“Family is...”
A Project of the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum
“Family is...” is a project of the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth that promotes LGBT human rights and equality through storytelling. Through documenting the life stories and experiences of individuals, we aim to portray a more accurate representation of the LGBT community.

The project was initiated during the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum in 2015. The Forum was held with the generous support of the Austrian Development Cooperation, the German Federal Foreign Office, Hivos, Michael Huffington, and the Open Society Foundations. Additional support for the session was provided by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, the HDH Wills (1965) Charitable Trust, the Korea Foundation and the Nippon Foundation.

Salzburg Global Seminar would like to thank all the participants for donating their time and expertise to the Forum, and for generously sharing their own experiences of what family is to them.
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A Project of the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum

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Introduction

The Salzburg Global LGBT Forum was founded in 2013, in the words of its founder and chair Klaus Mueller, out of the “necessity of a global conversation on LGBT issues and their place within the greater human rights conversation.” Since 2013, the Forum has held three sessions, initiated international dialogue, published recommendations and now, in 2015, launched a new project: “Family is...”.

For most people, family is a crucial part of their lives, of their identities, and the implication of family definitions for exclusion and discrimination has been an issue for the Forum since its foundation. During its session in Berlin in 2014, the topic brought the Forum together with the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women & Youth. One year later, as part of a planned three-year collaboration with the Ministry, we have started the “Family is...” project, through which members of the Forum share their concept of what family means to them.

“Family is...” portrays the complexities of our lives, including those of our families by birth and choice. The project uses storytelling as a means of advancing LGBT human rights and equality. Through telling and sharing original and authentic stories, we seek to challenge misrepresentations of sexual and gender diversity, and help understand the similarities and differences.

The third Salzburg Global LGBT Forum – Strengthening Communities: LGBT Rights & Social Cohesion – took place in June 2015. Over the five days in Salzburg, the Salzburg Global Fellows opened up about their own personal and professional struggles, forged new friendships, began new collaborations, tested new ideas, and developed a strong sense of global connections. Fellows heard new and unexpected perspective, and this experience not only furthered the sense of urgency in our respective battles for equality and inclusion; it made the world feel smaller and adversities more bearable.

The session report – available online: www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/551/report – provides a thorough overview of all discussions and recommendations from the five-day session.

This “Family is...” publication serves as an accompaniment to the full session report, and features several of the personal stories from our Fellows, to whom we are indebted for their generosity in sharing their own histories and opinions. Further information on the “Family is...” and more life stories can be found on the dedicated webpage: lgbt.SalzburgGlobal.org/family-is

*LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

We are using this term as it is widely recognized in many parts of the world, but we would not wish it to be read as in any way exclusive of other cultures, terms or groups.
Background of the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum

In 2013, the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum was established with an inaugural session, held at Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg. In his opening statement for the first meeting in 2013, founder and chair, Klaus Mueller emphasized that “LGBT issues are not about special rights, but human rights,” and therefore need to bring together human rights defenders with a diverse legal, political, cultural, artistic or religious background, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The current global context is seeing trends towards the recognition of equal rights for LGBT people. Some societies have furthered inclusion for their LGBT communities, while others tolerate or actively encourage discrimination, violence and harm against them. Amidst this situation, the Global LGBT Forum hopes to build an open conversation that reflects and respects diversity and addresses the issues related to LGBT expression, protection and equality under the law.

The 2013 launch of the Forum brought together 60 participants to Schloss Leopoldskron, home of Salzburg Global Seminar. Under the theme LGBT and Human Rights: New Challenges, Next Steps, five topics guided discussions: Mainstreaming by expanding rights and opening spaces dominated by heteronormativities; Connectivity and the opportunities or setbacks of the Internet for global and local initiatives; Security and ways to improve safety, health and life protection for LGBT communities; Education access to or exclusion from it; and finally Identity and its implications for transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming communities. To access the full report of the first Forum, please visit: www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/506
Those first 60 participants issued the guiding Salzburg Statement of the Global LGBT Forum, providing concise “Principles and Recommendations to advance LGBT human rights.” They are, as stated in the Statement, not exhaustive or prescriptive, but a guide for future conversations on LGBT human rights.

The statement calls for LGBT communities, leaders, professionals, supporters and activists to form broad alliances within and outside LGBT communities and to ground LGBT efforts within universal human rights while respecting local contexts. It gives recommendations on the strategic use of international law, funding, capacity building, international networks, communications, storytelling, arts and skills development to further the struggle for equality.

To access the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum Statement, please visit: 
lgbt.SalzburgGlobal.org/our-statement

The second Salzburg Global LGBT Forum took place in May 2014 in Berlin, in cooperation with and with support from the German Federal Foreign Office. Fellows convened under the theme Creating Long-Term Global Networks to Sustain LGBT Human Rights Organizations. This Forum centered on the issues of Network Improvement amongst organizations, embassies and activists globally; Context Awareness for LGBT human rights work through assessing what works, where and when; and the Globalization of Hate Campaigns, understood as a trend of backlash against the increasing visibility of the LGBT human rights movement.

For the full report of the second Forum, please visit:  
www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/545

The third Salzburg Global LGBT Forum took place again at Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg, in June 2015. This year’s session topic of Strengthening Communities: LGBT Rights & Social Cohesion examined the costs of exclusion of LGBT people from their wider communities and the impact this has on society. Special focus was given to the importance of families. For the full session report, please visit: www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/551
Key Themes

The third annual session of the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum on Strengthening Communities: LGBT Rights & Social Cohesion brought together 57 participants from 34 countries from all professional sectors, ages and expertise. They reflected upon LGBT inclusion and social cohesion in relation to democratic institutions, families, communities, social justice, activism, education, employment, hate crimes and bullying. Additionally, the “Family is...” project allowed the participants to review the meaning and importance of family in broader society, as well as reflecting on the importance of the institution in their own private lives. Three general themes were proposed for conversations:

1. **The Cost of Social Exclusion**: What are the economic effects of social exclusion? How does LGBT exclusion affect national economies or international corporations? What are the implications of LGBT issues on the refugee crisis, migration, and those left behind?

2. **The Power of Storytelling**: How are we portrayed in media? As monsters or ordinary citizens? As individuals or as a community? How do we tell our own stories?

3. **Transformation**: How far can we advance LGBT human right issues before the global attention wanes?

The issue of how we define family was interwoven through all three general themes. Fellows considered such questions as what is the definition of family? How do we expand and broaden the meaning of family? How can we advocate and promote the rights of LGBT families around the world? How can we support LGBT families? They also considered how can we use storytelling to further the understanding of those outside the LGBT community, addressing diverse audiences such as our own families, policymakers and politicians, and also adversaries who might wish to thwart or rollback progress towards social inclusion and equal rights.

The use of the Chatham House Rule to protect individuals, the intimate conversation style of activities and the calm ambiance of Schloss Leopoldskron helped the Forum participants to share and listen to both expert knowledge and lived experiences from around the world, in many different voices. The Forum is built on the conviction that this allows the kind of trust we deeply need for future global cooperation and understanding.
Telling Our Lives: “Family is...”

Conversation on Storytelling and Politics

IN CONVERSATION:

Klaus Mueller  Founder & Chair, Salzburg Global LGBT Forum, Germany

Ralf Kleindiek  State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women & Youth, Germany

“None of us come from families that were prepared for us, and so-called ‘traditional family values’ advocate hierarchies of exclusion and hate,” commented Session Chair Klaus Mueller at the opening of the Forum. The implication of family definitions for exclusion and discrimination has been an issue that has brought together the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum and the German Ministry for Family Affairs since the Forum’s 2014 session in Berlin. As part of this on-going collaboration, Mueller and Kleindiek came together for a conversation on family and politics as part of the third annual session of the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum on Strengthening Communities: LGBT Rights & Social Cohesion.

