

Maison de la paix, room P3-506 Chemin
Eugène-Rigot 2, 1202 Genève,
Switzerland ([MAP](#))



1 November 2017

09h00 – 09h25	Coffee and Snacks
09h30 – 09:55	Welcome
10h00 – 11h30	Session 1: Visibility Politics Chair, Kwaku ADOMAKO, Gender Centre
10h00 – 10h30	Vinh-Kim NGUYEN, Graduate Institute <i>Anthropological perspectives on 'MSM' in Africa</i>
10h30 – 11h00	Meg DAVIS, CERAH <i>The uncounted: politics of data and visibility in global health</i>
11h00 – 11h30	Robert Akoto AMOAFI, Solace Foundation <i>Reaching sexual minorities with services and information: experience from Ghana</i>
11h45 – 13h15	Lunch
13h30 – 15h00	Session 2: Institutional Responses Chair: Claire SOMERVILLE, Gender Centre
13h30 – 14h00	Gabe SCHIRVAR, IOM <i>Working with LGBTI persons in forced displacement and the humanitarian setting</i>
14h00 – 14h30	Richard BURZYNSKI, UNAIDS <i>Building a transformative agenda: connecting the HIV/health and rights movements</i>
14h30 – 15h00	Rebekah THOMAS, WHO Doris Chou WHO, UNAIDS <i>Ensuring an inclusive global health agenda for transgender people</i>
15.00 – 15:25	Coffee Break
15h30 – 17h00	Session 3: Translation Chair: Arvind NARRAIN, ARC International
15h30 – 16h00	Godiva Monica AKULLO, Chapter Four <i>What has changed?: Attempting to improve the lives of LGBT Ugandans through litigation</i>
16h00 – 16h30	Neela GHOSHAL, Human Rights Watch <i>Moving governments in the Great Lakes toward respect for LGBT rights</i>
16:30 – 17:00	André DU PLESSIS, ILGA <i>What works and what doesn't: ways forward for "LGBTI" discourse</i>

