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December 2015

Welcome to Participate!, the newsletter of the Federation of Gay Games.

On behalf of the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) Board and Honorary Life Members, we continue sending our very best wishes to all affected by the tragedy in Paris, as well as extending the same sentiments for other recent and similar tragedies.

More than ever, it's vital for us to remain united and steadfast in our efforts of engaging people to participate in their local communities and encourage inclusion in all sports and social endeavors. It is a proven fact that inclusion provides many benefits: a sense of belonging, feelings of acceptance and value, social relationships and friendships.

Another way to encourage the spirit of participation and inclusion is to help send athletes and artists to the 2018 Gay Games 10 in Paris through the FGG's Scholarship and Education Program. Our goal is to do our best and raise \$100,000 and send more athletes and artists than ever to "Change the World."

For the 2014 Gay Games 9, the FGG provided scholarship support to 47 recipients from the countries of Croatia, Russia, South Africa, Macedonia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, Kazakhstan, Argentina, Brazil, Slovenia, Philippines and Chile. The FGG scholarship program is funded in part by the Roy M. Coe Scholarship Fund, helping bring athletes to the Gay Games since 2002.

Click here to learn more and [SEIZE THE DAY](#).



Joanie Evans, Female co-president



Kurt Dahl, Male co-president

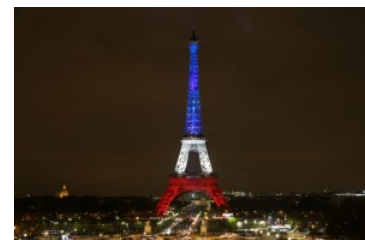
PARTICIPATION • INCLUSION • PERSONAL BEST  PARTICIPATION • INCLUSION • PERSONAL BEST

Official Reaction from Paris 2018

[Posted Monday, 16 November, 2015](#)

France is in national mourning. Friday, November 13, 2015 was a dark day for our country and for the entire democratic world. The indiscriminate suicide attacks in Paris are increasing in the Middle East, America and other European cities.

The entire team of Paris 2018 joins in the reflection and mourning of having too many people torn from life, while offering our support to the hundreds of injured innocents, to all their families, and to all their friends. We pay tribute to all first responders, police, military, firefighters, medical professionals, rescue workers, volunteers, and all who have come to the aid of the victims while



ensuring our security. The members of the Paris 2018 team are, to our knowledge, safe and sound, but not unscathed. We are united and remain vigilant.

These atrocious acts of barbarism attempted to attack the symbols that are the strength of our country. First our republican values of liberty, equality and fraternity. Then, the unique concept of "laïcité", which enables a diversity of spiritualities to live in society together, and finally, our way of life, "l'art de vivre", in cafes, theaters and football fields.

More than ever, Paris 2018 reaffirms its role as a major sporting, cultural, humanistic and festive event capable of taking place in national and international harmony. More than ever, we want to unite the world with Paris in order to participate in changing the world with our values of diversity, respect, equality, solidarity and sharing. Our organization brings together various diverse energies that will increase even more as we continue to unite - despite of and because of our differences - for the success of our ambitious project.

Mourn our scars but act, act again, act always.

Photo: © Sophie Robichon



One World Event Update

Following the Assembly's approval of the Memo of Understanding at the Limerick AGA, the Board is currently conducting a Risk Analysis to see if a partnership with GLISA to produce a single quadrennial event is feasible; and if so, what would be required to achieve that goal.

Sports Diversity Leadership Conference



Many sports diversity organizations share common evolving LGBT issues, yet have very specific missions within the LGBT sporting movement; this new Sports Diversity Leadership Conference helps bring together and build a community of leaders to share and build upon already

robust and successful organizations.

Also, many people from weekend warriors to professional athletes, are unsure how they can make a difference in the future of sports diversity; this new Leadership Conference will also work to foster these leaders of tomorrow: mentors, coaches, league organizers, board members and more. The Conference's proposed mission statement is: "To foster leadership of the LGBT sports diversity community"

The Federation of Gay Games is proud to be a Charter member of this new leadership endeavor; R. Tony Smith, FGG Officer of Communications, serves on their all-new advisory board. Sports Diversity Leadership Conference partnerships include Athlete Ally, Compete Magazine, Desert AIDS Project, Go Athletes, International Gay Rodeo Association, National Gay and Lesbian Flag Football League, Sin City Shoutout, Snell & Willmer, and World Outgames.

Members of the advisory board recently met in Los Angeles, California, USA to plan the first conference, which will be held at the Sin City Shootout in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA on 13-15 January 2015. More information on the conference [HERE](#).

