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Akira Nishiyama (she/her)

Akira Nishiyama is a councilor of Japan Alliance for LGBT Legislation (J-ALL) which is an umbrella organization with 118 LGBTQ+ civil society organizations across Japan. The aim of J-ALL is to legislate laws in Japan to remove social barriers based on SOGI, mainly working for legislation of anti-discrimination law based on SOGI and the elimination of inhumane requirements regarding legal gender recognition law.

Currently, Akira leads global advocacy at J-ALL. Notably, her activism within the LGBTQ+ community led to the success of Pride7 Summit in Japan, and the passage of Japan's SOGI Awareness law in June 2023.

Anuradha Dugal (she/elle)

Anuradha Dugal has over 25 years of experience working to support women, children, and gender-diverse people fleeing violence. Anuradha recently became Executive Director at Women's Shelters Canada, after 17 years with the Canadian Women's Foundation, including as their Vice President of Community Initiatives. Anuradha is very involved in social issues and is currently a Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability Director, a member of the South Asian Women's Community Centre of Montreal and on the Board of Royal LePage Shelter Foundation. She is the former President of the Conseil des Montrealaises, and previously on the federal Advisory Council for the Strategy on Gender-Based Violence. Anuradha is an immigrant who lives and works in the traditional unceded territory stewarded by the Kanien'keha:ka (Mohawks). She is supported by her partner and three sons – all feminists and activists in their own ways.

Arlene B. Tickner

At-Large Ambassador for Gender Affairs and Global Feminist Policy

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia

Arlene B. Tickner is a committed feminist with over 30 years of teaching, research, mentoring and consulting experience in the field of International Relations. She holds a Ph.D. in International Studies from the University of Miami and an M.A. in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University. She has been a professor at the Universidad de los Andes, Universidad Nacional de Colombia and Universidad del Rosario. Since January 2023, she worked as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in New York.

Ambassador Tickner's research focuses on Colombian foreign policy, Latin American security, global South approaches to world politics, and disruptive approaches to international relations, among which feminist, postcolonial, decolonial and indigenous thinking, and critical race theory and queer theory, figure prominently. She has authored and co-authored approximately 100 books, edited volumes, book chapters, journal articles and working papers.

In addition to her academic trajectory, ambassador Tickner is known for her media activities, including as a columnist for the Colombian daily, El Espectador, panelist for

the nightly program Hora 20, and expert analyst for national and international radio and television.

Carlos Ruis Gonzalez

Carlos is the Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Spain in Canada, graduated with a Bachelor in Law from Deusto University (Spain), and has extensive experience such as being the Deputy Director General for International Cooperation against Terrorism, Drugs and Organized Crime, an Ambassador at Large against Human Trafficking, and a Consul at the Consulate of Spain in Havana (Cuba).

Claire House (they/them)

Dr. Claire House has been working across fields of global LGBTIQ+ rights, intersectionality and scholarship/activism for 15+ years. They are Dignity Network Canada's Director of Programmes, Partnerships and Learning. They bring particular expertise, interest, and practice towards contesting anti-gender, anti-trans, and anti-democratic politics. Prior to this, they were a consultant and a former Head of International Programme Development at Stonewall, Europe's largest LGBTIQ+ organization, where they led the development of the organization's first approach to global programming. They are also a former Research Director at Edge Effect where they helped develop the organization's thinking and approach towards SOGIESC-inclusive development and humanitarian response. Trained as a political scientist and anthropologist, they started their career in academia, and bring a PhD focused on LGBTIQ+ rights movements, feminist, anti-racist, and human rights organizing in Brazil. Claire is originally from the UK and is a newcomer to Canada. They have been living thankfully in the unceded territory of the Syilx/Okanagan people (Kelowna) for the past few years, together with their growing family. They are fluent in Brazilian Portuguese and English, and are working on their French and Spanish.