FAMILY IS...? A CONVERSATION

Klaus Mueller: When our LGBT Forum met in 2014 at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ralf said: “Come to us too to talk about family issues.” Out of this, we developed this new cooperation on “Family is...” as we both believe in the need to embrace families of all kinds and shapes.

Ralf Kleindiek: Collaboration with the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum is important because family is for most people a crucial part of their lives, of their identities. It is important that we have a very wide interpretation of what family is. Family is whenever people of different generations
look after each other. Married or unmarried, with children or not, old and young, same-sex or heterosexual couples. It is a very serious matter of discrimination if we define family as a closed unit.

Mueller: What is the state of affairs in Germany? Why can’t Germany keep up when compared to Spain or Ireland?

Kleindiek: Indeed, we are trailing behind. There is a lot of discussion now, especially after the decision in Ireland [Ireland had just voted in favor of same-sex marriage a month before the 2015 Forum – the first popular vote of its kind]. But our conservative coalition partner blocks equality, and Chancellor Angela Merkel defines marriage as “exclusively between a man and a woman.” Within the Ministry of Family Affairs led by my party, we are making clear changes, but we lack a majority.

Mueller: How are LGBT issues dealt with now in the ministry? I think you told me once that the acronym wasn’t even there until recently?

Kleindiek: When I arrived at the ministry, we had a unit for families on “special situations.” I wondered if it was a special unit for vulnerable families or in poverty, but it was about same-sex couples. Imagine, that was a surprise! Now there is a unit for sexual orientation and gender identities and we coordinate our government politics for that issue across all ministries.

Mueller: Symbolic politics are important. What does the ministry do in contexts such as LGBT Pride?

Kleindiek: We will raise the rainbow flag at our ministry. There was a lot of resistance. We had a discussion because of the regulations for flags on federal buildings. I brought this discussion to state secretaries’ meetings. We found a compromise. Initially, those ministries that wanted to raise the rainbow flag could do so for two days. But now we can do it for a week. For us, this is an important symbol in order to raise awareness and furthering the discussion.
At the June 2015 session, Kaoru Aoyama, Michael Kirby and Joe Wong captivated their audience of Salzburg Global Fellows with personal narratives that were inspiring, heart breaking and humorous. Marc Pachter set a comfortable tone for the narrators, beginning with one simple question: “What was the world into which you were born?”

KAORU’S STORY

Kaoru Aoyama was born to a middle class heterosexual family. At a young age for Kaoru, and in an unusual occurrence in Japan at the time, her mother left home after twenty years of marriage. But Kaoru remembers her mother fondly: “I admired her very much. She would always tell me: ‘I gave birth to you, not to become the servant of a man. You are here for something greater.’”
I was playing the game in a way that society had imposed it on me. I was the one that deserved an apology. I was the one that was forced to hide reality. I deserve an apology for the relationships I couldn’t have and the dishonesty imposed on me.

Kaoru grew up without questioning her sexuality. She had a first heterosexual love, married and had two children. She went to university and took a job, and then moved to England due to her husband’s studies. There, she joined a women studies course at university. “That’s when the problem started,” she said with a smile. It gave her knowledge about gender, and exposed her to a whole world of awareness.

Years later, Kaoru undertook a one-year Master’s degree in the UK. It was then that she fell in love with a woman. On this period Kaoru reflects: “Some people disagree and say that I was born like that but I feel I changed into something else.” She returned to Japan, and decided to pursue a PhD in England. It was clear for her, that a heterosexual relationship was becoming impossible.

In her last summer in England, she fell in love with another woman. She came out to her husband, who left the marriage. Kaoru returned to Japan and faced the hardships of being a single working mother of two. Kaoru’s love eventually relocated to Japan. Together, they raise the children while Kaoru teaches at university, open about her sexuality at work, and living and pushing Japan’s gradual change towards acceptance.

**MICHAEL’S STORY**

Michael Kirby  
Former Judge of the High Court of Australia; Vice-President, Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association, Australia

The oldest of five siblings, Michael Kirby remembers growing up in a leafy Sydney suburb. By age eleven, Michael was aware of his homosexual orientation, and aware “that it was not a good thing” from the point of view of society. This was the time when pianist Claudio Arrau was arrested in a Sydney toilet with another male before a concert and a scandal ensued. Michael knew that “This was a dangerous and serious matter. So I essentially just accepted that this was the rule of life.”

He kept himself busy in student politics, partly to suppress his sexuality. This led to his excelling in academic and leadership engagements. However, he never felt wicked. “I knew I was one of many,” Michael reflects. He eventually met his partner, Johan, who has been in Michael’s own words, for 46 years, “someone of sterling quality, a blessing.” In 1999, Michael made history by becoming the first Australian High Court judge to come out as gay. His relationship with Johan had evolved. Originally they used telephone calling codes to avoid exposure. Michael remembers that “The first years were surreptitious.” However, then Johan said, ‘We owe it to the next generation to be honest.’ I proposed, ‘What if we wait until I finish
my judicial life?’ He said ‘No!’ Of course, these were the years of the AIDS epidemic. So hiding felt no longer an option.”

In the aftermath of his coming out, some colleagues suggested that it was dishonest of him to not have come out earlier. But Michael puts things in their place: “I was playing the game in a way that society had imposed on me. I was the one that deserved an apology. I was the one that was forced to hide reality. I deserve an apology for the relationships I couldn’t have and the dishonesty imposed on me.”

Michael reflects on his wonderful journey with Johan: “It has been a wonderful thing in my life to live with him. Whoever tries to impede such relationships for other people, is not a kind person.”

JOE’S STORY

Joe Wong, a trans man from Singapore, now living in Thailand, was born to a conservative family and educated at a Catholic girls’ school. He felt uncomfortable in his body when touched, and eventually used duct tape as an attempt to conceal the female parts of his body that he felt shouldn’t have been there. One day, while in an elevator with a close relative and a stranger, the relative noticed the duct tape, humiliating Joe on the spot and demanding an explanation. “In school I was taught not to show emotions. So I let my relative yell at me, and tear away the duct tape in the elevator,” he recalls. It was hard for Joe to tell his closest relatives about his body issues.

His father supported him despite the family’s tendency to not share many personal issues. Joe remembers: “He would put a relevant article or book on my desk. There was no discussion about it but he helped. He died when I was 21 and I wondered where his tolerance came from. I later discovered that he was gay.”

When Joe decided to transition, he asked his parents to choose his post-transition name “since they gave me my first name.” His father gave him his own English name – which he took to be a sign of his father’s love and acceptance.

“It is interesting to discover myself through coming out. A lot of internalized hatred disappears,” he says through a broad reassuring smile.
WHAT IS FAMILY?

During the Forum, Fellows were asked to offer some thoughts on their own personal ideas and definitions about family. The following is a list of some of their submissions to the question: What is family?

“Family to me is that which I can call my own. Family members are those that I can rely on and they can rely on me. Family backs you up no matter what the physical and emotional circumstances.”

Name withheld (Africa)

“My natal family: oppressive; my family of choice: warm, responsible, supportive; my family by marriage: wife and four stepchildren – terrific, exciting.”

Saskia Wieringa (The Netherlands/Indonesia)

“The definition of family should be changed. When we think of family we often think of love, respect, solidarity. Family may not just be based on the goal of reproducing.”