Seize the Day campaign: FGG's Scholarship and Education Program

[Seize The Day to help bring athletes and artists to Gay Games 10: Paris 2018!](#)

Our goal is to raise \$100 per day for the 1,000 days leading to Paris between 04 November 2015 and 05 August 2018. All donation levels are welcome, but each \$100 donation allows you to seize your own special day on the calendar to help the Federation of Gay Games "Change The World!" The Federation of Gay Games is a 501c3 non-profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



100% of your donation supports the Federation of Gay Games mission of "Participation, Inclusion,

Personal Best" through targeted outreach and grassroots community development projects in Latin America (Pride House: Rio Olympics 2016); in Asia-Pacific (Annual General Assembly: Sydney 2016); and other underserved regions and constituents through our Annual General Assembly in Paris (Fall 2017); culminating in the largest gathering of global LGBT+ athletes, artists, advocates and allies for Gay Games 10: Paris 2018.

For the 2014 Gay Games 9, the FGG provided scholarship support to 47 scholarship recipients from the countries of Croatia, Russia, South Africa, Macedonia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, Kazakhstan, Argentina, Brazil, Slovenia, Philippines and Chile. The FGG scholarship program is funded in part by the Roy M. Coe Scholarship Fund, helping bring athletes to the Gay Games since 2002.

[CLICK HERE](#) to help change the world, and see you at Gay Games 10 in Paris!



FGG member profile: Tel Aviv GLBT Sports Club

by Sagi Krispin

Although athletes from Israel participated in all Gay Games since 1986, no club or organization from Israel was a member of the federation until 2015, when TLV GLBT Sports club was voted in as the newest Full Membership Organization.

Tel Aviv GLBT Sports Club ("Mo'adon Sport Ge'e Tel Aviv") was established in 2008 by a group of Volleyball players. The wish of the founding members was to form GLBT sports groups in different sports fields. Today, the club is operating a swimming team (TLV Nemos) and a men's basketball team (TLV Swingmen), with approx. 70 participants.

My personal story with GLBT Sports began in Gay Games 9. I was a part of a delegation of eight Israeli athletes competed in different fields, from aquatics to road races. Each member of our delegation won a medal (some took home more than one). When I was there, in Cleveland, I felt the power an international community gathering around a simple idea of equality and the acceptance of others.

When I returned to Israel I decided that a LGBT swimming team in Tel Aviv must be formed. Back home I met a new friend, Tal Maoz, and we found out that we share the ideas and vision. Together we joined the club and started to build the new swimming and basketball teams.

Our club aims to create a community of LGBT+ athletes in Tel Aviv as well as other cities in Israel. We aim to fight LGBTphobia in sport, to empower individuals in and outside our club and to represents Tel Aviv's LGBT community abroad.

Since then, less than 18 months, Tel Aviv GLBT Sports Club's teams and members participated in many GLBT sports tournaments such as Berlin Basketball tournament 2015, Prague rainbow spring 2015, Paris tournament 2015 and Eurogames & IGLA Championship 2015. Our basketball team, TLV Swingmen, even hosted an international four teams tournament.

Our club builds its reputation amongst other GLBT organization in Tel-aviv, one of the most GLBT friendly cities worldwide, and the international GLBT sports community by being member of the FGG, EGLSF and IGLA.

We dream big. Only for the next year we plan to form a running team, women's football and basketball teams and men's football and volleyball team. We also wish to host a bigger, multisport, tournament on fall 2016. With all we have accomplished within one year, we believe our dreams are possible.

Check out their Facebook page [HERE](#).



FGG Board Member Profile by Sophia Rodriguez



Sophia Rodriguez, 29 years old, happily married mother of 1 (picture below) May 16, 2015 Sunrise wedding in Hawaii.

I was born and raised in Houston, TX and was a highly recruited track and field athlete out of high school. Although I made the decision to go to school in the Midwest (University of Tulsa '09), I was able to find a thriving LGBT community and got my first taste of LGBT welcoming sports and activities. After my undergraduate studies I move to back to Texas to begin my career in Department of Defense contracting. While I lived there I was part of the award winning San Antonio Gay Flag Football League. Later relocated to our Nation's capital and was introduced to Team DC where I served on the Board of Directors for 2 years. Participating in both women social functions, and partnering with non-sporting diversity groups within the region as we continued to build the Team DC brand. In my final year of my Team DC term I was assigned the FGG delegate. This not only gave me a chance to understand issues of diversity and sporting events at the global scale but also share best practices from our Team DC successes to other team cities at our annual events and monthly calls.

I was an Officer at Large with the FGG board of Directors 2013 - 2015, attended GG9 competing in track & field. I was elected VP of Diversity in Limerick at the 2015 AGA and look forward to pushing our great organization on to a successful GG10.

Sophia Rodriguez
VP of Diversity, Federation of Gay Games



We are looking forward to seeing you in Paris!
Registration Opens June 2016: www.Paris2018.com

4-12 August 2018



15,000 participants from 70+ countries

Open to All - Prestigious Venues

36 Sports - 14 Cultural Events - 1 Academic Conference

VALUES: Diversity, Respect, Equality, Solidarity,
and Sharing (our 'DRESS code')

All Paris 2018 Newsletters are available at GayGames.org:

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Since the first Gay Games in 1982, the Federation of Gay Games has promoted equality in and by sport and culture and ensured that the Gay Games, the world's largest sports and culture festival open to all, take place every four years under the founding principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best.

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