Dan Irving (he/him)

Dan Irving is an Associate professor and Director of the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies (IIS) at Carleton University. His research focuses on trans and nonbinary under- and unemployment. He is the co-editor of *Trans Activism in Canada: A Reader* (with Rupert Raj) and selected works have been published in *Sexualities*, *Radical History Review* and *Australian Feminist Studies*. He was co-principal investigator on *Working For Change: Understanding the Employment Experiences of Two-Spirit, Trans and Nonbinary People in Canada* in partnership with Egale Canada. The full report is available at: <https://egale.ca/awareness/wfc/#Fullreport>

Danilo Manzano Navas (he/him)

Danilo Manzano, LGBTIQ+ activist in Latin America, co-founder and Director of LGBTIQ+ Rights at the Fundación Diálogo Diverso.

A professional in Communication and Public Relations, he serves as Secretary of the Regional Network for LGBTIQ+ Human Mobility in Latin America and Co-Chair of the International LGBTIQ+ Advisory Group for Dignity Network Canada.

He is an international speaker on LGBTIQ+ political participation and migration.

Darrell Schuurman (he/him)

Darrell is an advocate of effecting social change through the economic empowerment of 2SLGBTQI+ entrepreneurs. He is the co-founder and CEO of CGLCC, Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ Chamber of Commerce, a national not-for-profit organization with a mission to expand the opportunities and advancement of the 2SLGBTQI+ business community in Canada.

Under Darrell's leadership, CGLCC is spearheading the 2SLGBTQI+ Entrepreneurship Program, a landmark \$25 million investment by the Federal Government. Through this initiative, he has directed \$8.5 million to enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem nationwide and allocated \$3 million to establish the national 2SLGBTQI+ Knowledge Hub, fostering innovation and support for diverse business leaders across Canada.

Darrell is a founding member of Supplier Diversity Alliance Canada, a national organization dedicated to the advancement of research, education, and advocacy of supplier diversity in Canada. He sits on the Supplier Advisory Committee (Public Services and Procurement Canada) to provide support in identifying potential improvements to Federal Government procurement.

He is also the co-founder of the Canadian Gay & Lesbian Business Education Foundation and Travel Gay Canada.

Darrell completed his Bachelor of Commerce Degree at the University of Calgary, and completed his Executive MBA from Richard Ivey School of Business, Western University.

Doug Kerr (he/him)

Doug Kerr is originally from Edmonton, Alberta and currently lives in Toronto. He is the Executive Director of Dignity Network Canada, a coalition of 65 organizations across Canada interested in advancing the human rights of LGBTIQ people around the globe. Doug has been involved in human rights movement building his entire adult life and has been involved in many community organizations in Canada, including Fierté Canada Pride, Sherbourne Health Centre, Rainbow Railroad and Community One Foundation. Prior to living in Toronto, Doug lived in Taipei, Taiwan and he speaks Mandarin Chinese. He has an undergrad degree in international relations and Chinese studies and a Master of Social Work degree in social policy. He has a certificate from the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Law Program from Leiden University in The Hague. Doug is a recipient of the Steinart and Ferreiro Award for community leadership, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and most recently was awarded the inaugural Pride Award from the Canadian Pride Caucus. He and his husband Michael are co-owners of Glad Day Bookshop, the oldest surviving LGBTIQ bookstore in the world and they are, most importantly, hockey dads and very proud parents of Malachi.

Duane Gastant' Aucoin (any pronouns)

Masayiyati? Duane Gastant' Aucoin aya xat. Dax Ka Lingit aya xat. Gooch nax xat sitee. Yanyeidi aya xat. Dleit Kaa Yadi ka Deisheetaan Dachx'ank' aya xat. Deileseen Kwaan aya xat.

