better España  
 Iguales USAL

**Sweden**  
 Queerstion  
 RFSL Ungdom  
 SFQ — Swedish Federation of  
 LGBTQIA+ Student Organisations

**Switzerland**  
 Milchjugend Falschsexuelle Welten  
 Queer Coding Camp  
 Rainbowscouts Switzerland

**Turkey**  
 FISA – The Workshop Association  
 of Intellectuality and Artistics  
 Free Colors Association  
 KAOS GL  
 Pink Life  
 Social Policies, Gender Identity &  
 Sexual Orientation Studies  
 Association (SPoD)  
 UniKuir Association  
 Young LGBTI Youth Studies and  
 Solidarity Association

**Ukraine**  
 Fulcrum UA  
 Gay Alliance Ukraine UPO  
 Insight NGO

**United Kingdom**  
 Diversity Role Models  
 Inclusive Bangladesh  
 Just Like Us  
 LGBT Youth Scotland  
 Mermaids  
 NUS LGBT  
 Queer China UK  
 ReportOUT  
 The Kite Trust  
 The Rainbow Project UK

At the end of 2025, we count **139 Member Organisations**  
 in 40 countries in the European Region



Group photo at the Annual Members' Conference Zurich 2025. © Photo by Mattia Sagnimeni

# Membership Events in 2025

## IGLYO Members' Info Session | 11 March 2025

Every year, our Members' Info Session invites our Members to catch up with our team and Board, get a comprehensive overview of the activities planned for the year, and ask any questions they might have about our work and their membership.

## IGLYO Extraordinary Online General Assembly (EGA) | 12 June 2025

Due to Belgian law, the IGLYO Financial Accounts for the previous year need to be submitted by 30 June. For this reason, we organise every year the Online General Assembly, where Members vote on these financial accounts as well as other pending matters while waiting for the larger in-person General Assembly in the fall. This year's online General Assembly was joined by over 80 Members and also included the ratification of 11 new Member Organisations.

## Annual Members' Conference Zurich 2025 | 6-11 November 2025

Co-hosted by our amazing local Member Milchjugend, our IGLYO Annual Members' Conference 2025 brought together over 100 LGBTQI young activists from 38 countries in Zurich, Switzerland, for a General Assembly interspersed with sessions aimed to discover the local LGBTQI activism landscape.

From lively statutory discussions of the General Assembly all the way to activism workshops and fun social activities, these days gave us food for thought and brought our international family of LGBTQI youth activists even closer together.

This year's conference was very much focused on updating our current documents and structure, and building a concrete future of IGLYO. We notably adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2026-2029, approved a new Membership Fee Policy granting free membership to lower-income organisations or those that are led by underprivileged groups, and we elected seven new Board Members who will start their mandate in 2026.

We thank our Members and all delegates who joined us in Zurich, as well as our amazing host Milchjugend, who went above and beyond. We also thank our AMC Chair, and everyone within IGLYO who was involved, Board, Staff, Anti-Racism Panel and Governance Team.

[Event Page](#)

[Programme](#)

[Photos](#)





Photos at the Annual Members' Conference Zurich 2025. © Photo by Mattia Sagnimeni



Photos at the Annual Members' Conference Zurich 2025. © Photo by Mattia Sagnimeni

## New Free Pink Membership Tier!

At the IGLYO AMC Zurich 2025, Members approved a new Membership Fee Policy. In a spirit of fairness, our annual membership fees are currently divided into different tiers that all share the same benefits, based on the total annual income of our Members. The new Membership Fee Policy brings two new tiers for higher-earning Members, as well as a brand new free Pink Membership tier to be implemented from March 2026 onwards.

This new Pink Membership tier is initially open to organisations whose gross total annual income ranges between €0 - €100. However, in an effort to diversify our membership, and understanding the unique pressures faced by certain groups within our community, the Pink Membership tier may also be available at the discretion of the Board for organisations who have an annual income above €100 but meet one or more of the below criteria:

- The organisation is not a registered charity or organisation and has no formal income.
- The organisation has a total unrestricted annual income of less than €100.
- The organisation is led by (i.e. primarily guided, directed, and managed by) minoritised groups within the LGBTQI community, who hold leadership roles and have significant influence over the organisation's activities, policies, and strategic direction. These include: disabled LGBTQI youth (including neurodivergent LGBTQI youth); racialised LGBTQI youth; trans, non-binary, and/or intersex youth; LGBTQI migrants, refugees, and youth seeking asylum; and asexual/aromantic youth.
- The organisation is located in a lower-income country. The eligible countries are based on the World Bank classification of countries 2024-2025: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

We look forward to implementing the new policy and hope this new tier will foster more equity within the network!

## IGLYO Partners

We believe that change happens through solidarity and partnerships. This is why we are proud to work closely with many other international organisations dedicated to human rights to help ensure we create the change we want to see.

[See all our partners](#)

## Chapter 4

# Capacity-Building, Programmes & Projects

One of our key objectives at IGLYO is the Empowerment of LGBTQI young people. We aim to train, support, and build the capacity and skills of LGBTQI youth organisations, activists, leaders, and volunteers to represent, advocate on behalf of, and serve our communities more effectively, influencing sustainable societal change and increasing the visibility of our movements.

Concretely, we achieve this through our flagship international programme the Activist Academy (online and in person), a yearly themed International Youth Conference, various online capacity-building workshops, and a regranting programme for Members. This year our activities trained and built the capacities of over 100 LGBTQI young people and activists.

# Activist Academies 2025



Started in 2017, IGLYO's Activist Academy is our flagship skills-based training programme for young people between 18 and 30 years old who are at the beginning of their activist careers, are passionate about activism, advocacy and learning, and have a strong interest in LGBTQI rights. The goal is to jumpstart younger activists into skill-demanding and leadership roles within LGBTQI organisations. Every year, we hold both an online and in-person edition.

## Global Online Activist Academy 2025 | 1-18 April 2025

This year, over the course of three weeks participants engaged in online expert-facilitated workshops focused on the topic of Project Management for LGBTQI Activism, covering topics such as the fundamentals and queer methodologies for project management, intersectionality in project design, storytelling as a tool for project planning, decolonising LGBTIQ activism, financial budget management, and fundraising.

Following the workshops, participants gathered in teams to work on a real-life task to apply the skills they learned, receiving valuable feedback from the Activist Academy Experts. Once again, the diversity of perspectives and experiences among the 52 worldwide participants spanning 33 countries from Argentina to Kazakhstan, from Kenya to Indonesia (just to name a few!), made the Academy a unique, transformative and impactful experience. Together, we explored innovative approaches, shared insights, and honed skills that will undoubtedly contribute to advancing LGBTQI rights globally.

## Activist Academy Tampere 2025 | 13-19 July 2025 in Tampere, Finland

This year, the in-person Academy was hosted by IGLYO Member Transfeminiinit in Tampere, Finland. The programme had a specific focus on LGBTQI organisational development and provided participants with the tools to build and strengthen LGBTQI initiatives, improving their effectiveness and adaptability. We covered areas such as strategic planning, change management, fundraising, partnership building, volunteer and team management, leadership, decision-making, governance, internal policies, and more.

This year's Academy welcomed 20 LGBTQI young people between 18-30 years old from 22 countries across the European region. All had the opportunity to attend parallel sessions on different topics, receiving deeper insights into key areas in relation to organisational development.

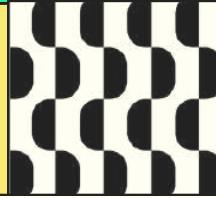
A huge thank you to our local Member and host Transfeminiinit for being so welcoming. We also thank our wonderful experts and speakers, all IGLYO team members who worked hard to make this edition an unforgettable one.

[Event Page](#)[Programme](#)[Photos](#)



Various photos of the IGLYO Activist Academy Tampere 2025. © Photos by Jana Vorontsova

# IGLYO Webinars 2025



## Webinar on Anti-Racism within LGBTQI Activism | 25 February 2025



This webinar supported LGBTQI organisations and activists address the barriers faced by queer young people who are BIPOC and racialised in activist spaces, equipping participants with strategies for fostering inclusivity, centring anti-racism, and embedding equitable practices within their organisations and movements.

[Event Page](#)

## Webinar on Trans Joy as Resistance in Hostile Times | 8 May 2025



This webinar highlighted stories, strategies, and practices that centre trans joy as a form of political defiance and collective empowerment. Through a keynote, a panel discussion, and an interactive Q&A, participants gained inspiration and practical tools for cultivating joy in activism and daily life.

[Event Page](#)

## Webinar on LGBTQI Youth and Health Justice | 11 June 2025



Held in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Youth Council, this webinar brought together LGBTQI youth from around the world to speak out, organise, and imagine new ways forward for health justice. We explored how global politics are making it harder for LGBTQI youth to access care and stay safe, what real care looks like, who's getting the money, who's being left behind, and what that says about how aid works.

[Event Page](#)

# IGLYO Grants Programme 2025

## About the IGLYO Grants Programme

For the third edition of our IGLYO Grants Programme, we awarded five grants of €10,000 each to five of our Member Organisations based in EU Member States for the implementation of projects on three streams: Anti-Racism (for projects including and led by BIPOC); Policy, Advocacy & Research; and LGBTQI Inclusion in Sports.

On top of financial assistance, IGLYO also provided technical support by working closely with the selected organisations in the implementation of their projects.

The five projects that received an IGLYO Grant in 2025 are:

- REST (Resilience, Empowerment, Solidarity, Transformation) by Queerstion Media, Sweden
- TRANSforming the Narrative: Countering Anti-Gender Rhetoric in Estonia by the Estonian Trans Alliance, Estonia
- Social Transition and Youth: Our Realities by kolekTIRV, Croatia
- Access & Asylum: A Toolkit for LGBTIQ+ Protection in the Czech Republic by the Afghanistan LGBTIQ+ Organisation (ALO), Czechia
- Queer Heroes Outdoors by Pink Summits, Germany

You can learn more about the five projects in the next pages!



## IGLYO Grants Stories: Queerstion, Sweden

### REST: Resilience, Empowerment, Sustainability and Transformation

Queerstion's IGLYO Grants project strengthened the skills and resilience of BIPOC LGBTQI+ refugees in Sweden. Through this project, they created dedicated spaces for anti-racism empowerment, collective healing, and intersectional advocacy.