Ying Xin (China)

“Family to me is often burdensome when it’s blood-lineage, though I dearly and desperately keep the lineage with my biological daughter and son, even though I don’t know if they think I am burdensome.”

Kaoru Aoyama (Japan)

“Family to me is a community of love that we create by choice, as opposed to just one we are born in to. An institution that can be incredibly disempowering, but also unleash power.”

Danish Sheikh (India)

“Family to me is a party: loud, obnoxious, and fun. It’s who we choose to be and who chooses to love us in return.”

Clifton Cortez (USA)

“Family is my life. It doesn’t matter if we are relatives or not! Global brotherhood!”

Fumino Sugiyama (Japan)

“Family to me is tightly connected to the socially constructed concept and values, which in reality can be a fundamental source of incomparable happiness but also be a cause of stress and pain that nobody else can give.”

Yuko Higashi (Japan)

“Family to me is attachment and support, no matter who is in the family. It could be mom, dad, friends, supporters, colleagues, and parents.”

Manisha Dhakal (Nepal)

“Family to me is individuals who have come together to form a unit that provides love, safety and security, either by birth or by love.”

Mary Audry Chard (Zimbabwe)

“Family to me is love, stability, mutual understanding and support to each other.”

Name withheld (Central Asia)
The “Family is...” Video Project
Telling Our Stories on Camera

Supported by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Salzburg Global Seminar produced a series of videos featuring Fellows of the 2015 session of the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum speaking about what “Family is...” to them.

All videos can be viewed on the dedicated webpage: lgbt.SalzburgGlobal.org/family-is

Here follows a selection of transcripts from the video interviews as well as links to the individual clips.

FAMILY IS... NOT DEPENDENT ON MARRIAGE OR HETEROSEXUALITY

Ralf Kleindiek
State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women & Youth, Germany

“ For our ministry it is very important to support the LGBT Forum in a financial way, especially the video project. “Family is...” for us is an important project because we think it is necessary to make the situations of people in different countries visible to show which situations people are living in, especially people who are not what we would describe as “normal”... Especially when people, because of their sexual identity, are living in different ways – they also need this sphere of family, they also need the support of other people, of their families. For us it is important to make different situations visible – the problems too. I hope we will see in which situations people in different countries are living in Europe, but also in other parts of our world. And I am looking forward to the results of this project and I am very happy that we can support it.

“ We learn from the LGBT Forum how discussions in Germany influence them, and how their discussions in other countries influence us in Germany.

“ For me personally, family is a place where I can be, where I know that someone is helping me and supporting me if it’s necessary, and where I help and support my parts of the family when it’s necessary. This is a very important part of my life and very important for my personality.

“ As a Secretary of State, in the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, for us family is where people of different generations stay with each other, look after each other and support each other (if it is necessary). It’s not dependent on if you are married or not married, or if you are homosexual or heterosexual. It’s not important which sexual or gender identity you have.”

Ralf Kleindiek’s full video can be viewed here:youtu.be/iYhWk-oD62E
FAMILY IS... UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT

Klaus Mueller  
*Founder & Chair, Salzburg Global LGBT Forum, Germany*

“Family is, my mother, my father, my brother. Especially my parents went through a long journey when I finally admitted to myself, I think I was 21, that “I am gay.” [I realized that] if I don’t tell them I am excluding them from my life more and more. And I didn’t want to [exclude them] but, for them I was the first gay person that they had met. So I needed to have many conversations with them over the years. But immediately they made it clear that they need time and they need to think about it, but it doesn’t change anything about being their son that they love me, and they want the best for me. And I think that also gave me the strength to come out to them, because they educated me as being their son and standing up for his rights. They didn’t know that I’d turn out to be gay. So they grew up to the challenge. Now my father is 91, and my mother is 86 and we are very relaxed and they know my boyfriends (laughs) – in succession. I feel very blessed of having found that support. Also they are interested. They won’t understand all that I am doing but I tell them about the Global LGBT Forum in Salzburg, that people from 34 countries are coming this time. And they say “Wow, wow”. So it’s wonderful to share with them.”

Klaus Mueller’s video can be viewed here: [youtu.be/ccaX75Z4uTs](https://youtu.be/ccaX75Z4uTs)

FAMILY IS... TRUST, TRANSMISSION AND EXCITEMENT

Clare Shine  
*Vice President & Chief Program Officer, Salzburg Global Seminar, Austria*

“Family for me is trust and transmission and excitement. You can learn something everyday good or bad. But you know you can go back to it, you can keep on feeling safe with the permission to go discovering.”

Clare Shine’s video can be viewed here: [youtu.be/1r5F-BHB2bM](https://youtu.be/1r5F-BHB2bM)
Tamara Adrian  Human Rights Activist; Venezuela

“Family is where I come from, where I live and where I want to be. I want to live in a family, and I want to die in my family. I have a wife; we have been together for 22 years now, happily married. There where you have love, there where I have also my daughters, my son, is a place where I want to be.”

Tamara Adrian’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/cmJiTnKKUi8

M.V. Lee Badgett  Director, Center for Public Policy & Administration, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA

“I think about family pretty broadly and it’s not a very economist kind of way of thinking about it either. I think family are people who sometimes chose each other but sometimes accidentally find themselves in relationships with people, but they love each other, they care for each other, they take care of each other, and I think usually what that means is that people are planning to do that for a long time, maybe not forever, but a long time.”

M.V. Lee Badgett’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/nc8JKFR1boM

Popo Fan  Filmmaker, Writer and Activist, China

“I think family is to be together with someone you love. Family can be formed with you and your parents, and your brothers and sisters. Also it can be formed with you and your lover, and can even be formed with you and your pet... Anything you love! Family is a place that gives you lot of pleasure and lot of happiness.”

Popo Fan is featured in the highlights video, which can viewed here: youtu.be/sSJHX2G6ZVo
FAMILY IS... COMMUNICATING WHO YOU ARE

Manisha Dhakal  Executive Director, Blue Diamond Society, Nepal

“When I started to work with the Blue Diamond Society, at that time I was a cis-guy, and did not have the long hair and didn’t wear the female dress. I hid myself within my family; I didn’t tell them I worked for the Blue Diamond Society. I said to them I am working in the HIV prevention project. One time, they knew that I belonged to the Blue Diamond Society, for three days they didn’t allow me to go to the office, and that three days changed me a lot. It gave the opportunity to me to convince my family. Over those days I told them, and convinced them of who I am, what is my sexuality. Though they knew that I was a feminine guy from childhood, my voice is soft, and I used to find it easier to grow up with my sisters and my mother. They know. In childhood that is OK. But when I grew up because of the prejudice issue they somewhat opposed. They are very scared for me to come out in the media and to be involved in the Blue Diamond Society. So they didn’t allow me to go to the office for three days and for that three days I took that opportunity. I told them all the things that I faced as who I am, and that changed me a lot. [It changed me to be] more to be involved in LGBTI movement, [and realize] how family is important and how important it is to convince the family, and how to get the support from the family. If we get the support from the family then we can progress a lot in our personality, in our activism. If there is no support from the family it’s very difficult to work and to involve in activism.”

Manisha Dhakal’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/tBqDP7Cs3mM

FAMILY IS... BOTH BIRTH AND CHOICE

Angeline Jackson  Founder and Executive Director, Quality of Citizenship, Jamaica

“Family is about love and safety. So for me it’s about my birth family, who are able to love me in the best way that they can possibly do as I identify as a lesbian. But also for me it is the family of choice, so the friends that I make: the secondary mothers and secondary fathers, and even my partner. That for me is what a family is right now.”

