

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT – 2019

The following report is not exhaustive, but rather presents the highlights of Aliança Nacional LGBTI's activities in 2019.

### PAHO/WHO

In December 2017, the president of Aliança Nacional LGBTI, Antonio Luiz Martins Harrad Reis (Toni Reis), took part - at the invitation of the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization – in the Regional Forum “Universal Health in the 21st Century: Alma-Ata 40 Years”. The Forum was held in Quito, Ecuador. Following this, a High-Level Commission with the same name was created and Toni Reis was invited to form part of the Commission representing the LGBTI+ community of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The objectives of the Commission were to support PAHO with the activities of the Commission; deliberate on the challenges the Region of the Americas faces forty years after Alma-Ata; and to produce a high-level report with recommendations for health system strengthening and empowerment of people and communities towards Universal Health.

The Commission met several times and worked throughout 2018 and in April 2019 the Commission held its final meeting in Mexico City, when its report was presented and finalized, for subsequent delivery to all the region's Health Ministers.



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(Commission members at PAHO headquarters in Washington)

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## ADVOCACY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Throughout 2019 representatives of Aliança Nacional LGBTI made several visits to the country's capital city, Brasília, with the aim of advocating for LGBTI+ issues among decision makers of the three branches of government: the legislative, judiciary and executive branches.

On May 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Aliança held a Seminar in Brasília as part of the activities in commemoration of International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (17/05). The Seminar brought together leaders from different areas and worked on a strategic plan to advance with advocacy issues in the three branches of government.

The product of the Seminar was the Diversity Charter (Carta da Diversidade, publication attached), which sets forth priority issues for the Brazilian LGBTI+ in the three branches of government:

Legislative Branch: criminalization of LGBTIphobic discrimination and violence; equal marriage rights for same sex couples and equal family rights; gender identity rights for trans people, self-determination rights for intersex children; public security; protection of elderly LGBTI people; equal blood donation rights.

Judiciary Branch: criminalization of LGBTIphobic discrimination and violence; Recognition of the unconstitutionality of laws that prohibit the subject of gender, gender identity/expression and sexual orientation to be discussed in the classroom; Recognition of the unconstitutionality of norms that prevent gay and bisexual men from donating blood.

Executive Branch: specific policies for human rights, education, health, employment, social security, public security, social services and culture.



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On September 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Aliança held another Seminar in Brasilia to update the Diversity Charter, continue to define strategies and continue its advocacy work with the three branches of government (photo above).

## ADVOCACY IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS (PARLIAMENT)

Traditionally in Brazil left-wing political parties have supported LGBTI+ issues while little support has been forthcoming from centre and right-wing parties, and indeed some more radically extreme right-wing forces have acted successfully to prevent any protective or favourable legislation on LGBTI+ issues from being approved and becoming law.

In view of the current right-wing government and taking into consideration experiences in other countries, such as Spain for example, in its strategic planning Aliança decided that inroads need to be made into other parties apart from left-wing parties in order to increase and diversify support for LGBTI+ issues within Parliament. This has involved strengthening of LGBTI+ party members within the parties themselves by means of specific LGBTI+ groups officially recognized within around 16 of Brazil's 32 political parties.

In addition, and in particular, Aliança Nacional LGBTI worked hard throughout 2019 to mobilize members of parliament (MPs) into forming a group of MPs committed to supporting LGBTI+ issues.

This initiative began with a meeting in February in the National Congress with the aim of creating what was originally conceived as being a 'Working Group for Respect for Human Diversity in the National Congress'. Fifteen LGBTI+ groups from political parties and two MPs took part, as well as several parliamentary aides.

(Photo: participants at the meeting – 12/02/2019)



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By February 20<sup>th</sup>, 38 parliamentarians had joined the initiative.



(Photos: Meetings in February and March and MPs formally joining the initiative)

Among participants at the third meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> was the representative of the Brazilian Law Society's Commission on Sexual Diversity.

Membership of the group had increased to 76 parliamentarians, (67 MPs and 9 Senators), representing 15 different political parties.