Queerstion's aim was to equip activists with practical tools to sustain their wellbeing and activism, while building stronger alliances across movements. The project included four core activities:

- They hosted a workshop on anti-racism, trauma, and minority stress. Participants shared personal experiences of discrimination and learned strategies to navigate systemic oppression.
- They conducted training for staff and volunteers on trauma, burnout, and sustainable wellbeing, strengthening our internal capacity to support vulnerable communities.
- They hosted the webinar "Threading Our Collective Liberation" in partnership with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), which brought together trans refugee activists and allies to discuss lived experiences, solidarity strategies, and cross-movement challenges.
- They also organised a wellbeing excursion for BIPOC refugees, centring resilience, transformative healing, and collective care.

The impact of these activities was significant, with participants reporting increased confidence in using personal stories for advocacy, stronger bonds of solidarity, and practical tools for self-care. Partnerships with local and regional organisations were strengthened, laying the foundation for continued collaboration on refugee rights, youth, trans, and racial justice.

"This project gave me strength and confidence to lead, connect, and grow. I thank IGLYO for supporting this project, and I hope there will be more collaborations and support in the future," said Lissa Janet (She/her), Queerstion's Project Coordinator



## IGLYO Grants Stories: The Estonian Trans Alliance

### TRANSforming the Narrative: Countering Anti-Gender Rhetoric in Estonia

The Estonian Trans Alliance (ETA)'s project TRANSforming the Narrative: Countering Anti-Gender Rhetoric in Estonia combatted anti-gender narratives in Estonia by educating the trans community and allies through social media content in Estonian. Their project included:

- A report on the spread of anti-gender narratives in Estonian mainstream media
- A policy brief of suggestions for opposing those narratives
- A social media awareness campaign to educate trans people and allies on anti-gender rhetoric
- An info sharing event where they presented the findings of the report and shared strategies for countering these narratives in media
- A podcast episode focused on talking about anti-gender narratives and the results of their project.

This project also made it possible for them to hire a trans social media coordinator, whose contributions to this project and to their social media overall have largely increased their visibility and interactions with their online audience.

"This was the first project I contributed to in a major capacity in ETÜ. It taught me a lot that I can take into account in future work. I'm excited to continue working with volunteers in our community to create something bigger than ourselves and make trans people a part of public life" said Karu (They/them), ETA's Community Coordinator and Volunteer Manager.



## IGLYO Grants Stories: kolekTIRV, Croatia

### Social Transition and Youth: Our Realities

kolekTIRV used their IGLYO Grant to support families of trans, intersex and gender-diverse young people, that, for many years, turned to them when navigating school systems, healthcare services and daily life with very limited institutional support. This project gave them the space to take what they had been hearing informally for so long and transform it into a structured process that could meaningfully contribute to national advocacy.

Through carefully designed qualitative interviews with eleven families, kolekTIRV collected and analysed experiences that are rarely acknowledged in institutional settings. Parents spoke about trying to protect their children in environments that are often unprepared or misinformed; young people shared moments of affirmation, but also the heavy toll of misunderstanding and bureaucratic barriers. These insights were brought together into an accessible publication that centres the real-life experiences of TIGD youth and the people who support them.

The recommendations from this project were presented at the National Symposium on Trans Health in Zagreb, where more than 100 psychologists, social workers, teachers, physicians, medical students and community members engaged with the findings. The response was deeply encouraging: professionals expressed strong interest, requested additional copies, and shared that the publication helped them better understand what TIGD young people face in everyday institutional contexts.

For kolekTIRV, this project marked an important shift. By systematising years of community knowledge into a clear and practical resource, they created a foundation for long-term advocacy with ministries, youth services and schools. The publication now serves as a bridge between families' lived realities and the institutions responsible for their wellbeing, and as a tool for building safer, more supportive environments for TIGD youth across Croatia.

"This project allowed us, for the first time, to systematically document the experiences of families with transgender and gender-diverse children in Croatia. Their stories clearly reveal where systems fall short, but also where meaningful improvements are possible" said Mateo Popov (He/him), Psychologist, Psychotherapist and Researcher



## IGLYO Grants Stories: Afghanistan LGBTIQ+ Organisation, Czechia

### A Toolkit for LGBTIQ+ Protection in the Czech Republic

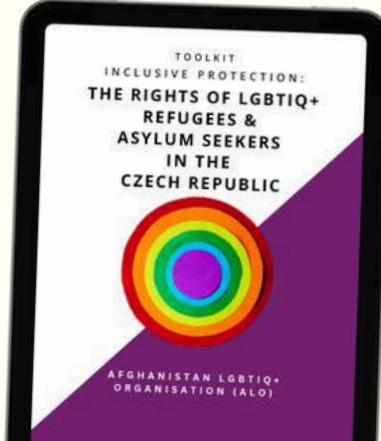
The Afghanistan LGBTIQ+ Organisation (ALO) used their IGLYO Grant to address a significant gap in rights-based information for LGBTQI asylum seekers in the Czech Republic, as well as a lack of guidance for authorities and service providers on delivering inclusive and non-discriminatory support.

Through a participatory and community-centred process, ALO produced "Inclusive Protection: Toolkit on the Rights of LGBTIQ+ Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Czech Republic", a bilingual toolkit (English and Czech) that provides clear, practical guidance for LGBTQI refugees at every stage of the asylum process and offers actionable recommendations for institutions responsible for their protection and integration.

In the frame of their project, they notably engaged in extensive community consultations, one-on-one interviews with LGBTQI refugees and asylum seekers, and collaboration with lawyers and human rights experts to ensure legal accuracy. Two validation sessions were organised to review the draft toolkit and integrate feedback directly from community members. The final toolkit was launched on 30 October 2025 during a public webinar and subsequently disseminated to more than 200 organisations, including NGOs, legal service providers, shelters, and relevant state institutions.

The project has made a significant impact: LGBTQI refugees reported that the toolkit provides them, for the first time, with accessible and reliable information about their rights, how to navigate the asylum process, and how to address discrimination, racism, or SOGIESC-based harm. Some of the stakeholders and service providers expressed strong interest in the toolkit and requested additional copies, follow-up training, and guidance on implementing the recommendations in their procedures.

"This toolkit was shaped by the voices of LGBTIQ+ refugees themselves. For many participants, it was the first time they felt their experiences were truly heard and turned into something that can change systems. Seeing authorities request the toolkit and ask for training gives me hope that real inclusion is possible," said Artemis Akbary (He/She/They), ALO's Executive Director.



## IGLYO Grants Stories: Pink Summits, Germany

### Queer Heroes Outdoors

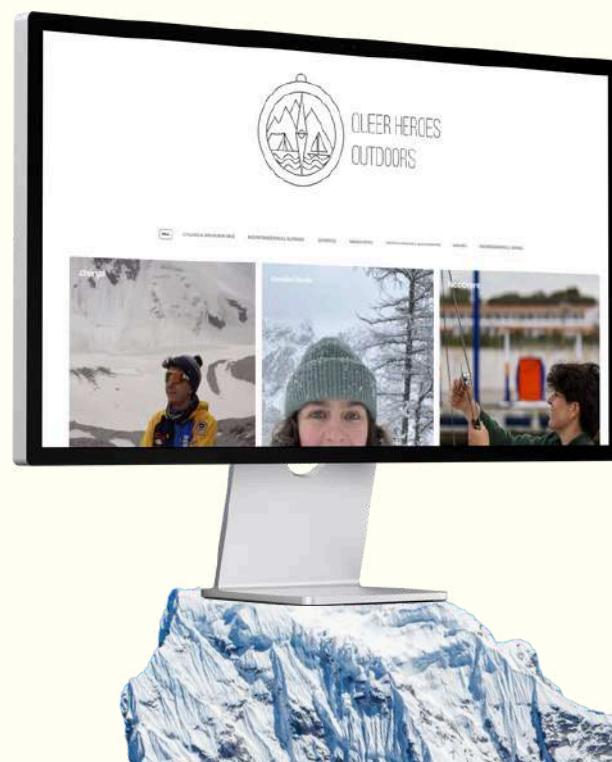
Our Member Pink Summits (Germany) used their IGLYO Grant 2025 to develop the initial stage of "Queer Heroes Outdoors", a non-profit campaign promoting greater visibility of queer people in outdoor sports through storytelling and fighting against prejudices about LGBTIQ+ communities.

Pink Summits conducted interviews to collect stories of interesting queer outdoor athletes: those who cycle across Europe, compete in the Olympic Games, sail across oceans, climb the world's highest peaks and descend by paraglider or ski, undertake months-long hikes, start their own queer group, or even organise a queer rock climbing festival!

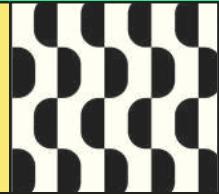
Pink Summits published these stories on the brand new website [queerheroes.org](http://queerheroes.org), which they developed with their grant, and they will run a social media campaign using [#QueerHeroesOutdoors](#).

The "heroes" featured on the website are also invited to join Pink Summits' community events as speakers. "Some of the heroes do not have a personal website and much social media exposure. The campaign helps them with sharing their story and bringing opportunities for their upcoming projects and getting connected with others" said Dastan Kasmamyтов, Pink Summits' Co-Director.

If you're a queer person active in any outdoor sport — at any level — you're invited to share your story, become part of the growing Queer Heroes Outdoors community, and help inspire the next generation of queer adventurers. Just drop them a line at [dastan@pinksummits.org!](mailto:dastan@pinksummits.org)



# Young, Queer & Away from Home Update



## About the project

Since May 2024, we have joined forces with Missing Children Europe and the University of Portsmouth to collaborate on Young, Queer & Away from Home — a 2-year project studying the views and lived experiences of LGBTIQ+ young people who had to live away from their home before turning 18 in the EU or the UK (e.g. they were kicked out, ran away, were homeless, had to stay in a shelter or with friends/other relatives, etc).

Through research, an online training for professionals, a resource hub, an awareness raising campaign and policy recommendations, we aim to support LGBTIQ+ young people and children under 18 who are at risk of homelessness and exclusion from their home, as well as to provide relevant professionals and service providers with the right tools to support them.

What's more is that an Advisory Youth Board and an Expert Board of Professionals support us in the implementation of the project.

