

# PSI statement

The participants of the network meeting of the **American LGBT unionists in Public Services International (PSI)**, on the 27th of October 2014 in Mexico city, in conjunction with the ILGA<sup>1</sup> World Conference,

- expressing their joy about the organisation of this meeting by PSI, and about support they got from PSI for being present at this meeting;

considering

- PSI's Resolution 27 at the Helsinki Congress 1993 on gay and lesbian workers;
- the PSI-EI joint agreement (2004) and the subsequent establishment of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) Forum (made up of representatives from affiliates of the two organisations) which serves as consultative body to the Executive Boards of both EI and PSI;
- the outcome of the joint PSI-EI LGBT Forums including the 2004 Porto Alegre Declaration (Brazil) and the recommendations from the Second and Third Forum in Vienna (2007) and in Cape Town (2011) respectively;
- the work done by PSI facilitating a preconference meeting and ensuring, together with the Belgian union ABVV, unionists' networking during the Antwerp Outgames Human Rights Conference 2011, and the closing statement of that conference that expressed the importance of the labour movement in defending LGBT rights;

kindly request

- information about the role that PSI plans to take in the preparations for the next Forum, including the potential organising capacities and skills in PSI affiliates;

and invite the PSI board

- to follow up on the implementation of agreed recommendations in the PSI working agenda, and consider – preferably in close co-operation with EI – the planning of a new meeting of a LGBT Forum, to be announced at least one year before its actual date, so that LGBTI unionists have ample time to arrange a delegation from their union and/or arrange the financial consequences of travelling to the Forum;
- to consider the involvement of union volunteers and activists (such as members of a Steering Committee<sup>2</sup>) which might play a significant role to boost the organising power of the PSI staff, if volunteers/activists tasks and responsibilities are properly defined
- to report to PSI affiliates about the development of these preparations, and propose alternative ways of action should the co-operation with EI be complicated;
- to reconsider, preferably together with EI, terms of reference for a new Steering Committee, with input from unions with LGBT(I) groups and/or policies; and
- to install, preferably together with EI and based upon nominations put forward by affiliate unions, a new group of LGBT(I) union activists/volunteers from various regional, gender and other backgrounds who are willing, capable and able to assist PSI (and EI) staff, either under the name of Steering Committee or any other name, and who are willing to commit themselves to this task for at least a year.

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<sup>1</sup> International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association. Next to the situations of lesbians, gay men, bisexual and trans people (LGBT), sexual diversity policies are increasingly taking into account the situations of people with an intersex (I) status.

<sup>2</sup> See Porto Alegre Declaration.