March 29<sup>th</sup>

As time progressed and membership grew, the group changed its name to “Mixed Parliamentary Front for Respect for LGBTI+ Citizenship.” (‘Mixed’ refers to membership by MPs and Senators as well).

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On May 15<sup>th</sup> a public hearing was held in the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) and on May 16<sup>th</sup> a public hearing was held in the Senate (upper house), both in relation to May 17<sup>th</sup> and the situation of the human rights of LGBTI+ people in Brazil.



(Photo: May 15<sup>th</sup>, during the public hearing at the Human Rights and Minorities Committee, Chamber of Deputies)

On May 16<sup>th</sup> participants of the Seminar and MPs had a meeting with the President of the Chamber of Deputies, when the points raised by the Diversity Charter regarding the Legislative Branch were presented.

(Photo: President of the Chamber of Deputies holding the rainbow flag)



With a week, the Senate Constitution and Justice Committee voted in favour of a Senate bill to criminalize LGBTIphobic discrimination and violence.

In the first week of June, the Human Rights and Minorities Committee of the Chamber of Deputies also voted in favour of a Chamber bill to criminalize LGBTIphobic discrimination and violence.

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On June 24th the Parliamentary Front and Aliança Nacional LGBTI organized a special session in the National Congress to commemorate LGBTI+ Pride Day (28/06), remembering the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion.



Aliança's advocacy work in the National Congress continued throughout the rest of the year.



(advocacy with MPs and Senators)

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(with Brazil's first openly gay Senator, Fabiano Contarato)

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, in commemoration of Human Rights Day (10/12), Aliança spoke at a public hearing on “Violence in Brazil”, with emphasis on more vulnerable segments, held by the Senate’s Human Rights and Participative Legislation Committee.

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By the end of 2019, 169 MPs and Senators had joined the Parliamentary Front.

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## ADVOCACY IN THE FEDERAL SUPREME COURT

In the last decade, the Supreme Court has been the answer to the prayers of the LGBTI+ community in Brazil. Where the National Congress has failed, the Supreme Court has excelled itself.

In 2011, the eleven Court ministers unanimously ruled in favour of equal recognition by law of partnerships between same sex couples and in 2013 this was extended to civil marriage.

In 2015, the Court ruled in favour of adoption of children by same sex couples.

In 2018, the Court ruled in favour of the rights of trans persons to self-determination of gender identity and to alter the civil documents accordingly.

In 2019, the three remaining priorities for the LGBTI+ movement were the object of advocacy actions by Aliança Nacional LGBTI, i.e.: criminalization of LGBTIphobic discrimination and violence; Recognition of the unconstitutionality of laws that prohibit the subject of gender, gender identity/expression and sexual orientation to be discussed in the classroom; Recognition of the unconstitutionality of norms that prevent gay and bisexual men from donating blood.

Aliança's advocacy actions in this sense have involved being or assisting *amici curiae* in cases of interest to the LGBTI+ community in the Supreme Court. This involves speaking to the court during judgement sessions and submitting written briefs providing legal arguments as to the constitutionality of the pleas, as well as having meetings with Court ministers.

In February and May the Court resumed its judgement of two actions on criminalization of LGBTIphobic discrimination and violence. The two actions were judged jointly, one related to alleged omission on the part of the National Congress for not having legislated on the matter, while the other asked for recognition of LGBTIphobic discrimination and violence as a form of racism, punishable as such by law.

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Supreme Court, 14/02



Supreme Court, 20/02



Supreme Court, 23/05  
Two lady MPs supporters of the LGBTI+  
cause



Supreme Court, 23/05  
Singer Daniele Mercury (celebrity adding  
weight to advocacy work)

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Supreme Court, 23/05



Supreme Court, 29/05

On June 13<sup>th</sup> 2019, the Supreme Court concluded its judgement of the two cases and ruled that there had been omission on the part of the National Congress for failing to legislate on the matter and also ruled that cases of LGBTIphobic discrimination and violence must be judged by the country's courts as cases of racism, punishable as such by law if found guilty.



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Supreme Court, 13/06  
advocacy group with the President of the  
Court, Minister Dias Toffoli

On May 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that the specific restrictions on gay and bisexual men donating blood were unconstitutional.