## Update in 2025

In 2025, we ran two surveys, one for LGBTQI young people with experience of living away from their home before turning 18, and a second one for practitioners and service providers (e.g. homeless shelters, LGBTIQ+ organisations, refugee centres, child protection services, social services, etc.) who have already supported queer young people in these situations.

Based on the survey responses, we produced a report including an analysis of the results as well as policy recommendations. The report will be published in early 2026 on the channels of all Consortium partners. In early 2026, we will also provide training to professionals, run an awareness raising campaign including the resource hub, and organise a Policy Symposium in the European Parliament to present our policy recommendations.

Stay tuned on this page for updates on the project!



## We joined the Inclusive Child Participation Networks (ICPN)



In 2025, IGLYO joined the Inclusive Child Participation Networks (ICPN), a two-year (2025–2026) collaborative initiative funded by the EU's CERV programme with a view to promoting inclusive and systematic child participation in decision-making, from the local level all the way to the European level. The project brings together 18 partners from 11 European countries.

The core objectives of the project are to:

- Strengthen, innovating and mainstreaming child participation in national and local level decision making and in EU policy making
- Empower children, with a focus on children who are most at risk of exclusion and less represented, to actively participate in decision making processes at all levels
- Strengthen the capacity of national, regional and local authorities, and of child participation mechanisms to make child participation inclusive and systemic

The project will provide decision-makers, authorities, and professionals with knowledge on how to promote child participation in decision-making. Information about children's right to participate will also be produced for children and most importantly in collaboration with them.

The project will also include an advocacy campaign with children on the right to participate, training for decision-makers, and strengthening a national and EU-level network of professionals and experts working on child participation.

As an associate partner, IGLYO will represent the voice of LGBTQI children and ensure their views and needs are taken into consideration.

## End of the TUTOR Project



Since 2022, IGLYO was a proud Consortium partner of TUTOR, a 36-month project that fostered inclusivity among teachers and education.

For three years TUTOR project created partnerships between teacher education and trained providers to set up Teacher Academies, developing a European and international outlook on teacher education. These Academies embraced inclusivity in education, and contributed to achieving the objectives of the European Education Area.

The project ended in 2025 with a final conference in Brussels. We hope the results will bring about long-lasting change in the education field. We're sad it's over and feel proud to have been a part of it!

[Learn more about TUTOR](#)



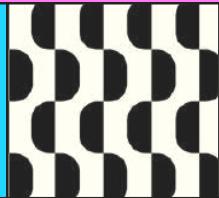
# Advocacy & Research

One of our key objectives at IGLYO is the advancement of LGBTQI youth rights through our advocacy and research work. We aim to protect and promote the rights of LGBTQI young people through participating and influencing decision-making bodies in Europe, as well as increasing the body of data and research on LGBTQI youth rights and experiences, with a focus on education, health, and bias-motivated violence and hate crimes.

In 2025, IGLYO continued to ensure that the realities of LGBTQI young people are visible in European policy spaces — and that decision-makers hear directly from youth-led movements. Across 80+ external events, consultations, expert groups and high-level forums, we brought forward evidence from our research, input from our Members, and concrete proposals to strengthen rights and protections for LGBTQI children and youth.

Besides our continued work with European institutions and through advocacy events, we also increased our work on three priority areas: Inclusive Education, Inclusion in Sport, and Health & Trans rights.

# Work with the Council of Europe



## GT-ADI-SOGIESC & Council of Europe SOGIESC Unit

In 2025, we collaborated closely with the Working Group on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (GT-ADI-SOGIESC), including through expert roundtables on hate speech, the CoE LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and Council of Ministers Recommendation on the Rights of Intersex persons by sharing national-level developments affecting LGBTQI children and youth. This cooperation also translated into our education work — including the Proud Pupils Conference and the start of drafting a new education toolkit (see more information on this in the Spotlight on Education section).

## European Governmental LGBTI Focal Points Network (EFPN)

The EFPN is an intergovernmental network dedicated to advancing the human rights of LGBTI persons across Council of Europe Member States. In 2025, IGLYO took part in several EFPN meetings, contributing youth perspectives to discussions on regional developments and supporting conversations around the organisation of the IDAHOT+ Forum.

## Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE)

Under the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), ENF-VAE reviews law, policy and practice on integrated approaches to prevent and combat violence against children.

In 2025, IGLYO engaged as an expert, including by contributing input to the Committee's work on a feasibility study on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education as a means to strengthen responses to violence and harmful behaviour.

We also engaged in the plenary session of the Steering Committee on the Rights of the Child as a representative of the Conference of INGOs.



## Conference of INGOs

The Conference of INGOs is one of the Council of Europe's main internal civil society structures. It meets twice a year in Strasbourg and continues its work throughout the year through thematic committees. In 2025, IGLYO participated in both sessions to ensure LGBTQI youth realities were reflected across debates and draft policy work.

- Youth Strategy Group: We helped design and deliver sessions and workshops on the barriers LGBTQI youth organisations face when engaging with institutions, and how civic participation can be made more accessible for young queer activists.
- Sports Committee: We contributed to a resolution on sports and human rights, working to include explicit references to the rights and lived realities of LGBTQI youth in sport settings.

Task Force on Civic Space Monitoring: We brought forward cases from across our network where youth-led and LGBTQI organisations were being attacked or restricted, and raised these directly with Member States through monitoring work.



## European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

IGLYO continued its engagement with ECRI, including through its annual meeting with EQUINET and exchanges with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Drawing on member inputs, we highlighted how overlapping forms of discrimination — including anti-Black racism, anti-Roma discrimination, antisemitism, anti-Muslim prejudice, and discrimination linked to SOGIESC — are experienced by LGBTQI youth across Europe, and what this means for equality policy.



# Work with the European Commission



## New EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy

In 2025, the European Commission made the renewal of the [EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy \(2026–2030\)](#) a central advocacy priority, recognising its importance as the EU's key framework to protect LGBTQI people — including children and young people — at a time of increasing backlash. We engaged directly with the European Commission throughout the process, including by participating in the Joint consultation meeting bringing together the LGBTIQ Equality Subgroup, LGBTQI umbrella organisations, other CSOs, institutions, Commission services and academics (April 2025), and through additional exchanges in the lead-up to the Strategy's launch.

We submitted IGLYO's contribution to the targeted consultation with a [detailed briefing](#) setting out what the next Strategy must deliver for LGBTQI children and youth. Our recommendations focused on moving from general commitments to concrete, youth-specific action — including tackling discrimination and harassment (in and beyond education), strengthening action on hate crime and hate speech, ensuring meaningful work on health and wellbeing, and addressing socio-economic inequalities (including homelessness). We also stressed the need for stronger data collection (including age-disaggregated data, with ethical safeguards) and a whole-of-Commission approach that mainstreams LGBTQI equality across policy areas.

Alongside our direct institutional engagement, we prioritised movement coordination: we supported our Members and partners to participate in the Commission's open public consultation by providing a practical response template aligned with IGLYO's youth-rights priorities and adaptable to national contexts. When the European Commission launched the new Strategy, IGLYO published a public response welcoming the renewed EU commitment while calling for clear delivery mechanisms for children and youth — particularly those who are trans, intersex and racialised — including targets and indicators, resourcing for civil society (including youth-led groups), and stronger action across education, online safety, health and participation mechanisms.

[Read our Comment on the Strategy.](#)



## High-Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity, EC LGBTI Non-Discrimination Unit and engagement with the new Commission

In 2025, IGLYO's engagement with the High-Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity (LGBTIQ Subgroup) and the European Commission's LGBTIQ non-discrimination workstream (DG JUST) remained a cornerstone of our EU advocacy. As an invited expert, we contributed to the consultation process for the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026–2030, ensuring that the priorities of LGBTQI children and young people were treated as a core measure of the Strategy's credibility and impact.

A key milestone was the Joint consultation meeting (April 2025, Brussels), which brought together the LGBTIQ Equality Subgroup, LGBTQI umbrella organisations, other civil society actors, academics, institutions and Commission services. The discussions focused on four thematic priorities shaping the next Strategy: conversion practices, SOGIESC equality data, hate speech/hate crime/harassment (including online), and socio-economic inequalities and housing. IGLYO consistently linked these themes to youth-specific realities — including exposure to bullying and cyberbullying, the need for safe and ethical age-appropriate data, and the relationship between discrimination, mental health and youth homelessness.

We also engaged on the Strategy's international dimension through a dedicated consultation meeting in June 2025, bringing together DG JUST, the EEAS and civil society. This space focused on how the EU can strengthen support to LGBTIQ human rights defenders and civil society globally, embed equality priorities in multilateral and bilateral cooperation, and advance rights in accession-related processes — issues increasingly relevant to the wider environment affecting LGBTQI young people and youth-led organisations in Europe.

Alongside these expert consultations, IGLYO maintained continuous engagement with the Commission through policy dialogues and coordination with key services. We held regular exchanges with DG JUST and DG EAC on priorities including LGBTQI youth rights, inclusive education, equality in and through education, and protection from hate speech and hate crime. We also met with Ana Carla Pereira (Director for Equality and Non-Discrimination at DG JUST) to discuss IGLYO's main priorities — particularly on LGBTQI children and youth, education, and ensuring meaningful youth participation within EU equality work. In parallel, we met with the cabinets of Commissioners Lahbib and McGrath to explore cooperation pathways and ensure that LGBTQI youth priorities are reflected across portfolios and implementation work.

Finally, we supported continuity from consultation to delivery by participating in the civil society roundtable and presentation of the LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026–2030 in November 2025, hosted by DG JUST in Brussels. This moment provided an important bridge between strategy design and implementation expectations: we reiterated the need for measurable follow-through, sustained resourcing for civil society (including youth-led groups), and systematic engagement mechanisms to ensure progress in areas facing intensifying backlash — especially education, health (including trans-specific healthcare) and online safety.



## Working Group on Equality and Values in Education and Training

IGLYO remained an active member of the European Commission's European Education Area Working Group on Equality and Values in Education and Training, contributing youth and SOGIESC-informed perspectives to the group's 2025 workplan and deliverables. In 2025, the Working Group's roadmap centred on two core strands: (1) countering and preventing hatred (including hate speech and (cyber-)bullying) and (2) strengthening the European dimension in citizenship education, alongside the development of a Compendium of Inspiring Practices and reflection on the Working Group's future directions beyond 2025.