Angeline Jackson’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/wZjy2YwVtU4
FAMILY IS... OUR OUTREACH TO SOCIETY

Michael Kirby
Former Judge of the High Court of Australia

“I grew up in a country where gay men were the subject of criminal laws and where they were basically, persecuted. I was a member of a Protestant Christian family, and I didn’t get a lot of hostility, certainly not from my family, or even from my church... But I knew that it was not a “good thing” to be gay. I never myself felt that I was evil, or a product of an evil inclination. I never thought that. My rationality taught me that that was rubbish.

“When I was growing up I told my siblings first. My sister interestingly was for the revolution. She was the strongest. Women are often you know, women have to pick up the pieces in the world, and women are often the strongest, also they network better. My brothers were worried about the effect on my career because I was always a bright little cookie. And my father I told, and he was worried about how this would affect my career. My mother, I never voiced it until a week before she died. I didn’t feel comfortable about not telling her in her lifetime. So I said: “Mum, there is something I feel I ought to tell you,” and when I did so, she looked at me and she said: “Michael, you’ve been bringing Johan (my partner) here for the last 30 years, every Sunday. Do you think I came down in the last shower?” (Which is an English expression for “Do you think I am a dope?”) And that goes to show the inner sanctum that most people know – and they love whatever. That is the great strength of gay people and LGBTIQ people. We all have that family, and most of who are heterosexual and that is our outreach into the rest of society. It’s hard to hate people you love.”

Michael Kirby’s first video can be viewed here:
youtu.be/ljgrFbjxR-w

Kirby: I am here in Salzburg with my partner, Johan van Vloten, who was born in the Netherlands and came to Australia – that was a great thing for me, meeting him 46 years ago! What do you think family is, Johan?

Van Vloten: Family is companionship.

Kirby: Well yes, but sometimes creative tension and disagreement.

Van Vloten: The latter I agree with!

Kirby: Well I would define a family as those who are close to you who identify as, and who you identify as family. That means Johan, my immediate blood family, the people who I grew up with, my parents when they were alive, my siblings, and Johan’s sister – I would count her as part of my family. After that it gets sort of further and further away, but it’s those who are linked to you by blood and affection. Do you agree with that definition?

Van Vloten: Yes, definitely. His siblings and their offspring are also my family, and that’s the definition of family.

Michael Kirby’s second video with his partner Johan van Vloten, can be viewed here:
youtu.be/az4W_BAwfjo

Michael Kirby’s first video can be viewed here:
youtu.be/ljgrFbjxR-w
FAMILY IS... UNSPOKEN ACCEPTANCE

Hyun Kyung Kim  
Researcher, Korean Society of Law and Policy on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Republic of Korea

“Unfortunately, I could not come out to my mom. And my father passed away two years ago, so I didn’t have a chance to talk to my father. Maybe they knew, because I am living with a woman. They always told me that “It’s lucky that you have that much of a close friend, always supporting you.” I think they knew, but they didn’t tell me. And my mom, sister, and my brother they are really important people to me. Even though I don’t know how they feel, whether they know or not, they always support me. I know, if I come out to them, they will still support me but I am not so brave yet. Someday, I can.”

Hyun Kyung Kim’s video can be viewed here:  
youtu.be/K7wEFNdpJTw

FAMILY IS... NEGOTIATION AND UNDERSTANDING

Vasilika Laci  
Program Officer for Albania, Civil Rights Defenders, Tirana, Albania

“If I think of family I think of two components to it... What the family should be: family should be a place where you are taken care of, where you are loved. You find a way to live in harmony with each other but also to enjoy the world and life. If I think of what family is for me in reality – far away from what it should be – I think then all-in-all, I haven’t been one of the unluckiest, in the sense that I have an OK family, but I think that it was not always easy, and it is not always easy. There is a lot of negotiation and understanding and I think that communication is crucial. I had a personal struggle during my life because of this tension of what the family should be and what family is. At this moment, I could have had more understanding member of my family, but there were some moments that it was not like that. I also have been pressuring other members of my family to just accept some parts of me immediately when it was the case. So I think that I gave up on that idea, that maybe you are not born in the ideal family but you can learn to better accept yourself, and also make the best of what you have so that you don’t cause unhappiness to yourself and to others.”

Vasilika Laci’s video can be viewed here:  
youtu.be/3YSX9Wx1GoQ
FAMILY IS... DYNAMIC IN NATURE

John Lotherington  Program Director,
Salzburg Global Seminar,
UK

“Family has changed. Family used to be in some ways, an obstacle. My parents grew up in a period where terrible oppression of LGBT rights. So they were always scared, that in my case that as a gay man I would be under threat. So family was something that required careful negotiation. No lack of support but quite a lot of tension. This has changed in the present generation. My niece is married to another woman, they have just started a family and that has brought the rest of the family together. We have a deeper understanding now, of who we are, what we are about and what relationships matter. So family has changed for me, and very much for the better.”

John Lotherington’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/NCvmhZhbmEo

FAMILY IS... BEING IN A SAFE SPACE

Kasha Nabagesera  Founder, Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG), Uganda

“For me family is love, understanding, and care. And mostly safety. It doesn’t matter who comprises their family as long as someone is a comfortable place filled with love, care and safety – that’s family for me.”

Kasha Nabagesera’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/YgVj-Eo7_m8

FAMILY IS... AN OPEN RELATIONSHIP

Monika Pisankaneva  Chairperson, Bilitis Resource Center, Bulgaria

“For me family is the group of people with whom one feels happy, and people who take care of each other, who live together, or even if they don’t live together have some joint life together. So for me, family is also an open relationship – it’s not monogamous couple. I have a broader understanding of family, and I believe that family should be based on love and freedom.”

Monika Pisankaneva’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/I7-W9w84Tp4
FAMILY IS... INVESTING IN COMMITMENTS
Marc Pachter
Director Emeritus,
National Portrait Gallery,
USA

“I really believe that we cannot be universally affectionate and involved in the lives of everybody in the world. Sometimes, an activist sensibility says this and wants to. But really the question begins with someone more than ourselves. Someone to whom we commit. And this is important to society; that it recognizes that commitment, because the social aspects are important too. And then the amount of yourself you invest in it. So there are good families and bad families. Some people are committed by law to each other but not emotionally to each other. And there are families that are personal commitments without legal obligation. So I think the exciting thing about our time is that we’re broadening the notion of what commitment is. That we feel it needs to be legal as well has been the most recent struggle. It’s not as though families did not exist outside the norm before. They have existed forever. So the question is how important is it for society to acknowledge that it is a family unit and I think that is the struggle today.”

Marc Pachter’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/LHSrSo2-lAw

FAMILY IS... ACCEPTING THE UNEXPECTED
Mariano Ruiz
Latin America & Caribbean Outreach Communications Officer, IDAHOT Committee, Argentina

“My family for me is everything. I am a single child, and my mother and father were together for 10 year before they had me. They were married and were a typical Argentinian family. I always had a good relationship with my grandparents, and they were really influential to me. But everything changed when my father died when I was 10. Nowadays...the only family that I do have is my mother. So she is actually everything for me. Without her support, I could never be able to be who I am. Acceptance and accepting my sexual orientation for her was a difficult thing, because parents always have an image of what they want for their kids and I can imagine that fathers and mothers never think how to deal with a gay, a lesbian or transgender child. So I think that she learned how to approach me in a different way and I demonstrated to her that things change, that I will tomorrow, sometime in the future be able to raise kids and have a family as she expected, but not in a traditional way of man and woman. I would probably date a guy and adopt children or surrogacy.”