How are you? My name is Duane Gastant' Aucoin. I am Inland Tlingit. I am Wolf Moiety. My Clan is Yanyeidi and I'm a White Man Child. (My Father's People are Acadian from Cheticamp, CB). I'm a Split Tail Beaver Grandchild. My home is Teslin, Yukon. Most importantly I'm a 2 Spirit parent and grandparent as well as a surrogate Aunty to many amazing people. I'm currently the Executive Councilor for my Clan with Teslin Tlingit Council since 2009. We're a modern treaty nation and have gone back to our Clan Governance. I was the lead singer/drummer for our community dance group, the Deileseen Kwaan Dancers. I also performed with my sister, Sharon Shorty, in the comedy duo, Susie & Charlie. In 2004 I was awarded Queer Artist of the Year for Western Canada by Xtra West for my production, Children of the Rainbow. Which celebrated the history for 2 Spirited Peoples. This won the Audience Favourite Award at the 2003 Vancouver Queer Film Festival. In 2007 I was selected as the International 2 Spirit Male Warrior at the International 2 Spirit Gathering in Fort Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan. In 2012 I was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal. I almost didn't accept it because of all the suffering both my Inland Tlingit and Acadian Peoples suffered at the hands of the Crown. But I was told to accept it to honour both Peoples. Because after all the Crown did to try and destroy us, we survived! In 2022 I was appointed as the first Yukon Rep to the new AFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council. And in 2023 I was selected as the first Interim Co-Chair, along with Tyler George (SK) who was the first Chair. I served in that role until being selected as the new Chair in April, 2025. I'm also the alternate Yukon Rep on the AFN Chief's Committee on Languages. I'm currently a guest of the Algonquin in the Ottawa Valley caring for my 90 year old father.

Gunalcheesh/wela'lioq/meegwetch/merci/thank you.

Grâce Divine Ingabire (she/her)

Grâce Divine Ingabire is based in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and works as a program officer for an organization called MOLI, supporting partners in the sub-region. She is trained as a medical doctor and has a diploma in project management.

Grâce is deeply passionate about feminism, gender equality, economic and social inclusion, sexual and reproductive health and human rights. Her commitment to these causes inspired her to move from a medical career to supporting the work of community-based organizations.

Prior to joining MOLI, Grâce volunteered for Cuso International in the DRC, where she managed their volunteer program. Her diverse experiences gave her a unique perspective and a strong devotion to social change.

In her personal life, Grâce enjoys reading, writing and going on adventures. She is always ready to take on new challenges and meet new people.

Hiromi Fujii (she/her)

Hiromi Fujii is a co-representative of Japan alliance for LGBT legislation(J-ALL) and an independent midwife in Japan. She focuses on SRHR of LGBTQ people and their family formation. And she is also a teacher who teaches midwifery and global nursing at the Japanese university. She holds a PhD degree from the Kobe city college of nursing, Japan. Her doctoral theses reveal a good relationship between lesbian clients and their practitioners in a medical setting in Japan, she also made the nursing model for LGBT patients based on its evidence. And she has been a feminist for forty years. She is an activist and community organizer for LGBTQ rights.

Irene Compton (she/her)

Irene Compton is co-founder of Minwaashin Lodge celebrating 30 years of work there. She is an inter-generational survivor of the residential school system. Her work at the lodge supports women survivors of lethal violence, assisting them with safety plans, stabilization, healing and employment & education achievement.

Irene is the Keeper of the stories at Minwaashin's Sacred Lodge which connects Indigenous women to their culture, identity and pride.

Juana Valentina Parra Escobar (she/her)

Valentina Parra (she/her) is a Colombian lawyer with studies in social psychology. She is coordinator of the peace and transitional justice team of Colombia Diversa, an NGO that has been working for the rights of LGBTIQ+ people in Colombia since 2004. In her role at Colombia Diversa, she has accompanied LGBTIQ+ victims of discrimination in the armed conflict and has led advocacy and litigation strategies to promote the participation of LGBTIQ+ people in peacebuilding processes in Colombia.