Our engagement began with the 14th Working Group meeting, where the Commission (DG EAC) set out the 2025 roadmap and advanced preparatory work for a dedicated peer-learning activity on addressing online and offline hate speech and bullying through digital literacy, citizenship education and socio-emotional learning. This workstream is closely aligned with IGLYO's priorities, as LGBTQI learners are disproportionately affected by harassment and bullying in schools and online, and responses must be rights-based, preventive and implemented across whole-school environments.

In the 15th Working Group meeting, discussions progressed on both pillars: the Working Group reviewed and debated the issue paper on countering and preventing hatred, and deepened work on citizenship education. Across these discussions, IGLYO brought forward the practical realities faced by LGBTQI students and youth organisations — especially the need for approaches that tackle hostility and exclusion without relying on punitive measures that can further marginalise young people.

The year concluded with the 16th Working Group meeting, focused on advancing the European dimension in citizenship education through country and stakeholder inputs, breakout discussions on how the EU is taught in schools, and forward-looking work on feasibility for EU-level guidance and a possible citizenship competence framework. The meeting also included progress on the Compendium of inspiring practices, debriefs from the earlier peer learning activity, and reflections on the Working Group's 2021–2025 mandate.

Through this continued participation, IGLYO supported the Working Group's direction toward practical, implementable outputs—ensuring that equality and values in education meaningfully include LGBTQI learners and address the realities of hate, discrimination and exclusion in day-to-day school life.

## EU Youth Dialogue platform, EU Youth Strategy review, and EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child review

IGLYO contributed to work linked to institutional youth engagement in EU external action through DG INTPA's dialogue processes, and followed up with the Commission on the implementation and review of the EU Youth Strategy and the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child — ensuring LGBTQI children and young people remain visible in youth policy frameworks.

## Cyberbullying Action Plan

Combatting cyberbullying was a key priority in IGLYO's EU advocacy in 2025, particularly because the forthcoming EU Action Plan against Cyberbullying is directly linked to the EU's commitments to protect LGBTIQ+ children and young people in the digital sphere and in the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy. Together with ILGA-Europe, TGEU and OII Europe, we coordinated engagement with the European Commission and produced a joint policy brief to ensure the Action Plan explicitly recognises the specific risks LGBTQI young people face online.

Our advocacy highlighted that for LGBTQI youth, cyberbullying is often an extension of offline discrimination, intensified by the anonymity, speed and reach of digital platforms. We stressed the scale and harm of the problem, including high levels of hate-motivated harassment and the serious mental health consequences reported by young LGBTQI people — with trans and non-binary youth facing particularly acute risks. We also underlined how reporting online abuse can be dangerous for minors who are not out, as it may lead to forced disclosure of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

In our joint recommendations, we called for a rights-based and intersectional Action Plan that includes LGBTQI youth by design, rather than as an afterthought. This included safer and more accessible reporting mechanisms for minors, improved (and ethically collected) disaggregated data, prevention through education and digital literacy, stronger platform accountability, and sustainable support for youth-led and community organisations that often provide the first point of help when online abuse escalates.

[Find our Policy Brief & Joint Statement](#)



## Open consultations of the new European Commission

Besides the work done in the context of the new EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, we contributed to a wide range of consultations across multiple policy areas relevant to LGBTQI young people, including the EU Anti-Racism Strategy, the Discrimination on the Basis of Age, the Gender Equality Strategy, the European Civil Society Strategy, the Rule of Law reporting, the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, the European Pillar of Social Rights, the EU Youth Dialogue consultation process, and the European Education Area working groups stakeholder engagement. We also actively supported our Members to engage in the EU consultation processes, including through tailored guidance and coordination.

## Engagement with the EU Youth Stakeholder Group

As a core member of the EU Youth Stakeholder Group, we participated in all meetings and contributed to the year's consultations, consistently raising where EU youth policy still falls short for LGBTQI young people and proposing concrete improvements.

# High-Level Events & Policy Meetings

In 2025, our staff and Board attended over 80 advocacy, policy & research events to represent the needs of our Members and LGBTQI youth. Below are some highlights!

## How Confident? Artificial Intelligence, Young People and Youth Work — January 2025 (Strasbourg)

IGLYO participated in a Council of Europe consultative meeting bringing together around 40 experts and practitioners in youth policy, artificial intelligence (AI), youth work and human rights to develop a shared understanding of how AI is shaping young people's rights in Europe. Discussions examined both opportunities and risks, and worked toward principles and guidance to ensure AI-related youth policy aligns with the Council of Europe's emerging standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, including preventing discrimination and ensuring digital inclusion.



Representing IGLYO, our Board Chair Yassine contributed as both speaker and participant, highlighting how AI-driven systems can reinforce structural inequalities — including through shadow banning, censorship, biased decision-making, surveillance and the erasure of marginalised identities online. The meeting's outcomes supported stronger safeguards against the amplification of harmful content (including hate speech targeting LGBTQI young people) and reinforced the need for community-led, meaningful participation of marginalised youth in AI governance.

## Learning Exchange: LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Learning Spaces in Asia, UNESCO — February 2025 (Bangkok)



We took part in UNESCO Bangkok's Learning Exchange, convening around 40 youth leaders, inclusion advocates and education stakeholders from across Asia and internationally. The event sat within UNESCO's 2021–2026 regional project supporting youth-led action to create safer, more inclusive learning spaces and to address SOGIESC-based discrimination and violence in education.

We contributed directly to the advocacy-focused programme through a case study session on crafting messages and packaging content to build public awareness, concern and action — feeding into the co-creation of communications assets (e.g., video, podcast and infographic concepts) aligned with the project's communications plan. We also moderated a panel discussion on Youth Advocacy within this context.

## European IDAHOT+ Forum, Maltese Presidency of the Council of Europe — May 2025 (Malta)

We participated in the 12th European IDAHOT+ Forum in Valletta — hosted by Malta as the first official event of its Presidency of the Council of Europe. Under the theme “Advancing SOGIGESC Equality and Inclusion in a Transforming Europe”, the Forum brought together government representatives, European and international institutions, and civil society to take stock of progress and push for renewed, coordinated action to protect LGBTIQ+ rights in a rapidly changing political environment.



The opening segment included addresses from senior Maltese officials and Council of Europe leadership, followed by presentations from international NGOs on recent developments across Europe — with IGLYO launching the new edition of the LGBTQI Inclusive Education Report, Index and Map to ensure that LGBTQI children and youth remained clearly visible in the discussion on rights, equality and inclusion.



Across the day, IGLYO used the Forum as a key moment to connect evidence to decision-makers and strengthen partnerships. This included showcasing our work on LGBTIQ-inclusive education and contributing to the Forum’s dedicated discussion on equality for LGBTIQ+ persons in sport. Beyond the sessions, the Forum also enabled targeted stakeholder engagement through bilateral exchanges and networking moments, supporting follow-up advocacy with governments, institutions and civil society actors attending from across the region.

## CPDP Annual Conference — May 2025 (Brussels)

At CPDP 2025, IGLYO was invited to moderate (on behalf of EDRi) the panel “Feeling ‘Unsafe’ in Online Spaces”, held in the Grande Halle. Moderated by our Board Chair Yassine, the session critically examined the rise of so-called “silver bullet” measures — such as blanket bans and mandatory age verification — and how these approaches can harm minors’ rights, including privacy, participation, non-discrimination and access to information.



The panel centred research and lived experience to unpack what (un)safety means across different ages and positionalities, asking what everyday harms young people and marginalised communities face online, what proactive and holistic approaches can better address these harms, and how policymaking can be grounded in diverse youth perspectives.

## IGLYO Proud Pupils LGBTQI Inclusive Education Conference — June 2025 (Barcelona)

Together with the Council of Europe SOGIESC Unit and partners, IGLYO co-organised Proud Pupils, the largest conference ever organised around LGBTQI inclusive education, which brought together educators, policymakers, researchers and civil society to strengthen action on LGBTQI inclusive education. You can find more information about the conference a few pages further, in the Spotlight on Education section of this annual report.



## Conference on Preventing and Combating Hate Crime, Council of Europe — June 2025 (Strasbourg)

Under the Maltese Presidency and the Council of Europe's CDADI, this conference provided a major space for exchange on implementation of the Committee of Ministers' recommendation on combating hate crime, alongside No Hate Speech Week. IGLYO ensured LGBTQI youth perspectives were present in discussions on prevention, victim support and criminal justice responses.

## Joint webinar "Under Pressure", IGLYO & WHO Youth Council — June 2025 (online)



We hosted Under Pressure in collaboration with the WHO Youth Council: a global, youth-led webinar focused on the growing threats to LGBTQI young people's health and wellbeing. The session created space for LGBTQI youth to speak out and connect health justice to the wider political landscape — including shrinking support systems, attacks on trans rights, and the impact of funding cuts on HIV responses and community services.

The webinar explored what "real care" looks like beyond clinical services — including mental health support, housing, harm reduction and community safety — while also questioning how resources are distributed and who is being left behind. It also highlighted how young people are responding through organising, protest and collective action. The programme featured speakers from multiple regions and backgrounds (including youth activists and health justice advocates), reinforcing the webinar's core message: sustainable health outcomes require rights-based policy, community-led solutions and meaningful youth participation.

## European Parliament panel: “Strengthening the Economic Case for LGBTQ+ Inclusion: An Engine for European Competitiveness”, Brussels — June 2025

IGLYO took part in a European Parliament panel hosted by Open for Business (OFB), focused on how LGBTQ+ inclusion strengthens Europe’s competitiveness — including through talent attraction and retention, innovation, and resilient local economies. The discussion was anchored in OFB’s newly released 2025 Cities Report, and took place in a political moment marked by growing backlash (including attacks on Pride and civic space), with a clear link to the upcoming renewal of the EU’s LGBTIQ equality framework.



Representing IGLYO, our Policy & Research Manager and Deputy ED Rú Ávila Rodríguez joined the moderated panel alongside speakers from the European Commission (DG JUST), business and workplace inclusion actors, and Members of the European Parliament. IGLYO’s contribution centred LGBTIQ youth realities — including the risk of “brain drain” when young people leave countries or cities due to hostility and discrimination — and emphasised the need to integrate LGBTIQ youth perspectives more systematically into EU policymaking and into measures that shape the social conditions for young people to live, learn and work safely across Europe.