18h30 – 20h00

Keynote Presentation/Public

Claire: Jill STEANS, University of Birmingham

Introduction: Claire SOMERVILLE, Gender Centre

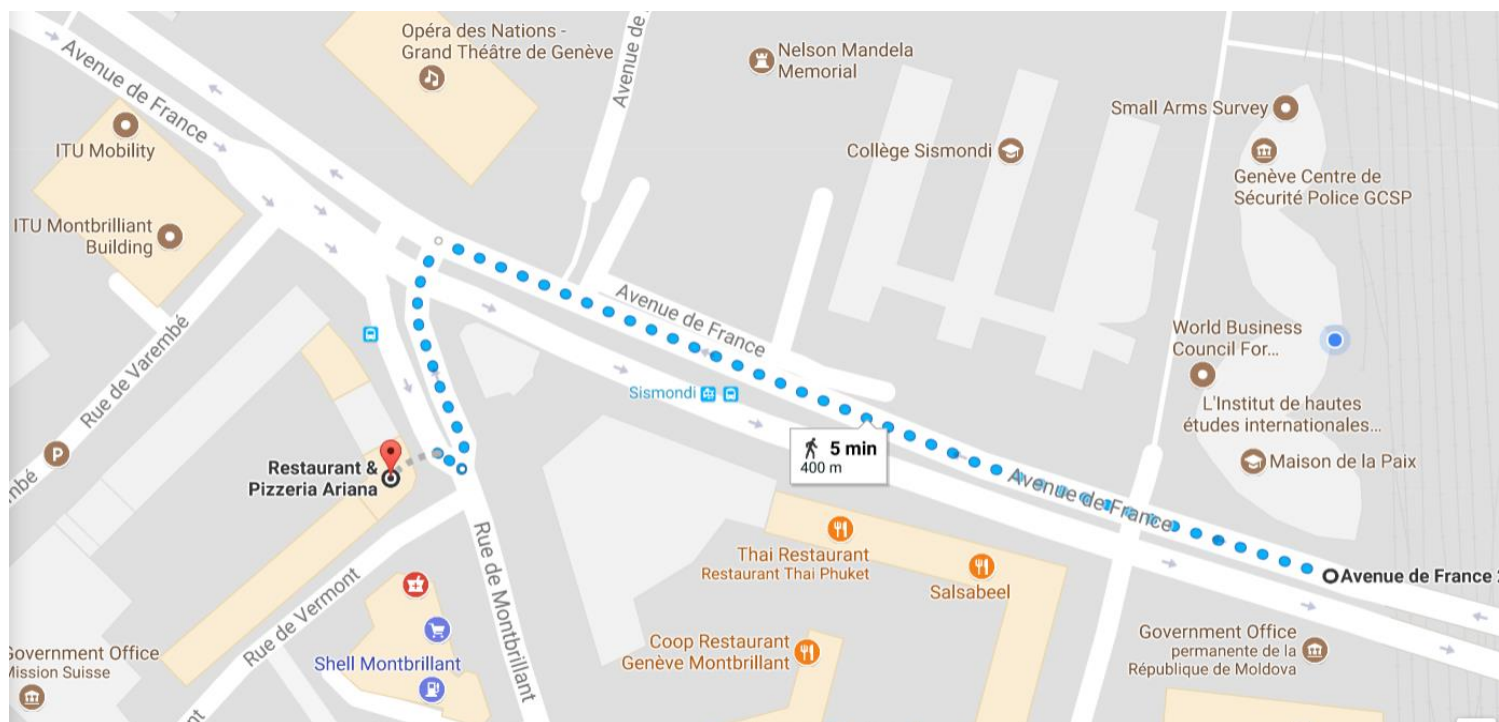
Cynthia WEBER, University of Sussex

What are the implications of artificial intelligence for UN SOGI policies?

20h15 – 22h00

Dinner – Pizzeria Ariana

Rue de Montbrillant 83, 1202 Genève



Speakers



André du Plessis

Head of UN Programme and
Advocacy.

International Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Trans and Intersex
Association (ILGA), Geneva

André du Plessis is the Head of UN Programme and Advocacy at ILGA. He assists LGBTI organizations from around the world to engage with the various facets of the United Nations systems. Prior to ILGA, he worked at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. André is from South Africa and is an English solicitor with experience in the Corporate and Financial Services sectors. He grew up in Zambia, the UK and India, studied law at Cambridge University and University College London, and has worked in mainland China, in Hong Kong, London and is currently based in Geneva, Switzerland.

What works and what doesn't: ways forward for "LGBTI" discourse

Extract: *Persons with diverse SOGIESC in the large and diverse Great Lakes region live in a variety of conditions ranging from the relatively relaxed or at least "under the radar" to the outright dangerous and hostile. LGBTI defenders, as well as other defenders of LGBTI rights, face particular silencing, scrutiny, sanctions or security issues. Arrests, shaming, ostracization and public rage are not uncommon and public discourse is at best awkward, and often non-existent. The capacity to even engage in discussions that may take acceptance forward is limited and there is a constant re-working of possible answers to the question: "why won't they engage with us" and "how can we do this differently"? The international community's response and approach is complex, and can be at once powerful, patronizing, perplexing, paranoid and at times simply paralysed. What are the ways forward for better discourse?*



Gabriel Schirvar

LGBTI Training Focal Point
International Organization for
Migration (IOM), Washington D.C

Gabriel Schirvar is the LGBTI Training Focal Point for the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Gabriel has helped develop IOM's comprehensive training package, "Working with LGBTI persons in the Humanitarian Context," including a training module specifically concentrating on LGBTI health and another addressing sexual and gender based violence concerns for LGBTI people in displacement. Gabriel has facilitated LGBTI training for IOM staff Globally and is had helped develop and lead two workshops for future facilitators. Gabriel is currently finishing their master's degree in Global Public Health Policy at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. Their previous experience includes sitting in on the Health Working Group for the US Department of State.

Working with LGBTI Persons in Forced Displacement and the Humanitarian Setting

Gabriel will discuss the strides made and challenges faced when mainstreaming LGBTI training into IOM and UNHCR programming.



Godiva Akullo

Deputy Executive Director
Chapter Four, Kampala

Godiva Monica Akullo is a feminist lawyer and teacher of the law with a background in human rights. She is passionate about the rights of womyn and other marginalized groups and has written on Intimate Partner Violence among LGBTIQ womyn in Kampala and the use of “Naming and Shaming” as a tool to encourage states to respect their international Human Rights obligations. Ms. Akullo holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from Makerere University, a Master of Laws (LLM) degree from Harvard Law School and a Diploma in Legal Practise from the Law Development Centre.

She is also a permanent writer at AfricanFeminism.com.

What has Changed?: Attempting to improve the lives of LGBT Ugandans through Litigation

Godiva’s talk will broadly cover the effectiveness of litigation as a tool to translate human rights from “lofty aspirations” into reality for LGBTIQ Ugandans.