Mariano Ruiz’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/ysP74MU5Bzc
FAMILY IS... CONSISTENT, AFFIRMING AND UNCONDITIONAL

Sudeshan Reddy
Communications Specialist, UNICEF, South Africa

“Family for me is that which is biological, but it is also that which is consistent, affirming and unconditional. And I’ve learned over the years that family goes beyond biological and I consider my partner, my biological family and my closest friends to be my family.”

Sudeshan Reddy is featured in the highlights video, which can viewed here: youtu.be/sSJHX2G6ZVo

FAMILY IS... MORE THAN JUST BIOLOGY

Danish Sheikh
Advocate & Researcher, Alternative Law Forum, India

“I think family for me means something that’s not connected to the biological sphere. So I strongly believe that the families that are really important are the families that we make as we go along, and the families that exist outside the prescribed bounds of kinship, reproduction, biology and the State sponsorship. So I believe that as a gay man, I have the possibility of building little communities of love and that doesn’t have to be the one I was born into.”

Danish Sheikh is featured in the highlights video, which can viewed here: youtu.be/sSJHX2G6ZVo

FAMILY IS... A TEAM FOR LIFE

Rooi Teve
LGBT activist, Russia

“I think family is the people that you decide to be team with for your entire life. So whatever comes up you deal with it together as a team. There is my parents’ family – my mother, father, and my sister – there is my boyfriend, but there are also few other very close friends of whom I think a lot, and without whom I don’t really imagine my life.”

Rooi Teve’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/_ujuve8iKY0
FAMILY IS... FEELING LIKE YOU BELONG

Dennis Wamala  
Project Manager, Icebreakers, Uganda

“Family to me is the core of someone’s life. It’s where someone feels they belong, where someone feels comfortable. It’s where someone feels they can trust their lives and not worry about anything. So it might not be biological, it might be circumstantial depending on the situation where you are. For me family is that place where you feel you belong and you can just kick back and relax and just enjoy yourself.”

Dennis Wamala’s video can be viewed here: [youtu.be/rftfhQ2w0nE](youtu.be/rftfhQ2w0nE)

FAMILY IS... STICKING TOGETHER DESPITE THE CHALLENGES

Joe Wong  
Program Manager, Asia-Pacific Transgender Network, Thailand

“Family to me is realness and togetherness, sticking together despite all the challenges, and just being able to come out of who we are inside. Doesn’t matter if the parents are queer, or the child is queer, we should be able to talk about it.”

Joe Wong’s video can be viewed here: [youtu.be/GfaS6PK0sog](youtu.be/GfaS6PK0sog)
FAMILY IS... MAKING SACRIFICES

Victor Yang
Community Organizer, USA; Doctoral Student, Oxford University, UK

“...My parents are forever the people who I will admire and respect the most in my life. I know many sons and daughters and children would say this but I think coming from the place of the Chinese diaspora and being part of a family whose first generation is in a different country, namely the US – there’s something incredibly special about the sacrifices that, especially my mother, has had to make in terms of forsaking everything that she knew for my brother and me. So for that reason family and the very biological sense will be very important. And for my work the friends and colleagues with whom I have just a tremendous opportunity to not only work but de-stress and be with will always be very dear to my heart.”

Victor Yang’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/Lb-2DcTPNd4

FAMILY IS... A SHIFTING CONCEPT

Xing Yin
Executive Director, Beijing LGBT Center, China

“I am a bisexual. I define myself actually as a career woman. In China, LGBT communities are now more visible. Like me, I often appear on mass media (laughs) so sometimes when my mother sees the news about me, she feels very angry and she really wants me to go back home and get married. So considering family, my definition of family is really radical. I am a feminist. Maybe some people when they talk about family, it’s always collectivism, love, solidarity but for me, family is a very complicated place. Also, you love your parents and children, but sometimes domestic violence happens, and I think maybe in the future family can have different kinds of forms.

Family doesn’t mean just between one woman and one man and their children, maybe three friends can also set up a family on their own and they can support themselves. I am really looking forward to multi-diverse family.”

Xing Yin’s video can be viewed here: youtu.be/idIh6xI-lYE

The full playlist is available on the dedicated webpage: lgbt.SalzburgGlobal.org/family-is
Storytelling and Transformation

Highlights from Salzburg Global LGBT Forum 2015

All the panel summaries and group discussions can be found in the full session report, available online: www.SalzburgGlobal.org/go/551/report

Here follows summaries of discussions at Salzburg that most greatly pertain to the topic of “Family is...”, storytelling and transformation, as well as key recommendations from the session.

Portraying Our Lives Through the Camera

What do we tell and whom do we reach?

Laurindo Garcia  Founder, B-Change, Philippines

Popo Fan  Filmmaker, Writer and Activist, China

Sahar Mandour  Cultural Reporter and Columnist, Assafir Newspaper, Lebanon

Fan comes from a family with no background in filmmaking. After securing a place in an arts academy, Fan was initially unsure of his choice, due to the heavy focus on theory instead of practice, but eventually, he discovered his love for and the power of filmmaking. He recalls his way of dealing with LGBT issues at university: When confronted with a homophobic classmate, he opted to introduce him to gay German filmmaker Rainer Fassbinder’s movies. After a month, the classmate began to change his views about LGBT people. Fan’s first documentary was New Beijing, New Marriage. In it, he asked people in the street about LGBT marriage. Although respondents were generally ambivalent, many had a negative reaction to the possibility of equal marriage happening within their families. This triggered Fan’s interest in looking further into family issues for LGBT people through film.
Garcia grew up in Australia, where at the time of his childhood had almost no visibility of Asians and much less gay Asians in the media. Even more, Garcia was confronted by attitudes in some Asian societies towards LGBT people, which were seen, according to Garcia, as Western exports, “despite the wide evidence of LGBT stories across Asia.” A journalist by profession, Garcia’s determination for storytelling and support for LGBT groups gained further strengths after becoming the first Asian to openly acknowledge his HIV+ status in international forums and confronting the discrimination of being rejected entry into a country on this basis. Garcia became dedicated to using technologies and multimedia platforms to encourage change and provide support to LGBT people across Asia.

The impact of storytelling
For Garcia, film is not a one-sided conversation but a trigger for mobilization. In his work, filmmaking is a process of engagement and empowerment. For Fan, storytelling is crucial in informing people about LGBT issues. “If we keep showing the stories, we bring visibility and we help to influence. It goes in parallel to policy change,” Fan concluded.

Methods of outreach
The ways to disseminate their stories and messages are varied. Fan’s films have been blocked from mainstream distribution in China. But this has not deterred him. He participates in screenings at LGBT bars, community centers, LGBT centers and universities. Garcia has set up platforms such as the B-Change Foundation and the Here I Am campaign. These platforms use video narratives and offer online maps, social group databases, legal assistance, peer connection platforms, online councilors and small grants so filmmakers can tell their own stories.

Balancing funders and audiences
Regarding funding, Garcia reflects: “We can’t please everyone. Donors ask us for content on topics such as human rights and abuse. But in consultations with young people, they are not thinking about human rights, they are thinking about coming out to families or finding a job. We had to make donors understand this.”