Kate Moore (elle/she)

Kate is Egale Canada's senior bilingual 2SLGBTQI diversity and inclusion external trainer and consultant with over 30 years of experience across the private, public, and non-profit sectors. As a queer woman in a same-gender relationship and a parent, she understands both the challenges of not fitting societal norms and the unearned privileges of her identities as a White, middle-class, able-bodied Canadian. Kate is the founder of VitalSHIFT Consulting, specializing in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). She has held leadership roles, including Executive Director of the Ten Oaks Project, Manager of the Federal Multiculturalism Program and Facilitator with Skills for Change. With global experience spanning over 40 countries, Kate's approach to DEIB work is enriched by her work, study, and volunteerism.

Kate holds an M.A. from Université Laval, a B.Ed. from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) and is a certified Leadership and Transformation Coach. In her free time, she enjoys open-water swimming, camping, and family time in Toronto (Tkaranto).

Rina Rybalko (she/her)

Rina Rybalko is a human rights advocate from Ukraine. She started working closely with LGBTQI+ rights by joining the Gender Stream team in 2020. During this time, within the

Gender Stream team she has organized the work of two shelters for LGBTQI+ refugees from Ukraine in Slovakia, the first one was opened already in the beginning of March 2022.

Nowadays with the main focus of the organization on the advocacy to combat and criminalize hate crimes in Ukraine and work with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Police and law enforcement system, national and international stakeholders, she is engaged in advocacy at the international level to bring long-term and sustainable support and solutions for the Ukrainian LGBTQI+ communities.

Keifer Buckingham (she/they)

M.A. Keifer Buckingham has worked in Washington, DC for over fifteen years to advance a more progressive and inclusive U.S. foreign policy, focusing on issues of human rights, health access, and foreign assistance. Keifer is currently Managing Director at the Council for Global Equality, working to advance an LGBTQI+ inclusive U.S. foreign policy. Most recently, Keifer served as Senior Advisor for the Special Envoy for the Advancement of Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons at the Department of State.

Kenita Placide (they/she)

Kenita Placide is a non binary native of the island/country of Saint Lucia. They are the Founder and Executive Director of the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE). They are a social justice and human rights advocate with specific focus on Health and HIV, women's rights, LGBT rights, youth and climate change. They have advocated around HIV and human rights inclusive of women, youth and LGBTI issues, for over 16 years and has worn many hats to bring attention and funding to the smaller islands in the eastern part of the Caribbean. ECADE is an independent umbrella organisation, inclusive of organisations operating in the small islands in the eastern Caribbean from the Virgin Islands down to Grenada. They are the founder and organiser of the only Caribbean Women and Sexual Diversity Conference from 2013 to present.

Kim Vance-Mubanga (she/her)

Kim was the Executive Director of ARC International for 17 years, retiring in 2020. ARC International is an NGO geared to advancing human rights for LGBTI persons across the globe. They have played a key role in the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics, as well as providing support to NGO's working in countries around the world to ensure that the records of all UN States on LGBTI issues are subjected to international scrutiny. She has been invited as a global expert to contribute research and advice to the political, expert, and agency bodies within the United Nations.

She has received the Pride Community Service Award in her province, secured the first Registered Domestic Partnership in Canada, and was a successful litigant in one of the Canadian court challenges to secure equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Maria Sjödin (they/she)

Maria has been a leader in the LGBTIQ movement for 25 years, first in their home country, Sweden, and for over a decade in the international movement. They joined Outright International in 2014 and was appointed executive director in 2022.

Maria was previously Outright's deputy executive director, leading the work of the development and communications teams. In this position, they oversaw a period of extraordinary growth in visibility, diversification, and increased funding. They also launched groundbreaking initiatives, such as Outright's COVID-19 Global LGBTIQ Emergency Fund and pioneering engagement with international businesses.

Michaël Arnaud (he/him, il-lui)

Michael Arnaud comes from the humanitarian and international development sector. He is the current Executive Director of Égides, an international francophone alliance of civil society organizations and groups supporting and promoting LGBTIQ rights globally. He is also Action Against Hunger's Canada former Associate Director for gender equality and gender-based violence, providing strategic and technical direction at international level for the integration of gender issues and the prevention of gender-based violence in assistance programs. Determined promoter of a people and diversity centred approach, he has continuously advocated for a better awareness of power relations, oppression and the necessity to support the voices of the most marginalized in all the organizations he has worked for. With a Master's degree in international humanitarian law, he has been working for the past 14 years on gender, equality, diversity and gender-based violence in various contexts, including in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Vietnam and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. He also actively supports LGBTIQ+ rights through various volunteer roles in the communities.