Meg Davis

Visiting Scholar,
New York University, New York

Sara L.M. Davis (known as Meg) is a visiting scholar with CHRGJ. Her research focuses on global health aid, measurement of impact of human rights on health, and health and human rights in Asia. She was the first senior human rights advisor at The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. At the Global Fund, she led the process of establishing minimum human rights standards for grant agreements in 140 countries that receive Global Fund support; launched a human rights complaints procedure at the Global Fund Office of the Inspector General; and published and implemented grant guidance on funding human rights programs as part of Global Fund HIV, TB, malaria and Health System Strengthening grants.

As a long-time human rights practitioner, Meg has worked with dozens of community-based organizations and networks in Asia and Africa. She was the China researcher at Human Rights Watch, where she authored four human rights reports, and then founded human rights group Asia Catalyst, where she is now a member of the board.

Meg earned her Ph.D. at University of Pennsylvania, and has continued active engagement in scholarship through research and visiting scholar positions at Yale University, UCLA, Columbia University, and Fordham Law School. She now consults for UNAIDS, the International Network of People Using Drugs (INPUD), Open Society Foundations, and African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHer), among others. Her blog is megdavisconsulting.com, and she posts on Twitter @saralmdavis.

The uncounted - politics of data and invisibility in global health

Instructor
Geneva Center for Education
and Research in Humanitarian
Action (CERAH), Geneva

Meg will talk about the way that politics and economics are driving an emphasis on quantitative data in global financing of HIV programs, as global health donors are increasing their demands for evidence of impact of their investments. However, criminalization and rights violations drive key populations such as MSM and trans* people underground, reinforcing their invisibility in official discourses. In response, in some cases, activists are questioning HIV data about their constituencies, interrogating the methods used, and demanding to be included in studies about them, as co-investigators or principal investigators.



Neela Ghoshal is Senior Researcher in the LGBT Rights program at Human Rights Watch. She has worked with Human Rights Watch for ten years: first in the Africa Division, where she focused on political repression, police abuse, justice sector reform, and transitional justice in Burundi and Kenya, and now, since 2012, in the LGBT rights program, where she documents and conducts advocacy on human rights violations related to sexual orientation and gender identity in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, Ghoshal worked on access to justice for genocide survivors in Guatemala and on education and criminal justice in New York City. Ghoshal holds a bachelor's in social justice studies from the University of Michigan and a master's in international relations from Yale University. She lives in Nairobi, Kenya.

Moving Governments in East Africa and the Great Lakes Toward Respect for LGBT Rights

Neela Ghoshal

Senior Researcher, LGBT
Rights Program
Human Rights Watch

Abstract: *What role do, and can, LGBTI advocates and activists play in promoting ostensibly universal goals and aspirations in concrete, localized contexts? What lessons can we draw from the successes and challenges in these aspirations?*

Activists working on LGBTI rights in the Great Lakes region have had some success in tailoring their approaches to suit local contexts, and policymakers working outside the region must work closely in partnership with activists to understand local approaches. In claiming “LGBTI rights,” activists have tended to focus on the argument that LGBTI rights are human rights and that what they are demanding is no more and no less than the fundamental rights that every person deserves to have respected. Resolution 275 of the ACHPR has given a boost to advocacy around the right to be free from violence and discrimination, and advocates have used the resolution’s language to, for example, advocate for the end of forced anal exams. They also draw on protections offered to human rights defenders under international instruments, and emphasize that the freedom of expression, assembly and association extend to those working on issues around sexual orientation and gender identity. In very closed countries, activists have sought angles to at least open dialogue and find common ground with government officials: one angle has been to emphasize the importance of reducing stigma against key populations, including men who have sex with men and trans people, in order to address the HIV pandemic. Across the region, LGBTI activists have focused on building alliances, including with mainstream civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and potential allies within government, which may be found within the police, the justice sector, or the health sector.

Neela will address some of the successes and best practices she has seen, as well as some of the challenges in more intractable situations, focusing on Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Zambia.



Rebekah Thomas

Technical Officer, Human Rights World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva

A thoughtful and determined lawyer and public health advocate, with a demonstrated track record in crossing disciplinary and departmental divides, Rebekah provides technical and practical leadership in translating human rights to health. She uses law, policy and communications to challenge injustices against the most marginalized. She promotes the incorporation of human rights standards and principles into public health policy and practice by fostering health-sector engagement with human rights accountability mechanisms (e.g. UPR). She reflects human rights standards and principles into core WHO institutional mechanisms (planning, budgeting, guideline development, country programming) by building staff awareness and capacity to deliver programmes in line with human rights standards. She establishes strategic linkages between the health and human rights communities and partners and while leading a research agenda on developing evidence of impact of rights-based approaches in health.