Fan funded his first film with his own resources, and has gradually built resources for follow up projects, moving in small steps. He eventually bought his camera, and built a support network with other filmmakers. In some films however, angel investors can give a big push. “For my film titled Mama Rainbow, we got funding from a Beijing couple; they felt that through the film’s patronage they could help the community.”
Álvaro Laiz’s work has been featured in the New York Times, CNN and the Washington Post. For the June 2015 Forum, some of his work on the trans community in Mongolia was exhibited around the meeting space. He shared the stories behind these captivating images.

**A project’s beginning**

“Photography for me is a tool to promote social change. And this drives my ideas. To start, I think of one word that allows me to search for something. In this case I was thinking of identity: national identity or sexual identity or something else. You have to lure people into your stories if you want them to be told and this takes time,” explained Laiz.

**Mongolia: Ulaanbaatar’s Trans Community**

“Mongolia is a nation facing a future of capitalism and a past of communism. Several NGOs helped me arrive and deploy in Ulaanbaatar. The LGBT community has suffered attacks for long so it isn’t easy for them to trust you. Before I took my first photos, I spent three weeks hanging out with the trans community. They have a family life and a secret life. They are men in daylight and in nightlife they burst into their desired identities. Gammush is a key member of the LGBT community in Mongolia. She is the only one

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*From Transmongolian by Álvaro Laiz: Gammush, 67 years old dressed in a traditional Mongolian queen costume*
allowed to publicly dress as a woman. She opened many doors for me into the community.

“You can see that in some pictures, members of the trans community are in full make up, but after going out they remove it to go home safely. My main idea was to take pictures of them in their traditional queen dresses, deep in the desert. We drove around for a week to find the right shots. I learned that since my departure, they decided to dress up as queens in the desert once a year. So they began a sort of pride parade. They definitely inspired me and I hope it was mutual.”

Venezuela: Orinoco River Delta’s Tida Wena

“Many projects happen by chance. I once met an anthropologist in Caracas who talked about the Tida Wena, which in the Warao language means ‘the twisted women.’ The Orinoco River delta is a rough place to live. There are problems of pollution, criminality, and it is one of the places with the highest HIV rates in the world, hitting up to 80% of some communities. Some have started to blame the Tida Wena for the HIV pandemic in the delta. The Tida Wena takes a woman’s role. They clean the hanoko (the communal house) and take care of running the household. The worst thing that can happen in the delta is to get expelled from the community and this can be particularly tragic for a Tida Wena. I tried to send the stories to Venezuelan newspapers but they haven’t been published yet in Venezuela.”

If you would like to see more of Laiz’s captivating work, please visit: www.alvarolaiz.com
Bradley Secker is a British photographer currently based in Turkey. Besides his regular work as a photographer, he has focused on the theme of LGBT refugees with an ongoing series of portraits, documenting individuals claiming asylum based on their sexuality or gender identity in Turkey and Syria as part of a long-term documentary on LGBT identity in the Middle East and Northern Africa. While Becker unfortunately could not attend, we showed an exhibition of his work which we had prepared for the Forum. For many information please visit his website: www.bradleysecker.com
Exclusive Preview: “Because of Who I Am”

Benjamin Cantu  
Film Director and Writer, Hungary/Germany

The Salzburg program featured an exclusive preview of Benjamin Cantu’s and Nils Boekamp’s film Because of Who I Am (52min, 2015).

Cantu discussed the journey he took following the eight LGBT artists featured in their film and thanked the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum for its early support. During the conception of the film he worked closely with Mueller who connected him with artists and writers in Cambodia, Namibia and Morocco and shared global perspectives artists at the Forum had raised.

Following are some of the questions raised by the moderator and the audience during the screening.

What was the first impulse to start the project?  
Benjamin Cantu: I have a background in realizing feature and documentary films that deal with LGBT themes. I was approached by the Franco-German
TV broadcaster ARTE to contribute a specific film. We were two co-directors in the film, my producer and former boyfriend Nils Boekamp and myself.

Was this originally a travel movie to tell stories about gay artists?  
Cantu: We wanted to talk about artists connected to activism, especially in regions of the world where these forms of expression are suppressed. The film is an exploration of the question to what extent art can trigger change.

What surprised you in the process of making the film?  
Cantu: It was harder than we imagined to approach this topic with the required distance. We became very passionate about the topic and our protagonists, who put up with a lot in their creative and personal endeavors, coming from Russia, South Africa, Lebanon or Morocco.

Is this a film about global artists dealing with LGBT issues?  
Cantu: One guiding principle was to find the right balance of people to work with us. We wanted to find people that even if they live abroad they haven’t lost touch with what is happening at home, and are very much connected to where they are from.

Is this a portrayal of artists that do queer art or a queer person doing art?  
Cantu: You have that tension in the film. Some artists would say that their work is accidental regarding their sexuality, but for others it is a main driving force. I wanted to focus on artists who amplify what happens around their community.

For more information on the film, please visit: www.becauseofwhoiam.com
Extreme Forms of Exclusion:
The Situation of LGBT Refugees

Mary Audry Chard  
Board and Co-Chair, Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe

Michael Heflin  
Director of Equality, Open Society Foundation’s Human Rights Initiative, USA

Stella Murungi  
Protection Officer, Security Management and Protection Department, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP), Uganda

Fadi Saleh  
Gender and Sexuality Studies Lecturer, Syria/Germany

Dennis Wamala  
Project Manager, Icebreakers, Uganda

Evangelina Ybo  
President, United Filipino Organization, Philippines

During the Forum, Fellows dealt with the question of LGBT refugees and the particular forms of discrimination and hardships that hit people in these contexts.

Economic hardships behind migration are harder on LGBT people

Saleh opened the debate on migration stating: “We tend to forget about queer migration.” Wamala elaborated: “Financial migration comes more pronounced on LGBT people. If you cannot get a job you need family support.” Ybo had faced that very dilemma: “In the Philippines, I experienced prosecution from my own family. It was a devoted family. I had to move out.”

LGBT discrimination in refugee camps

Wamala told us of how the Ugandan discriminatory laws pushed people to migrate to Europe or other African countries. In some cases, Kenya or Tanzania have become destinations for LGBT refugees to wait and hope for the improvement of circumstances at home. But in the camps, attacks began. Chard noted that in refugee camps, fellow nationals would attack LGBT people, a situation worsened some instances when the UN fast-tracked LGBT cases and the perception of LGBT privilege ignited anger at the camps. Heflin remarked that LGBT people often do not have the support of other refugees.

Challenges within the refugee system

Heflin explained that same sex couples are discriminated against in the refugee system, which is biased towards heterosexual families. While the United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) has started implementing guidelines for protection of LGBT refugees and sensitizing local personnel, “sensitization doesn’t have an impact unless it trickles down in the system.” He mentioned that changes needed in the refugee system would
include social services, legal advice, initial application procedures and resettlement.

**Survival outside of the camp**

Wamala shed further light on life as an LGBT refugee. People run away from camps and it becomes a survival situation. This makes LGBT groups the target of sexual harassment and beatings. “It becomes an issue of which would be the worst place to die,” Wamala said. Chard mentioned that her organization in Zimbabwe tries hard to keep track of LGBT refugees, but often fails because they do not register or stay in one place. Murungi explained that at refugee camps, passports are taken away, and this complicates matters when people leave: “In this situation, I am irregular where I am, where I am from, where I want to go and where I should transit. This makes anyone vulnerable to corruption, bribing, human trafficking and illegal activities,” she said.

**The question of sex trafficking versus sex workers**

In some countries, LGBT refugees are subjected to human trafficking, at times pushed to the pornographic industry. But the issue of sex work is slightly more complex. One Fellow noted that not every case of a sex worker is a case of human trafficking, and it is instead a question of choice and lifestyle.