Also in 2020, the Court has ruled on three of the several cases filed with it, finding municipal laws banning discussion of gender, gender identity/expression and sexual orientation in the classroom to be unconstitutional.

## ADVOCACY WITH KEY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

In January 2019 a new federal government took up office, lead by right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro. After sixteen years of left-wing governments more open to LGBTI+ issues, in addition to Bolsonaro's public anti-LGBTI+ stance, uncertainty prevailed as to any possible relationship and advocacy efforts with the new government. However, some dialogue has been possible in key areas.

### Education

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Aliança had a meeting with the Secretary of Specialized Education Modalities at the Education Ministry.

Among other subjects, the discussion involved identification of actions to make schools safer and more welcoming places for LGBTI+ students. Aliança brought to the Secretary's attention

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the UNESCO initiative in 2016, namely the “Call for Action by Ministers of Education: inclusive and equal education for all students in an environment free from discrimination and violence”, to which Brazil is a signatory.

Aliança Nacional LGBTI is a member of the National Education Forum, a space of interlocution between civil society and the Brazilian Government. Under the new federal government the Forum’s meetings had been suspended. Its first and only meeting this year was held on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Aliança represents the area of gender and sexual diversity on the Forum.



### Health, with emphasis on HIV

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Aliança had a meeting with the new Director of the Health Ministry’s Department of STI, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis, Dr. Gerson Pereira. The Department has a longstanding policy on a human rights approach to addressing the HIV epidemic and Aliança works closely with the Department in relation to addressing the HIV epidemic among gay and bisexual men and trans persons.



(meeting with Dr. Gerson, 13/03)

A further meeting was held with Dr. Gerson on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, World AIDS Day, Aliança was invited by Health Minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta to speak on behalf of civil society during the launch of this year’s World AIDS Day campaign in Brasília, targeting prevention and testing among young people.

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## Other Health Issues

On November 27th, Aliança's Administrative Director, Rafaelly Wiest, took part in a the meeting of the Intersectoral Commission on Healthcare for People with Pathologies, held at the National Health Council.

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## Human Rights

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Aliança, had a meeting with Minister Damare Alves and her team at the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights, to dialogue and highlight the importance of continuing with public policies on the human rights LGBTI+ people.

Dialogue had taken place previously with the Minister in December 2018 during the transition to the new government, when she was particularly moved by the testimonies of trans women, apart from agreeing to retain two key staff responsible for LGBTI+ issues in the previous government.



(15/05/2019)

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A further meeting was held at the Ministry on June 6th, and involved dialogue with the Directorate for LGBTI Human Rights Promotion and with the National Secretary for Universal Protection.

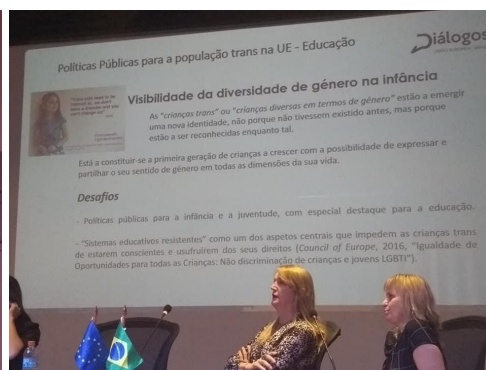
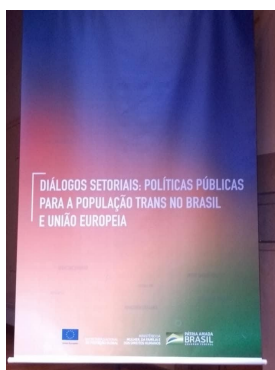


LGBTI Directorate



National Secretary

During LGBTI+ Pride week in São Paulo-SP, Aliança took part in an event jointly held on June 18<sup>th</sup> by the Ministry and the European Union, entitled “Sectorial Dialogues: Public Policies for the Trans Population and the European Union.” The main topics discussed were education, employability, health, prison system and legislation on gender identity.