Ensuring an inclusive global health agenda for transgender people

Abstract: *With discussions on gender identity within and outside of an HIV/AIDS context becoming much more prevalent among UN organizations, transgender health is beginning to grow into an emerging topic within the WHO. This seminar will focus on the latest guidelines and best practices on implementing comprehensive HIV and STI programs for transgender persons, the proposed ICD11 changes in regards to transgender persons and how people-centered, care, rights-based approaches and non-discrimination can make health more inclusive for all.*



Richard Burzynski

Senior advisor, focal point on LGBTI and other key populations UN AIDS, Geneva

Richard has been an AIDS and LGBT activist and advocate since 1985. He co-founded the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) in 1989 with other advocates from across the world. In 1999, he served on the Working Group that developed the Global Fund and served as the first communication focal point for developed country NGOs for 8 years. As a global advocate, Richard has supported the development of several global organizations and networks including the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, the global coalition for HIV and Africans in the diaspora, and the Global Forum on Men who have sex with Men (MSMGF) with other advocates.

Richard joined UNAIDS in 2009 as an advisor on universal access to AIDS services including treatment. He is currently a Senior Advisor of Community Mobilization, Social Justice and Inclusion, and the agency focal point on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity, and people left behind in the HIV response. In 2014, he developed Equal Eyes - a bi-weekly compilation of global news, stories and updates impacting the health and well-being of LGBT people. <http://equal-eyes.org/> In 2015, he led the UNAIDS effort to develop and an historic joint statement, endorsed by 12 UN agencies to end violence and discrimination against LGBTI people.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/JointLGBTIstatement.aspx>

Building a transformative agenda: connecting the HIV/health and rights movements

Richard's presentation will highlight the challenges and opportunities to connecting the cross-cutting agendas of Health/HIV and human rights movements among LGBTI people or who whose identities, expression and desires fall outside of the scope of gendered or sexual norms. In Africa, HIV remains an important entry point to discussion and dialogue on removing the structural barriers impacting the health of gay men, other men who have sex with men, and transgender people. However, UNAIDS recognizes that taking HIV out of isolation means integrating this health agenda into the broader social and rights agenda to improve the health and wellbeing of all.



Robert Akoto

Amofo

Board Chair

Solace Initiative, Accra

Robert Akoto Amofo is a human rights advocate, communication specialist and organisational and personal development trainer. He has over 10 years working experience in advancing human rights protection for the vulnerable with a special focus on sexual and gender minorities.

He has worked as Executive Director of the Human Rights Advocacy Centre, an NGO with a mandate to ensure the protection, promotion and respect for human rights in Ghana. He also worked with FHI 360-Ghana as a Technical Advisor and Community Liaison on the Linkages Across the Continuum Project. There, Robert helped ensure that information and services related to HIV prevention and treatment reached as many men who have sex with men as possible.

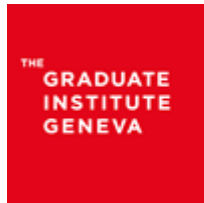
Mr. Amofo currently provides technical assistance to over 10 NGOs that advance the welfare of LGBT people in Ghana. He currently serves as the Board Chair of Solace Initiative and is a Project Management Team member on the COC Netherland funded Ghana PRIDE Project.

Mr. Amofo holds an Executive Certificate in Project Management and Strategic Communication. He is a graduate of the University of Ghana with a Bachelor's in English and Information Studies. He also holds a certificate in Conflict Management, Gender and Human Rights from the Centre for Conflict Resolution located in Cape Town, South Africa. He is currently studying law at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration.

Reaching African sexual minorities with services and information: experience from Ghana

Extract: *“The Ghana AIDS Commission in its literature on Key Populations recognises Men who have Sex with other Men (MSM) as a key focus of its programming. HIV interventions are specifically designed to serve MSM and national strategic plans are drawn to ensure they are covered in the delivery of HIV treatment services. Under the public health approach, MSM are able to access HIV services in public hospitals and in Drop-In-Centres. This opened the door for work for the broader sexual minority groups in Ghana. Advocates rode on the back of the public health approach to addressing HIV among MSM to reach LGBT groups with LGBT specific programs. Notwithstanding the existence of these programs, it is still challenging to reach more sexual minorities. Ghana like, many other African countries, has a law that criminalises same sex sexual activity between men. Notwithstanding the specificity of this law, lesbians, bisexual women, effeminate men and transgender people suffer abuse, human rights violations and discrimination from the existence of this law too. This alongside limited information and fear of violent attacks makes it difficult for researchers and program implementers to reach sexual minorities.”*

Robert's presentation will give an overview of work with sexual minorities in Ghana. He will highlight the successes and challenges experienced in the field and the way forward.