## Research on Gender Equality & Intersectionality Cluster Meeting, European Commission — September 2025 (Brussels)

IGLYO took part in a European Commission (DG RTD) and REA cluster meeting bringing together 40+ EU-funded projects and stakeholders to exchange on policy impact, intersectionality and strengthened research-policy links.

## IGLYO International Youth Conference on LGBTIQ Inclusion in Sports — October 2025 (Brussels)



We hosted an international youth conference focused on LGBTIQ inclusion in sport, creating space for youth activists to exchange practices, build policy recommendations and connect with institutional stakeholders. You can find more information about the conference a few pages further, in the Spotlight on Sports section of this annual report.

## Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth: “Young people for Democracy”, Council of Europe — October 2025 (Malta)

We took part in the Council of Europe’s 10th Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, hosted by Malta during its Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The Conference was preceded by a dedicated Youth Event (6–8 October) bringing together around 85 youth participants (including national youth delegates, international youth organisations and the Advisory Council on Youth) to coordinate youth input and strengthen follow-up capacity — with a strong focus on feeding youth perspectives into the Council of Europe’s New Democratic Pact for Europe.

The Ministerial Conference concluded with high-level commitments to strengthen democracy through meaningful youth participation, including the adoption of the final Declaration and a Resolution endorsing the new Council of Europe Reference Framework on a Youth Perspective — a practical approach encouraging sustainable participation mechanisms and rights-based impact assessments so policies better reflect young people’s lived realities. The Declaration also highlights the importance of safeguarding civic space, supporting youth structures, strengthening youth work, and improving young people’s access to rights (including in the digital era), providing a strong basis for IGLYO’s continued advocacy to ensure LGBTQI young people are explicitly included in implementation at national and European levels.

## Seminar “Trans in Belgium”, Belgian Equality Institute — November 2025 (Brussels)

We took part in the “Trans in Belgium” seminar organised by the Belgian Equality Institute, contributing to exchanges on the structural barriers trans and gender-diverse people face across institutions. IGLYO intervened in the panel “Structural Discrimination and Institutional Responsibility”, which focused on how discrimination is embedded in laws, policies, and everyday institutional practices—and what institutions can do to prevent harm, promote equality, and ensure dignity and access in areas such as education, detention settings and public spaces.

## Unleashing Human Rights: Human rights education youth forum, Council of Europe — December 2025 (Budapest)

IGLYO took part in the Council of Europe’s three-day Human Rights Education Forum “Unleashing Human Rights: education for, with and by young people”, hosted at the European Youth Centre Budapest. The Forum brought together 200+ participants — including young activists, youth leaders, education practitioners (formal and non-formal), civil society and public authorities — and marked key milestones for the human-rights education movement, including 75 years of the European Convention on Human Rights, 30 years of the European Youth Centre Budapest, and 25 years of Compass.



IGLYO

The Forum provided a space to assess the current state of human rights education and identify how it must evolve in response to today's challenges, including shrinking civic space and rising backlash. It also looked ahead to implementation priorities — including supporting partnerships and policies that strengthen access to human rights education for children and young people (including in digital contexts). IGLYO contributed perspectives rooted in LGBTQI youth experiences, highlighting how universal human rights education must be inclusive in practice, protect participation, and equip young people and educators to respond to discrimination and exclusion.

## Migration Solidarity Steering Group, Equinox — Throughout 2025

In 2025, our Board Chair Yassine represented IGLYO in the Migration Solidarity Steering Group of Equinox – Initiative for Racial Justice, contributing to cross-movement work that connects racial, gender, queer and global justice organising with concrete advocacy goals on migrant rights. Equinox's steering group model is designed to support structural change through deep coalition-building, linking grassroots activism with political advocacy and centring work led by affected communities.

Through this space, Yassine brought an explicitly intersectional LGBTQI youth perspective to migration justice discussions, helping strengthen shared positions and solidarity across movements—particularly where migrant justice, digital rights, anti-racism and SOGIESC equality overlap. This engagement aligned with Equinox's wider coalition work to shift European migration approaches away from punishment, violence and control and toward community-based care, protection and social provision—an approach that closely reflects the lived realities of racialised and queer people on the move.



Various photos of the IGLYO staff and Board representing IGLYO at advocacy, policy & research events in 2025.



Various photos of the IGLYO staff and Board representing IGLYO at advocacy, policy & research events in 2025.

# Spotlight: LGBTQI Inclusive Education

In 2025, we continued with our education advocacy through a combination of evidence-building, direct Member support and practical tool development. Across all strands, our goal remained the same: strengthen systems so that LGBTQI learners can learn safely, be respected, and thrive even in increasingly hostile political environments.

## 1) LGBTQI Inclusive Education Report, Index & Map (3rd Edition)

This year, we published the third edition of the LGBTQI Inclusive Education Report, Index & Map — a benchmarking tool covering 49 countries across the European region and measuring inclusion through 10 indicators. The update provides a clear snapshot of progress, gaps and backsliding, and is designed for policymakers, educators, civil society and youth advocates to identify what needs to change and where.

Key messages from this year's edition:

- Inclusion remains uneven, and in several contexts, there is direct political pressure to remove LGBTQI topics and protections from schools.
- Legal and policy measures are often not matched by implementation, leaving young people exposed to harassment, bullying and discrimination even when protections exist on paper.
- Teacher training remains a major gap, limiting schools' capacity to prevent and respond to SOGIESC-based bullying and exclusion.

[Access the Map & Website](#)

The map was launched on a brand new [LGBTQI Inclusive Education Website](#) that gathers previous editions to allow for evolution tracking, as well as our good practice database gathering measures, laws, policies and programmes implemented by governments and civil society organisations to create safer and more inclusive education systems for LGBTQI children and youth.

Throughout 2025, we used the Map and Index as a core advocacy tool across meetings and consultations, including at the IDAHOT+ Forum (Malta), where we presented key findings and discussed how European institutions and Member States can strengthen protections and implementation.





## 2) IGLYO Proud Pupils LGBTQI Inclusive Education Conference

A major milestone in our education work was the Proud Pupils conference on LGBTQI inclusive education (Barcelona, 25–27 June 2025), co-organised with the Council of Europe SOGIESC Unit and partners. The conference brought together 152 participants from 40 countries, creating a rare cross-sector space where youth activists, educators, researchers, institutions and policymakers could work side-by-side on the future of inclusive education. Across panels, workshops and strategic discussions, Proud Pupils focused on:

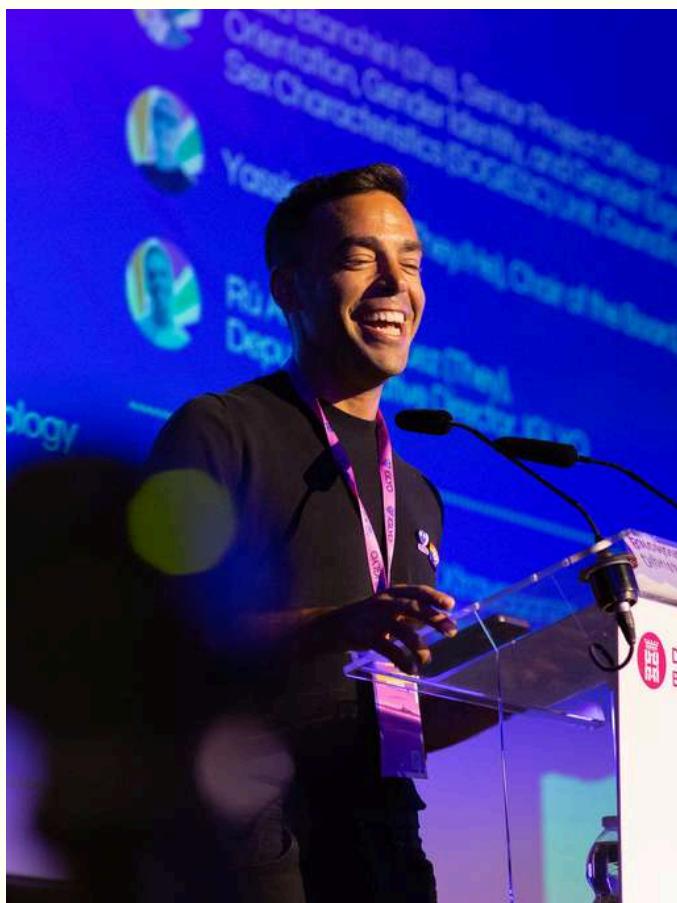
[Event Page](#)

[Programme](#)

[Photos](#)

- the impact of anti-LGBTQI and anti-gender backlash on school systems;
- prevention and response to bullying, harassment and exclusion;
- what inclusive curricula and teacher training should include and how to deliver them;
- how to ensure meaningful youth participation in education policy, not as an afterthought but as a starting point.

For many Member Organisations, the conference strengthened networks, supported strategy-sharing, and helped translate European standards into national advocacy opportunities.



Photos of the IGLYO Proud Pupils Conference 2025. © Photo by Alisa Sibirskaya



Photos of the IGLYO Proud Pupils Conference 2025. © Photo by Alisa Sibirskaya

### 3) Education toolkit on Preventing and Tackling SOGIESC-Based Bullying and Anti-Gender Discourse in Schools

In 2025, IGLYO and the Council of Europe SOGIESC Unit advanced the development of a new inclusive education toolkit designed to support practical implementation in education systems. The toolkit is being developed as a structured set of tools that can be used by public authorities, education stakeholders and practitioners — including in challenging political contexts.

The toolkit is being built around three complementary tools, designed to work together:

1) A policy and implementation tool on preventing and addressing SOGIESC-based bullying and violence, supporting institutions to build safer school environments through whole-school approaches.

2) A tool on countering anti-gender discourse and misinformation in education, supporting schools and authorities to respond to coordinated backlash while protecting children's rights.

3) A teacher training tool, supporting practical capacity-building so educators and school staff can prevent harm, respond to incidents, and create inclusive learning environments.

In 2025, the work progressed through structured expert consultations, an in-person working meeting as a pre-event of the IGLYO Proud Pupils Conference, and a broader multi-stakeholder meeting to review drafts and gather input. The next phase focuses on revision, finalisation and preparation for piloting and wider rollout.