**Access to information**

Often LGBT people lack information on the refugee process, such as conditions in the camp, languages in transit countries, procedures, risks or waiting times. Wamala calls for organizations to help “manage expectations”. He added that at times, “people may contemplate suicide because they had a good job and the process takes long or they go to an isolated village in Europe or end up unemployed. They get depressed.”
Transformation:
What can we learn from transformative moments in LGBT and other human and civil rights movements?

Danilo Da Silva  Executive Director, Lambda, Mozambique

Rangita de Silva de Alwis  Associate Dean of International Programs, University of Pennsylvania Law School, USA

Clifton Cortez  Cluster Manager, UNAIDS Partnerships, Bureau for Policy Program Support, UNDP, USA

Yuko Higashi  Co-Chair, World Association for Sexual Health and Professor at the Osaka Prefecture University, Japan

Clare Shine  Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Salzburg Global Seminar, Austria

Joe Wong  Program Manager, Asia Pacific Transgender Network, Singapore

During the Forum, Fellows examined social movements from which LGBT organizations can gain lessons, and evaluated current windows of opportunity and obstacles.

Sexual health and wellbeing versus medicalization
Higashi explained that through the work of the World Association for Sexual Health, the declaration of sexual rights has been a vehicle to break away from medical models of gender and sexuality. A reinterpretation of health as a concept about wellbeing rather than illness would help LGBT groups to transcend often-counterproductive medical models.

The lessons of the HIV movement
Cortez listed the many lessons learned from the HIV movement. It was a movement, Cortez explained, that was built on community leadership for impact across broad sectors such as health, education, governance, poverty reduction, gender and employment.

Embracing the global big debates
Reflecting on his experience within the United Nations, Cortez encouraged the LGBT movement to participate actively in processes such as the Millennium Development Goals and their successors, the Sustainable Development Goals. These have direct relevance to LGBT people such as ending poverty, enabling healthy living for all ages, expanding access to
education, advancing gender equality, developing inclusive societies and ensuring equal access to justice.

Da Silva posited that LGBT groups should spread beyond their own demands and embrace global issues such as climate change, not only for mainstreaming and building alliances, but because such topics impact the LGBT community as well.

**United Nations conventions are vehicles for inclusion**
Da Silva, reflecting on her broad experiences in global women movements, encouraged everyone to read UN conventions carefully. Article VIII of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child calls for protecting identities, while Article II of the UN Convention of Women Rights has a provision on intersectionality. These examples of broad definitions can be instrumental in reinterpretations that enable inclusion and protection of LGBT groups.

**The UN could provide more mechanisms for transformation**
We engaged in an open discussion on whether the existence of a UN Special Rapporteur for LGBT rights would help LGBT inclusion or if it would be better to have LGBT issues covered by a rapporteur for overarching human rights themes.

**Direct trans engagement needed for greater visibility**
Wong believes that trans issues had been historically more marginal even within the LGBT movement; but a new base of trans leadership has given more space for direct advocacy of trans issues. Direct trans engagement with the World Health Organization and the UN in regional contexts has allowed for the recognition of data and policy indicators that are sensitive of trans communities. It is better, Wong states, that instead of people speaking on behalf of the trans community, the community should speak for itself.
Conclusions and Key Points

These reflections, policy recommendations, proposals and ideas were developed during Forum events, the working groups and submitted by Fellows through different feedback exercises that they submitted to the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum. We hope they prove useful for other advocates, allies and organizations.

Ideas to support the work of LGBT organizations

- **Learn to tell our stories**: Telling stories and finding ways to share them defines our struggle for equality. Training to develop these skills is vital.

- **Listen to trans and intersex people and their experiences**: When the trans conversation is talked about, it is often men to women, rarely women to men, or intersex people; this must be expanded.

- **Address the gender divide with the LGBT community**: Gender equality and awareness within the LGBT community is essential for an inclusive approach. Stereotyping is a common enemy.

- **Adjust to context**: Language, values, mechanisms of visibility, lobbying, public protest, multimedia platforms, channels of dissemination or diplomacy should vary according to place, social context or political conjuncture.

- **Integrate**: LGBT rights must be located within broader anti-discrimination, diversity and human rights frameworks.

- **Mobilization never looks the same**: A movement consists of more than NGOs. Small groups, artists, and courageous individuals are essential voices of our communities.

- **Activate youth**: Student and youth initiatives are crucial to counterbalance the homophobic narratives of the preceding generations.

- **Build global alliances**: Organizations across the world should form connections for peer support, ideas and protection. In a globalizing world, our struggle for equality is increasingly shaped by international developments.

- **Include the families**: We are family. We should extend support to our families of birth and choice.
Crosscutting themes

**What about the psychological dimension of exclusion?** How can we better assess how discrimination impacts mental health? People who face discrimination do not flourish, and this is true across all forms of discrimination.

**How can we pay greater attention to the effects of inequality?** As LGBT people get older, they confront a heteronormative health system and lack support networks if their biological families have disowned them. Trans men and women often lack legal documents, access to health, education and decent work. The homelessness of young LGBT people who were shunned by their families is a pressing problem rarely addressed.

**How can we add our expertise to strengthen social cohesion in general?** As a result of their long struggle, LGBT activists often are more equipped on rule of law topics than many civil society groups. When LGBT groups have affirmative agendas and contributions in state-building processes, this shifts public officials’ opinions.

**The globalization of hate needs to be understood and tackled.** Exposing homo- and transphobic movements can help LGBT activists’ work in nations where these groups are active. Some religious groups from the West spread homophobia abroad, and can be sued at home for promoting hate speech.

**Icons and role models can help progress, but change is carried by all of us.** Celebrities and icons are very powerful, but we shouldn’t be portrayed as a sensation. The extraordinary about us is how ordinary our lives are. Our ordinary families, friends, neighbors and colleagues are the most effective agents of change.

**When do we stop debates?** At what point do we stop accepting or tolerating de-humanization in discussions? If someone defies our humanity in reference to his/her belief system, debate seems futile.
Our Work in the Years to Come

Future outlook by Founder and Chair Klaus Mueller

We see polarization worldwide on human rights, sexuality and gender. The local and the global increasingly intertwine, both causing rapid progress and severe backlashes. The current global attention given to LGBT human rights is encouraging, but will it be matched by real structural changes before we lose this attention? Or will we be left with a struggle for full human rights only half realized? Now is the time to combat for full equality.

The Salzburg Global LGBT Forum is based on our belief in the urgency of a global conversation about equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and communities. Our signature is the global representation of leaders from diverse fields – including human rights, legal, artistic, cultural and religious backgrounds. Fundamental human rights concern all of us: gay or straight, cis-, inter- or transgender, our network of trust is built on the diversity of our Fellows – in terms of national, religious or cultural backgrounds, age, profession or affiliation. While communication across borders becomes ever more accessible through the web, trust needs time. Our meetings allow us to build trust in person and to explore together the new global interconnectedness of LGBT human rights.

Since its establishment in 2013, our Forum has grown exponentially and now includes members from 54 countries on six continents. Our Global Statement, as collectively issued in 2013, continues to guide our intersectional approach and lead themes. The Salzburg Global LGBT Forum has established itself as an important and unique network that convenes global dialogues on the most critical issues facing the LGBT community. It has developed a means of sharing the collective expertise of members with NGOs, governments, and
others, and it has built a communications platform capable of developing and sharing this expertise further. We have built strong and influential partnerships with government ministries, international development agencies, foundations, as well as filmmakers, photographers and writers to advance understanding and catalyze action around specific challenges for LGBT human rights.