Vinh-Kim Nguyen

Physician

Avicenna Hospital, Paris
Jewish General Hospital,
Montréal

Medical Anthropologist

Graduate Institute of
International and
Development Studies, Geneva

As a physician, Vinh-Kim practices emergency medicine at the Jewish General Hospital in Montréal and now at Avicenna Hospital in Paris. He also has clinical expertise in HIV and infectious diseases. As a medical anthropologist, his research examines efforts to combat emerging epidemics, with a specific focus on HIV, Ebola and war-related infections. His work is supported by grants from the European Research Council and the European Union.

In his work with community organizations responding to the HIV epidemic in West Africa, he has observed and participated in the emergence of “MSM” as a key concern of these efforts.

Anthropological perspectives on 'MSM' in Africa

In his talk, Vinh-Kim will explore how global discourses and institutional practices around HIV have helped “produce” identities, politics, and socialites. He will focus particularly on unintended consequences and paradoxical effects relating to “MSM.” He will discuss these findings in light of relevant theories in anthropology and social thought; e.g., biopolitics, in order to understand the broader social implications.



Chairs



Arvind Narrain,

Geneva Director

ARC International, Geneva

As Director of ARC International, Arvind works on advocacy for LGBTI rights at the Human Rights Council and around the Yogyakarta Principles. As a founding member of the Alternative Law Forum in Bangalore, he has worked on human rights issues including mass crimes, communal conflict, LGBT rights and human rights history. He has been a part of many fact-finding reports on sexual minorities in India and was also part of the litigation team, which argued the constitutionality of Section 377 before the High Court and the Supreme Court which criminalises sexual activities "against the order of nature".



Claire Somerville

Director

Gender Centre at the Graduate
Institute, Geneva

An applied medical anthropologist by training, Claire Somerville continues to pursue research in global health, systems innovation and technology. In her role at the Gender Centre she leads on policy, outreach and strategy to advance the centre's mission. Claire is also active in promoting women leaders in global health. Claire's research is defined by interdisciplinary collaboration and previous research projects have sought to bridge academic research with industry partnerships (Intel Corporation) and clinical health sciences. Claire worked at the Technology Research for Independent Living centre (TRIL) at Trinity College Dublin (where she remains as an external PhD examiner) as senior social scientist.



Kwaku Adomako

Research Assistant

Gender Centre at the Graduate
Institute, Geneva

Kwaku is an institutional ethnographer that intersects global queer studies with citizenship and migration studies. Prior to filling his role as a research assistant for the Gender Centre, he worked as a consultant for the Council of Europe and European Union Youth Initiative, where he produced a [publication](#) on Swiss state practices that made it impossible to integrate asylum seekers that had temporary protection status. He also worked with the IOM to mainstream LGBTI training in its Geneva office, then in the Technical Division of the United Nations Population Fund. He has a master's degree in anthropology and sociology of development, and a bachelor's degree in anthropology and sociology with a minor in interdisciplinary studies of sexuality. He will begin his PhD in 2018.



Keynote Speaker



Cynthia Weber
Professor, International
Relations
University of Sussex

Cynthia Weber is Professor of International Relations at the University of Sussex. She has published several internationally recognized books on topics ranging from US foreign policy and international relations to theory and film. She is Co-Editor of the [International Feminist Journal of Politics](#). Her latest book [Queer International Relations: Sovereignty, Sexuality and the Will to Knowledge](#) was published by Oxford University Press in 2016.

What Are the Implications of Artificial Intelligence for UN SOGI Policies?

Abstract: Debates about artificial intelligence (AI) are being called “the most important conversation of our time”. This conversation largely skirted SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) issues, until a widely disparaged Stanford University study claimed that AI facial recognition technology determines a person’s sexual orientation with greater accuracy than the human eye. What are the implications of AI-generated sexual orientations for UN SOGI policies, and what wider benefits, risks and dangers might AI hold for SOGI issues and policies? This talk initiates a conversation on these important questions.