Photos of the pre-event of the IGLYO Proud Pupils Conference 2025. © Photos by Alisa Sibirskaya

#### 4) Education Mentorship Programme (2nd edition)

Through tailored mentorship, financial support, peer-to-peer learning, and cross-border exchange, our IGLYO Mentorship Programme supports Member Organisations and their national partners to design and implement national-level projects that improve LGBTQI inclusion through education.

Throughout 2025, our Mentorship Programme supported and brought together six youth-led groups, each responding to different challenges in their national contexts, ranging from hostile policies and misinformation to gaps in research, teacher training, and institutional engagement:

1. **LGL & TYA (Lithuania):** Advocating for Safer and More Inclusive Schools
2. **ShoutOut (Ireland):** Inclusive Education Advocacy Programme
3. **TransAkcija (Slovenia):** TACT 2025 — Advancing Trans Rights Through Education
4. **Društvo DIH (Slovenia):** Together Against Bullying of LGBTQIA+ Children and Youth
5. **Aleanca LGBT (Albania):** EUSA-LGBTQI — Education for All
6. **GenderDoc-M (Moldova):** Parents, Schools, and Institutions Working Together

Through research, advocacy, public events, awareness-raising, and institutional cooperation, each organisation contributed to stronger, more resilient education systems, from generating new evidence and training teachers, to organising national conferences, producing educational resources, and building alliances with ministries and school administrations.

Find out more about each project in the next pages!



Photos of the mentees at the IGLYO Proud Pupils Conference 2025. © Photo by Alisa Sibirskaya



## Advocating for Safer and More Inclusive Schools

by TJA & LGL, Lithuania

LGL and TYA used the mentorship programme to confront long-standing gaps in Lithuania's approach to LGBTQI inclusion in education. With no national monitoring of LGBTQI students' well-being and no mandatory training for teachers, the organisations expanded their existing work into a broader advocacy effort. They used Baltic Pride 2025 in Vilnius as a strategic platform for national-level discussion.

Through a series of workshops, conversations, and community sessions hosted at the Pride House, the organisations brought together LGBTQI youth, educators, child-rights specialists, municipal representatives, and civil society actors. They identified key challenges in Lithuanian schools, including the legacy of discriminatory legislation and the urgent need for institutional training on diversity and inclusion.

Together with participants, LGL and TYA co-created a memorandum for inclusive education, outlining concrete actions needed to improve safety and well-being for LGBTQI students. The project concluded with a collective presence at the Baltic Pride March for Equality, where stakeholders marched behind a unified banner promoting the memorandum's demands. The project strengthened collaboration, visibility, and political momentum for systemic change.



## Inclusive Education Advocacy Programme

by ShoutOut, Ireland

ShoutOut used the mentorship programme to address the growing influence of misinformation in Irish schools. The organisation began the year with an in-depth review of research, policy, and emerging “anti-gender” narratives to ensure its approach was grounded in real challenges faced by teachers and LGBTQI students.

Based on this mapping, ShoutOut developed a suite of evidence-based educational resources, including fact sheets, guides for conversations with young people, and digital tools designed to support teachers, parents, and school communities. These materials were refined in close collaboration with educational partners, state bodies, and IGLYO’s wider network.

The resources were then piloted through training sessions and focus groups, which allowed ShoutOut to test the materials with teachers and LGBTQI students and gather feedback. The project culminated in the creation of an open-access online hub, now serving as a national reference point for inclusive education. Through strategic dissemination across school networks and participation in IGLYO’s international convenings, ShoutOut strengthened Ireland’s ability to counter misinformation and create safer, more supportive environments for LGBTQI students.



## Advancing Trans Rights Through Education

by TransAkcija, Slovenia

TransAkcija's mentorship project revolved around TACT 2025, a national conference held in Ljubljana that gathered researchers, educators, health professionals, legal experts, and community advocates to address gaps in trans rights and visibility in Slovenian education and public life.

The conference featured two panel discussions and a lecture, covering topics such as legal gender recognition, human dignity protections in Slovenian law, and healthcare pathways for transgender people. Speakers explored how national frameworks diverged from international human rights standards and highlighted urgent reforms needed to safeguard trans students and young people.

To reinforce learning beyond the event, TransAkcija produced pocket-sized educational brochures summarising WPATH SOC-8 guidance, ICD-11 updates, and legal procedures in Slovenia. They also conducted two national surveys; one targeting university faculties and another for trans students, which revealed major inconsistencies in institutional support and a significant lack of safety when interacting with teachers and staff.

These findings, along with recorded conference sessions, are now being processed into open-access educational modules, will support long-term advocacy for safer learning environments for trans youth.



## Parents, Schools, and Institutions Working Together

by GenderDoc-M, Moldova

GenderDoc-M's project responded to the harmful conditions faced by LGBTQI students in Moldova, ranging from bullying and misinformation to conversion attempts promoted in some school environments. Recognising the importance of multi-layered engagement, the organisation worked directly with the Ministry of Education, schools, and parents to foster a more supportive and rights-based approach to student well-being.

The project brought together in a national roundtable ministry officials, teachers, parents, and civil society organisations to discuss bullying, curriculum gaps, and institutional responsibilities. This was accompanied by parent-led information sessions held in schools, which helped counter misinformation and strengthen connections between families and school staff.

To further build institutional capacity, GenderDoc-M organised a series of training sessions for teachers and parents, focusing on inclusive approaches to supporting LGBTQI students. These coordinated actions strengthened cooperation between civil society and state actors and laid foundations for more sustainable, rights-based inclusion in Moldovan education.



## Together Against Bullying of LGBTQIA+ Children and Youth

by DIH, Slovenia

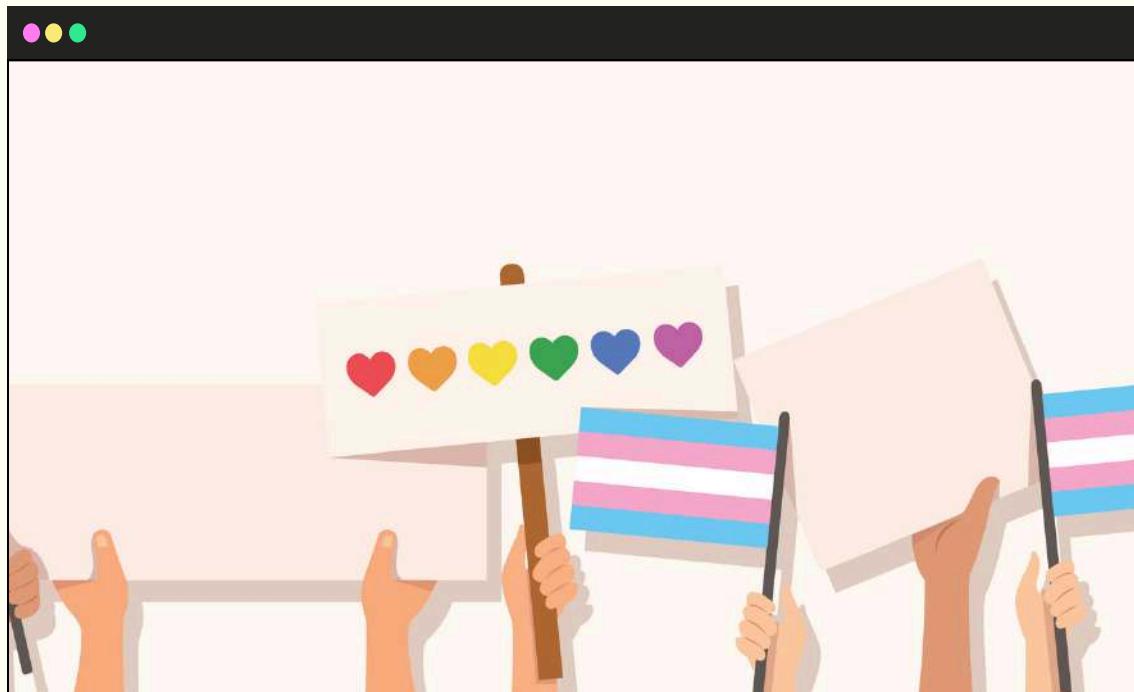
Društvo DIH's project focused on tackling bullying and building safer school environments for LGBTQIA+ children and young people across Slovenia. Their work combined awareness-raising, student workshops, and practical tools for teachers, with the aim of helping schools better recognise and address homophobic, biphobic, and transphobic bullying. Central to the project was the goal of making LGBTQIA+ students feel visible and supported, while encouraging their classmates to take an active role in preventing discrimination.

Over the year, DIH delivered workshops in secondary schools, creating space for students to talk about empathy, bystander intervention, LGBTQIA+ identities, media representation, and respectful communication. These sessions helped young people explore the different forms bullying can take and what they can do when they witness it.

To support educators, DIH produced a practical pamphlet for teachers and school staff, offering clear guidance on how to identify bullying, respond to incidents, and create more welcoming classroom environments.

To broaden the project's reach, the organisation also organised a national conference where educators, youth workers, and other stakeholders shared experiences and good practices. Alongside this, DIH ran a social media campaign amplifying young people's voices and promoting messages of acceptance and solidarity.

Together, these activities increased awareness of LGBTQIA+ bullying, strengthened the skills of teachers and youth workers, and equipped students with concrete tools to stand up for their peers. The resources developed continue to support schools and communities in working towards safer, more inclusive environments for all students in Slovenia.



### EUSA-LGBTQI — Education for All

#### by Aleanca LGBT, Albania

Aleanca LGBT focused on understanding and documenting the educational realities of LGBTQI youth in Albania, many of whom face exclusion long before they reach university. What began as research into the experiences of LGBTQI students in higher education quickly expanded when early findings revealed that numerous LGBTQI young people never make it to university at all due to discrimination, family rejection, and financial hardship.

Through a series of interviews and focus groups, the project captured experiences from students who were currently enrolled, those who had dropped out, and those pushed out of earlier stages of education. These testimonies shed light on the systemic failures, including unsafe school environments, bullying, lack of representation, and the absence of institutional support.

Aleanca developed a comprehensive research report that outlined these findings and proposed practical recommendations for improving educational inclusion at all levels. The results were presented at a roundtable with public authorities, supported by visual advocacy materials aimed at advancing long-term institutional change in Albania's school and university systems.

# Spotlight: LGBTQI Youth Inclusion in Sports

Sport can be a powerful space for connection, confidence and belonging — yet many LGBTQI young people experience it as a place of exclusion, fear and discrimination. In 2025, IGLYO advanced a dedicated strand of work on sports inclusion through research, youth convening and policy engagement.