With the new start of “Family is...” project in 2015 and the upcoming programs in October 2016 in Thailand and 2017 in Salzburg, we aim to capitalize on and expand this global network. Enhancing our online presence and communication is key. Our website [lgbt.SalzburgGlobal.org](http://lgbt.SalzburgGlobal.org) is fed by submissions via a Listserv that connects all Forum members from the three years’ programs. Our biannual newsletter is deepening key topics and enables members to share their professional achievements and initiatives. Subscription is possible via the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum website. Our Facebook group offers members an informal means of maintaining contact, further strengthening the connections made in Salzburg and beyond. Due to security concerns from members who face persecution, we decided that a private, non-searchable and invitation-only Facebook group would best address these needs.

Connecting our meetings, the website, Listserv, Facebook group and newsletter serve as tools to further develop our three lead topics:

**Using storytelling**

Storytelling is a major tool of expressing of who we want to be. Increasingly, LGBT lives are portrayed in popular culture, often through the lens of heroism or victimhood to reach larger audiences. Still, in many countries, enforced silence and government-sponsored discrimination reject LGBT people as part of the human family. In light of all these facts our “Family is...” project seeks to represent the LGBT communities more accurately and to deliver the struggles and solutions in a real and personal way. Our Forum will continue to cooperate with and magnify the work of writers, filmmakers and photographers who portray the complexities of our lives. As stated in our 2013 Global Statement: “culture and art are essential to dialogue on political and social change.”

As part the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum and our “Family is...” project, we will continue collecting and disseminating life stories that portray the diverse and rich realities of families today, both in written and video format. The video format allows us to render the individual lives and struggles of LGBT people in more immediate and significant manner. We hope that “Family is...” will become an ongoing multi-year project. It is the sharing of stories rather than mere facts and figures that helps to galvanize our supporters and challenge our opponents.
Addressing the effects of globalization

As a truly global network, we address the effects of globalization on LGBT rights and facilitate knowledge exchange both within our network and outwards to the partners and donors who work with us. Together, we develop strategies on the local impact of a growing global debate on LGBT human rights.

With our focus on South East Asia and expanding our network in the region, we are currently developing our 2016 program with our partners, that we hope to hold in-region in early October in Thailand. As a global network, we want to better understand the rapidly evolving discussions on LGBT human rights in Asia and their growing global influence, as part of the larger realization how different cultures and regions provide different contexts for advancing LGBT human rights. Building on our networks within the United Nations, the European Union, and major LGBT human rights organizations, we strive to build stronger connections with ASEAN member states and regionally engaged NGOs.
Our 2017 program will tie-in with the wider Salzburg Global Seminar 70th Anniversary celebrations, taking place at Schloss Leopoldskron. We want to take stock of what we have achieved over the past five years and collate results into a publication. Beyond these larger gatherings, we are committed to create, support and facilitate smaller meetings and initiatives and actively share our expertise and connections with stakeholders from diverse fields.

**Strengthening the connections between embassies and LGBT human rights groups**

In continuation of our work in 2014 and 2015, we aim to strengthen connections between human rights groups, embassies, and government agencies through networking, using both public and non-public tools to foster change. Training and capacity building for LGBT activists plays a critical role in advancing this growing cooperation. Together with donors and supporters of LGBT groups, we continue focusing on a multiplicity of issues, not only hate speech or physical violence. In many contexts the major challenges faced by LGBT communities relate to labor, health, housing, family, and educational policy.

Though many governments continue to legitimize violence against LGBT citizens through legal and cultural discrimination, the changes we have experienced in the 21st century – including but not limited to the UN resolution on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, the legalization of same-sex marriage in many countries, and the expansion of LGBT adoption rights – necessitate further discussions around global LGBT right and communities. Addressing the issue in a social intercourse is as essential as looking at it from individual and family-focused aspect. The “Family is...” project sheds a new light on how we define family societally and individually. The project will stimulate our community to reflect on the challenges and opportunities that LGBT families currently face. Through the project we are seek to influence and impact our society in a profound way.

As we work towards deepening and enlarging our network, our focus remains threefold: continuing to build a strong global network of leaders on the effects of globalization on LGBT human rights; strengthening (in)formal connections between human rights groups, embassies and government agencies; and using and supporting storytelling as a medium to portray the complexities of our lives, including those of our families by birth and choice. Last but not least, we remain a “fluid network” that responds to initiatives from our members and partners, and grows through evaluation and cooperation.

None of this would be possible without the support of our donors and partners. We look forward to continuing to engage with them as we work together to advance LGBT and human rights discussions around the world.
Rapporteur:

Ivan Capriles is a Research Fellow on International Rule of Law at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin, Germany. Prior to this, he worked as rapporteur at the Bosch Academy for the Berlin Conferences of International Rule of Law Practitioners I and II. Capriles obtained technical training on crude processing, as oil politics is his main field of interest. His other research interests include queer poverty, future studies, strategic planning, and digitalization. He has taken part in field research concerning post-tsunami housing reconstruction in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, fragile states in Waterloo, Canada, and process reengineering in Berlin, Germany. He has also engaged in internships and professional activities related to international relations in the Venezuelan embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and the Venezuelan Petroleum Ministry. Capriles presented a paper on coup d’états at the LASA Conference 2013 in Washington, DC, US. He participated as an extra in music videos for the bands Tubbe and The Hidden Cameras and cast member for the queer-themed short film Gold by German director Kai Staenicke. Capriles holds an International Baccalaureate from the United World College of Hong Kong, China, a B.A. in International Relations from Lancaster University, UK, and a Master of Public Policy from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany. He is in the final phase of a Ph.D. in Political Science at the Humboldt University of Berlin, researching on autonomy and control dynamics in national oil industries.

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Salzburg Global Seminar

Salzburg Global Seminar is an independent non-profit institution founded in 1947 with a distinguished track record of convening emerging and established leaders to address global challenges and drive progress based on Imagination, Sustainability and Justice. It convenes imaginative thinkers from different cultures and institutions, implements problem-solving programming, supports leadership development, and engages opinion-makers through active communication networks, all in partnership with leading international institutions.

FOR MORE INFO. PLEASE VISIT:
www.SalzburgGlobal.org

Salzburg Global LGBT Forum

The free expression of sexuality and gender identity has become a defining characteristic of tolerant, pluralistic, and democratic societies in the 21st century. In the context of the continuing globalization of the LGBT* human rights movement, positive advances of and backlashes against LGBT rights are now increasingly interconnected at a previously unseen scale.

The challenges confronting the LGBT and human rights movements are no longer only national or regional. They are influenced by a multitude of factors at the global level. The Salzburg Global LGBT Forum is therefore working to advance civil dialogue through further developing an active network of global LGBT and human rights actors. The Forum’s goal is to negotiate these interconnected global challenges and advance the free and equal rights of all LGBT people.

FOR MORE INFO. PLEASE VISIT:
lgbt.SalzburgGlobal.org

“Family is...” Project

“Family is...” is a project of the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth that promotes LGBT human rights and equality through storytelling. Through documenting the life stories and experiences of individuals, we aim to portray a more accurate representation of the LGBT community.

FOR MORE INFO. PLEASE VISIT:
lgbt.SalzburgGlobal.org/family-is

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*LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

We are using this term as it is widely recognized in many parts of the world, but we would not wish it to be read as in any way exclusive of other cultures, terms or groups.