



Protecting queer human rights against the global backlash – The responsibility of German development cooperation

Invitation to the international conference “Protecting queer human rights against global backlash – The responsibility of German development cooperation”

When: 30th October 2025, 4:00-7:00 pm

Where: Berlin Global Village in Miriam Makeba Hall – Am Sudhaus 2, 12053 Berlin

In many countries, LGBTIQ+ people are facing an alarming increase in discrimination, exclusion, and violence. Their human rights are under threat– whether through restrictive laws, political agitation, or stigmatization.

German development cooperation has a responsibility to promote and respect the human rights of queer people globally– for example, through targeted support for local human rights initiatives, political advocacy, or the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people into development programs.

This international conference takes a critical look at the current global backlash and its consequences for queer movements worldwide. International speakers will present good practice, examples and lessons learned from project work in Ghana and the Balkans. The panel will discuss current challenges for the human rights of LGBTIQ+ people in a global context, and provide recommendations for German development cooperation.

An event organized by Engagement Global in cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation, taking place as part of the Program Development related Education in Germany (EBD).

The event will be held in English and German with simultaneous interpretation. Margaux Richet will moderate the event.

Registration is requested: [Online registration - Engagement Global](#)

Further information about the event: [Event detail - Engagement Global](#)

Schedule

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda</i>
15:30	Registration and arrival
16:00	Opening and welcome
16:10	Keynote by Dr. Julia Ehrh (Executive Director ILGA World - International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association World)
16:30	Workshops (parallel) 1. The Pink Factor: Geopolitics from a queer perspective with Sarah Kohrt (Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation) in conversation with Gloria (Activist from Ghana) 2. Regional empowerment work for the trans*community in the Western Balkans With Aleksa Milanović (TransNetworkBalkans) 3. Defunding human rights: harsh influence of aid cuts on trans rights? With Daniyar Orseko (TGEU - Trans Europe and Central Asia) 4. Inside Out: From queer visibility to structural change in international cooperation With Nat Ortolan Ervilha and Lena Trierweiler (GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit)
17:30	Break
17:45	Panel: Now more than ever! – Empowering queer actors worldwide as part of resilient democracies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lana Damm (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)• Klaus Jetz (Executive Director, LSVD+, Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation)• Aleksa Milanović (Trans Network Balkans)• Farina Hoffmann (Bread for the World)
18:45	Conclusion and outlook
19:00	Informal closing with snacks and drinks

Please direct any questions or inquiries to:

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