## 1) Research & Publication

IGLYO published “From the Sidelines to the Playing Field: LGBTQI Youth Perspectives on Inclusion in School and Community Sport”. The research combines desk research with qualitative insights, including interviews with LGBTQI young people and additional stakeholder perspectives.

The publication highlights persistent structural barriers, including:

- gender segregation and rigid norms around bodies and participation
- unsafe changing rooms and environments where bullying goes unaddressed
- lack of guidance and accountability mechanisms in schools and sports clubs
- particularly acute exclusion for trans, non-binary and intersex young people

[Download the Publication](#)

Alongside documenting harm, the report also presents promising practices and clear recommendations for schools, sports institutions and policymakers, emphasising that inclusion requires more than “welcoming language”: it requires policies, training, safeguarding, and meaningful accountability.



## #QueerThePlayingField Campaign

Following the report launch, we ran #QueerThePlayingField, an educational and storytelling social media campaign highlighting recommendations from the report addressed to policymakers, sports institutions, educational bodies, and youth organisations, as well as posts showcasing barriers and queer joy in sports.

In addition, we created a communications kit inviting people to join the campaign by sending one of the four sets of recommendations to at least one relevant stakeholder in their country or region.



## 2) International Youth Conference on LGBTQI Youth Inclusion in Sports

In October 2025, IGLYO hosted the International Youth Conference on LGBTQI Youth Inclusion in Sports (Brussels, 26–31 October 2025), bringing together 30+ youth activists to strengthen skills, share strategies and build coordinated advocacy. The programme supported participants to:

- deepen their understanding of EU and Council of Europe frameworks relevant to sport and youth rights
- develop practical advocacy and communication strategies
- design action plans to implement in their countries and communities

[Event Page](#)

[Programme](#)

[Photos](#)



Various picture of the International Youth Conference in Brussels. © Photos by Melín Vasquez.

## Sports Publication Public Launch Event | 29 October 2025

As part of the International Youth Conference, we held a Public Launch Event in Brussels to release our publication. The launch event gathered over 50 participants and included speeches from the European Youth Foundation and Sports Division of the Council of Europe. The author of the publication Simon Charpentier then presented key results before moderating a panel with key field actors to discuss the challenges and solutions for better LGBTQI Inclusion in Sports.

[Event Page](#)

[Photos](#)



Various picture of the Launch Event in Brussels. © Photos by Melin Vasquez.

# Spotlight: Trans Rights & Health

In 2025, IGLYO strengthened work at the intersection of trans rights, children's rights and health equity. In a context of escalating political attacks on trans communities and shrinking civic space in multiple countries, our approach focused on strategy alignment, institution-facing advocacy and evidence-building.

## 1) Strategy Meeting with TGEU: Rights of Trans Children & Youth

At the start of the year, IGLYO co-organised a strategy meeting with TGEU focused on the rights of trans children and youth (4–5 April 2025). The meeting created space for shared analysis, alignment across organisations, and discussion of practical ways to respond to escalating attacks — including on healthcare access, education inclusion, child protection narratives and civic participation.

The meeting supported:

- stronger shared framing and advocacy priorities
- better coordination on institutional engagement
- clearer identification of emerging risks and protection needs for trans youth across Europe

## 2) Research on Trans-Specific Healthcare for Minors

IGLYO also advanced research work on trans child and adolescent healthcare across Europe, examining patterns of discrimination, inequality and systemic violence affecting access to safe, timely and affirming care.

The research highlights major challenges across multiple domains, including:

- increasing state and legislative restrictions impacting access to healthcare and support
- hostile environments affecting both physical healthcare and mental health support
- pathologisation, gatekeeping and coercive practices
- structural violence, trauma and inequality shaping young people's wellbeing

This work is designed to support clearer advocacy with institutions and to strengthen tools that help assess and respond to national-level risks and gaps. The research report will be launched in 2026.



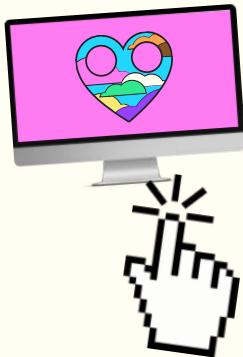
# Communications

Over the years, IGLYO has established steady communication tools and channels reaching audiences at the individual, organisational, local, national, international and EU level. Our communication work is transversal to all our activities, and crucial to the fulfilment of our missions.

In 2025, we tripled our social media visibility by focusing our efforts on platforms that are most relevant to our core target audiences. We also launched a brand new LGBTQI inclusive education website gathering our map, index and database. And we continued to widely disseminate our work and that of our Members across borders in Europe and beyond.

## IGLYO Websites

IGLYO's website is our main channel of communication, where we centralise all the information about our activities. The website notably includes a news section centralising all our updates, an opportunity finder with events and open calls for queer youth, a digital resource library by and for LGBTQI young people, and a searchable Members' list to enhance the visibility of our Members.



In 2025 we also developed and launched our brand new LGBTQI inclusive education website which hosts our map, index, report and database and scores 49 European countries based on how inclusive their education systems are for LGBTQI learners and students according to a set of 10 indicators.

## Social Media



In 2025, we invested less efforts into Facebook to focus mostly on Instagram and LinkedIn, which allowed us to triple our visibility in comparison to 2023. And we also started publishing more regularly on TikTok, which we plan to develop further in 2026.

200+

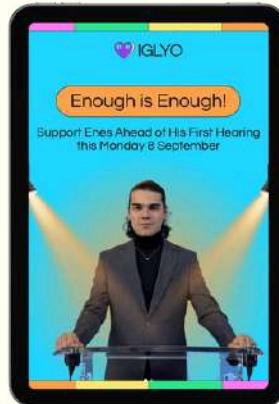
Social media posts

1.5+ M

Views across channels

## A Few Highlights from our 2025 Feed

Below are a few highlights taken from our 200+ Instagram posts in 2025, but you can find more on our [Instagram profile](#):


[View post](#)

[View post](#)

[View post](#)

[Watch reel](#)

[Watch reel](#)

[View post](#)

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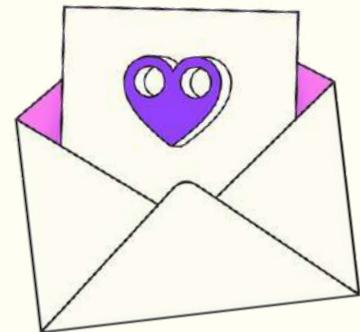
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[View post](#)

## Newsletters

We send our Members' and wider audiences a monthly newsletter, as well as targeted mailings about our core activities. Both our newsletters and mailings have a very good opening rate, and the numbers of contacts in our database significantly increased in 2025. You can see a sneak peek at our Member newsletter [here](#) and [here](#)!

[Subscribe to our public newsletter](#)



## Comms Kits & Partners' Channels

As a well-connected international network, we regularly send [communication kits](#) to our partners to invite them to disseminate our activities and messages to their audiences. We also take care of sharing their own opportunities on our channels so as to provide our Members and followers with continuous opportunities and information.

## Press

This year we sent three press releases:

- [Press release on the launch of our LGBTQI Inclusive Education Website](#)
- [Press release on the launch of our Publication on LGBTQI Youth Inclusion in Sports](#)
- [Press release on the new EU LGBTIQ Strategy \(2026-2030\)](#)

We're also very proud of our Board Chair Yassine for making it to the Guardian this year for [this article](#) on the youth movement and digital justice!



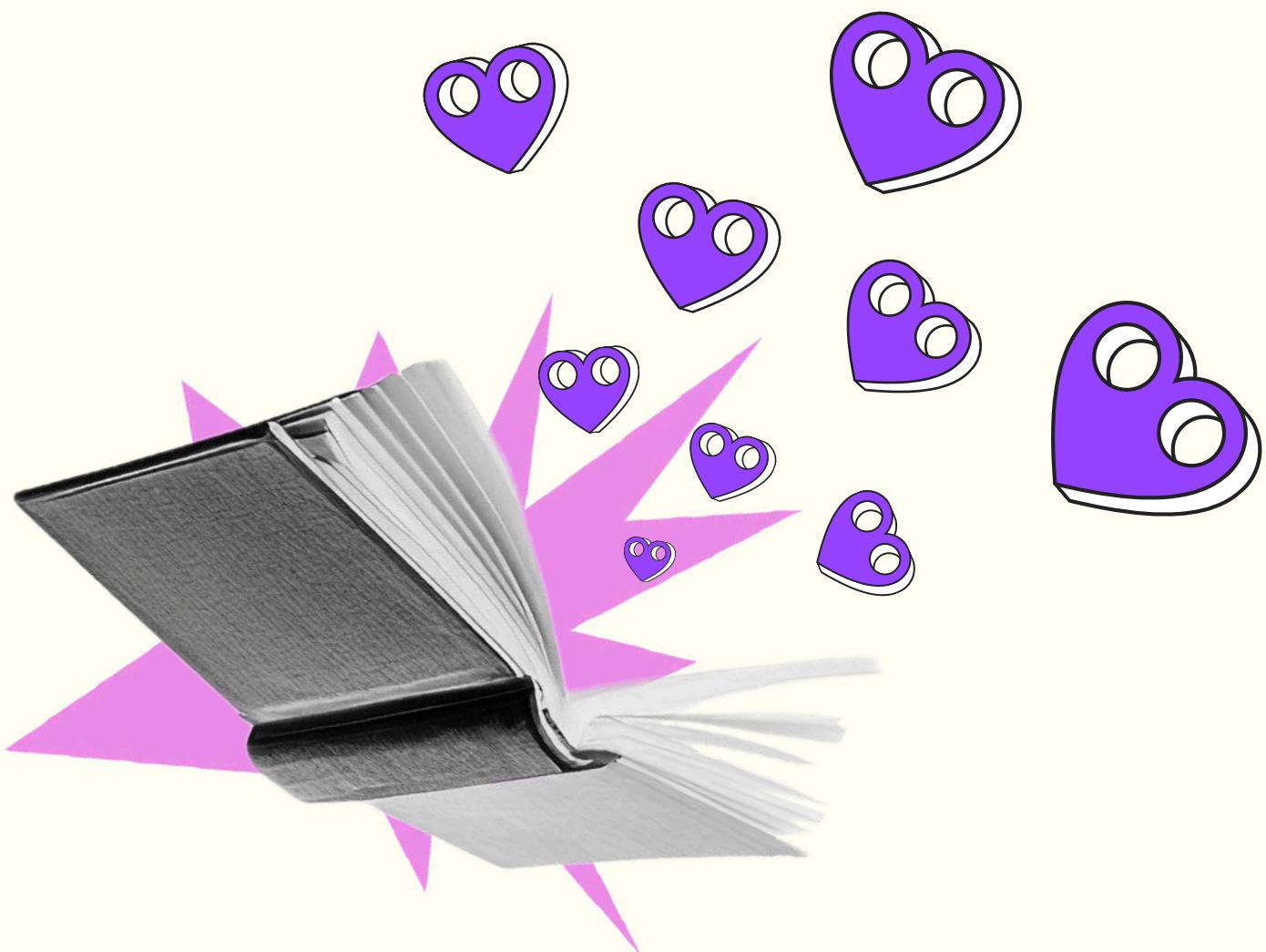
# Resources & Statements



Below are some highlights of our publications, statements and articles published in 2025, but you can find more in [our digital resource library](#)!