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On December 17th – 19th, Aliança took part in the 4th meeting of the Working Group on LGBTI+ Empregability, which besides the Ministry also involved the European Union, the Public Prosecution Service – Labour Branch, Uber, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations in Brazil.



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## ADVOCACY WITH UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Aliança had a meeting at the UN Offices in Brasilia.

One of the meetings took place at UNAIDS Brazil, a longstanding partner on LGBTI+ issues.



(12/02/2019)

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Aliança had a meeting with representatives of the Free & Equal campaign in Brazil to discuss possible partnerships in the second semester.



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(07/06/ 2019)

Aliança also took part in a workshop on HIV Prevention and Treatment among Key Populations, held at the UNODC Office in Brasília.



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## MERCOSUR

On November 27th 2019, Aliança took part in a meeting of the Permanent LGBTI Committee at the Mercosul Meeting of High-Level Human Rights Authorities (*Reunião das Altas Autoridades de Direitos Humanos do Mercosul – RAADH*).

The meeting was held in Brasília. Aliança spoke about the situation of the LGBTI+ community in Brazil and possible responses. Representatives of the governments of Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay, as well as Brazilian civil society organizations, took part in the meeting.



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## INTERNATIONAL LGBTI+ CONGRESS

Aliança held an International LGBTI+ Congress in Curitiba-PR, Brazil, from November 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 2019. One of Aliança's main partners in holding this event was the Federal University of Paraná. Support was also received from the UNAIDS office in Brazil and from the Brazilian Law Society (*Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil*). A side event on HIV combination prevention was supported by the UNESCO office in Brazil.

(Photo: Meeting with the Chancellor of the Federal University of Paraná on March 21<sup>st</sup> to confirm support for the Congress)



The Congress brought together 540 participants from Brazil as well as from several Spanish-speaking Latin American and Caribbean countries. It was an unprecedented event in the region, as it brought together academics, social movements and corporations at the same time to reflect on issues of sexual and gender diversity, especially on the direction of LGBTI+ issues. Separate moments were also planned to discuss issues specific to each thematic group. For this reason the International LGBTI+ Congress was comprised of specific events:

- International LGBTI+ Academic Symposium
- National LGBTI+ Congress of Aliança Nacional LGBTI
- II Business Seminar - networking, diversity & innovation
- IV GayLatino Regional Meeting

With regard to the Academic Symposium, there were 32 panels, 82 speakers, 125 working groups and 20 books were launched and 116 papers were published in the annals of the event.

In relation to social movement participation, 25 LGBTI+ networks were represented and discussed issues of relevance such as violence and human rights violations, HIV, education, gender identity, employability (especially trans persons), among others.

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The Business Seminar was also well represented by corporations that are developing diversity and inclusion policies for employees and, in some cases, in relation to suppliers and customers as well. This part of the Congress was aligned with the United Nations Standards of Conduct for Business: Tackling Discrimination against LGBTI and the aim of achieving Global LGBTI Equality.



Photos of the Congress



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## LGBTI+ PRIDE SEMINAR

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, during the São Paulo LGBTI+ Pride celebrations, Aliança held a Seminar with leaders of the LGBTI+ movement from all over Brazil to discuss strategic alignment and to celebrate and remember the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969 which gave rise to the current LGBTI+ rights movement.



(participants at the Seminar)

## INTERNAL ACTIONS OF ALIANÇA

Aliança Nacional LGBTI worked throughout 2019 to continue strengthening its structure and representativeness throughout Brazil. By the end of 2019, Aliança had formally appointed voluntary representations in all of Brazil's 27 states and in over 150 municipalities. As well as representing Aliança locally, the local representatives are encouraged to replicate Aliança's national advocacy work at the state and municipal level.

Aliança also began to structure its Thematic and Specific Areas of work. Thematic Areas refer to areas such as Education and Culture, among others, while Specific Areas concern areas such as Women and Youth, among others. Each Area has a coordinator, usually supported by two deputies. All of these activities are voluntary. By May 2020, there were 43 such Areas, covering many of the diverse issues that go to form the LGBTI+ community. Communication between all these different representations and areas is constant via WhatsApp groups.

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May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

Antonio Luiz Martins Harrad Reis (Toni Reis)  
President  
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