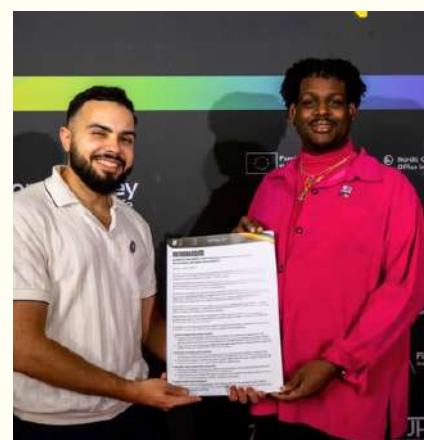
Month	Title
January	IGLYO Statement on Meta's Community Standards Changes. <a href="#">Read</a>
February	Equality Betrayed: Joint Statement on the Commission Unilaterally Giving Up on Anti-Discrimination Law. <a href="#">Read</a>
March	IGLYO Statement: LGBTQI Freedom in Turkey Is Under Attack. <a href="#">Read</a>
March	ENAR Joint Statement: Reimagining Racial Justice in Europe. <a href="#">Read</a>
March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: What Was Left Untold by IGLYO Co-Chair and ARP Coordinator Yassine C. <a href="#">Read</a>
May	IGLYO Statement in Support of Budapest Pride. <a href="#">Read</a>
May	IGLYO LGBTQI Inclusive Education Map, Index & Report 2025. <a href="#">Read</a>
July	Joint Statement on Resisting Pushback Against DEIA Policies. <a href="#">Read</a>
July	We Collected Over 32,000 Signatures to Safeguard Equality in the EU! <a href="#">Read</a>
August	IGLYO Statement on Releasing Youth Activist Enes Hocaoğulları. <a href="#">Read</a>
September	IGLYO Statement on the Weaponisation of Women's Rights in EP Migration Debate. <a href="#">Read</a>
September	IGLYO Statement in Solidarity with MGRM's Call to Release Angoua Abdu. <a href="#">Read</a>
September	IGLYO Statement on New Anti-LGBTQI Amendments to Slovakia's Constitution. <a href="#">Read</a>
October	Joint Open Letter on New Constitutional Amendments Adopted in Slovakia. <a href="#">Read</a>
October	Policy Brief on Cyberbullying & LGBTQI Youth: Priorities for the EU Action Plan. <a href="#">Read</a>
October	Joint Statement: Children's Rights at the Heart of the Upcoming Action Plan Against Cyberbullying. <a href="#">Read</a>

Month	Title
October	IGLYO Welcomes the New EU LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030 but Calls for Children and Youth Inclusion. <a href="#">Read</a>
October	IGLYO Welcomes the New Council of Europe Recommendation on Intersex Rights. <a href="#">Read</a>
October	IGLYO Statement on Türkiye's Proposed Anti-LGBTQI Bill. <a href="#">Read</a>
October	From the Sidelines to the Playing Field: LGBTQI Youth Perspectives on Inclusion in School and Community Sport. <a href="#">Read</a>
December	Joint Statement on the European Parliament's Anti-Poverty Strategy Report. <a href="#">Read</a>
December	A Retrospective of our IGLYO Mentorship Programme 2025. <a href="#">Read</a>
December	IGLYO Grants Stories 2025. <a href="#">Read</a>



# External Representation

One of our key and most impactful channels of communication is when our Board and staff members represent IGLYO at key international events. This allows us to share our expertise and activities first hand, while expanding our international connections. In 2025, the Board and staff represented IGLYO at 10 international events, in addition to the over 80 advocacy, policy & research events attended by our Board & Staff to represent the needs of our Members and LGBTQI youth.



# Sneak Peek at 2026

In 2026, we at IGLYO look forward to continuing and expanding our work in LGBTQI inclusive education, combating anti-gender rhetoric, and platforming young queer voices. We're also excited to announce that our next Activist Academy will head to Budapest, Hungary, and our Annual Members' Conference 2026 will take place in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

Fasten your seatbelt and dive into this section for a small taste of what to expect for the year ahead. If you are interested in any of our upcoming activities, feel free to drop us a line at [hello@iglyo.org](mailto:hello@iglyo.org) for more information.

# Capacity Building, Programmes & Projects Highlights in 2026



## \* **In-person Activist Academy Budapest and Global Online Activist Academy**

Our flagship training programme the Activist Academy will be back in 2026 for both an in-person and an online edition! Participants will take part in an intensive training programme involving group development, skills modules, and real-life tasks to test the skills they learned. And just like in previous years, the online edition will be open to LGBTQI young activists from around the globe. The in-person Academy will be held in Budapest, Hungary, in summer 2026 (dates TBA) in collaboration with our Member Budapest Pride.

## \* **International Conference on Countering Anti-Gender Discourse | Dates & Host TBA**

In this 4-day event, participants will learn more about the techniques deployed by anti-rights movements to influence the public and spread damaging narratives. Participants will engage in workshops and share best practices on how to build counter-narratives, responses and tactics.

## \* **4 Online Interactive Workshops**

We will organise 4 online interactive workshops to build the skills of young LGBTQI activists. We will consult with our Members and supporters to decide on the skills/themes which best support their activism.

## \* **IGLYO Grants Programme 2026**

Building on our previous grant cycles in 2023, 2024 and 2025, the IGLYO grants programme will provide grants to support projects led by EU-based Members. In addition to financial assistance, IGLYO will support the implementing organisations with guidance and feedback throughout the programme.

## \* **Young, Queer & Away from Home Report, Resource Hub, Training & Symposium**

In early 2026, we will publish the Young, Queer & Away from Home Report compiling an analysis of the survey results as well as policy recommendations. We will also launch an online resource hub in the form of a map, and deliver a training to professionals likely to support LGBTQI+ children who had to leave home. We will then conclude the project by presenting our policy recommendations at a Policy Symposium in the European Parliament.

# Advocacy & Research Highlights in 2026

## \* **LGBTQI Inclusive Education Survey**

Next year, we will focus our research efforts on the second edition of the LGBTQI Inclusive Education Survey, to gather the experiences and lived realities of LGBTQI learners across Europe. With the results of the survey, IGLYO will assist local and national organisations in their advocacy work toward more inclusive and safer education for all LGBTQI learners.

## \* **Education Toolkit**

In 2026 we will publish a toolkit designed to support practical implementation in education systems and that can be used by public authorities, education stakeholders and practitioners — including in challenging political contexts.

## \* **Working with the Council of Europe and the European Union Institutions**

We will continue our advocacy work by participating in meetings and steering committees and representing IGLYO at key events, such as the IDAHOT+ Forum, or the EU Presidency events on LGBTQI rights. We will also mainstream youth and LGBTQI equality with our participation in institutional working groups, like the European Commission Working Group on equality and values in education and training meetings, the Council of Europe Committee on Anti-Discrimination, or the European LGBTI Focal Points Network.

## \* **Study Visit to the European Parliament**

In 2026, IGLYO will organise a second Study Visit to the European Parliament for 15 young LGBTQI activists with the aim to build their capacities and reinforce their skills in policy and advocacy, as well as to give them the opportunity to practice these newly acquired competences firsthand.

## \* **Education Mentorship Programme 2026**

IGLYO wants to ensure our Member Organisations have the opportunity to have their voices heard even if they are small, local or volunteer-ran as many youth organisations are. With the education mentoring programme, we will support Members selected in 2026 in their work against SOGIGESC-based school-violence.

## \* **Start of our LGBTQI Children's Rights Research**

In 2026, we will develop our methodology to work on LGBTQI children's rights in collaboration with children's rights organisations, developing a robust and sensible methodology that takes into consideration the specific needs of LGBTQI children for their protection and wellbeing.

## Comms & Network Highlights in 2026



- \* **Annual Members' Conference (AMC) | November 2026, Maastricht, the Netherlands**  
Co-hosted by IGLYO and our Member Organisation COC Limburg, our next AMC aims to hold the General Assembly, consult with the membership, discuss and approve IGLYO's future direction, strategy and statutory documents, and elect new Board Members during a 3-day programme, with over 80 participants.
- \* **External Representation**  
As well as Policy meetings and high-level advocacy events, members of the Board and staff will represent IGLYO and the network at important conferences, meetings and events pertaining to LGBTQI rights.
- \* **Informing on LGBTQI (Youth) Rights Developments in Europe and Beyond**  
We will keep on ensuring that our Members and our network as a whole are aware of significant developments in LGBTQI (youth) rights in Europe and globally through statements and posts on social media and in our newsletters.
- \* **LGBTQI Rights Campaigns**  
IGLYO will run at least two social media campaigns centred on LGBTQI youth and children's rights, in order to raise awareness on important issues in an engaging and meaningful way, and support our advocacy efforts.
- \* **Platforming Queer Youth Voices**  
IGLYO will keep on highlighting the work of our Member Organisations online as well as providing a platform for queer young people to share their stories and lived experiences internationally. IGLYO will also interview young LGBTQI activists and share their insights through social media videos and a podcast.

... and much more for you to discover next year!





# IGLYO

The International **LGBTQI**  
Youth & Student Organisation



With the support of



Government of  
the Netherlands



EYF  
European Youth Foundation  
Fondation Jeunesse Européenne