Midnight Poonkasetwattana (he/him/his)

Midnight is the Executive Director of APCOM Foundation, which was established in 2007 and is based in Bangkok, Thailand. Midnight leads multi-sectoral partnerships to advance SOGIESC health, rights, and wellbeing in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2016, he delivered the Closing Plenary Statement at the UN General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS. Recognized for his advocacy, Midnight was honored as a Gen.T honouree in 2020 for his work supporting LGBTQIA communities in Asia.

Monica Tabengwa (she/her/they)

Monica Tabengwa is a human rights lawyer from Botswana and is currently Policy Specialist for LGBTI+ Inclusion in Africa for the United National Development Programme (UNDP). She holds a masters (LLM) degree from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. An experienced human rights advocate, feminist with extensive experience in human rights and social justice advocacy, extending to regional and international human rights mechanisms. She has been a co-founder and supporter Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LeGaBiBo), an LGBTI+ organization in Botswana which has been behind the campaign to decriminalize same-sex relations in Botswana.

Muzna Dureid (she/her)

Muzna Dureid is a seasoned policy analyst and humanitarian practitioner with more than a decade of experience in conflict zones. She is a Women 7 organizing member. She works as advocacy and partnership manager at Nobel Women's Initiative. Prior to joining NWI, she served as Senior Program Development Officer with the White Helmets. Muzna is the founder of the "Women Refugees, Not Captives" campaign and a co-founder of the Syrian Women's Political Movement, with a strong focus on ending child and forced marriage among Syrian refugees and promoting political participation of diaspora refugee women.

Her work has earned her several accolades, including the Canadian Excellence in Global Women's and Children's Health Award and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers' annual award. She is also a co-recipient of Canada's inaugural research award on Women, Peace, and Security. Muzna holds a master's degree in Public Policy and Public Administration from Concordia University in Montreal.

Naïké Ledan (she/her)

Naïké Ledan is a social justice advocate with a rich background in human rights, women's organizing, and health justice. She has worked across Sub-Saharan Africa, Haiti, the LAC region, New Orleans, and Canada. She serves as the Cross-Sector Lead on sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), LGBTQIA+ issues, feminist organizing, and HIV at ILGA World.

Naïké's work centers on dismantling systems of structural exclusion by building cross-movement solidarity and advancing civil rights advocacy. She has played a pivotal role in bridging global funders with LGBTQI+, girls-, and young women-led civil society organizations, ensuring partnerships are grounded in anti-colonial, feminist, and anti-patriarchal values. She supports civil society in translating data into actionable advocacy, increasing accountability from governments and stakeholders to the communities they serve.

Deeply rooted in feminist theory, her advocacy also explores women's sexual pleasure as a pathway to liberation, self-honoring, and resistance to societal silencing. Her work extends to the decriminalization of gender and sexual diversity, the abolition of carceral systems, and the reimagination of care and justice.

Naïké has held leadership roles across major global institutions, including the UNDP, UNAIDS, the Organization of American States, the Global Fund, Housing Works, and Health GAP. She holds a Master of Science (M.Sc) in International Development from the Université de Montréal and a postgraduate degree in Public Health from NYU's Global Institute of Public Health.

Naoufel Testaouni (he/him)

Naoufel Testaouni is the Co-Founder and CEO of QueerTech, a nonprofit building a more inclusive tech ecosystem for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in Canada. With a background in nonprofit leadership, international development, and tech startups,

Naoufel has worked with organizations like AIESEC, Microsoft, and Local Logic. His work bridges community, innovation, and equity to empower queer people to lead in tech.

Roberto Muzzetta (he/him)

Roberto Muzzetta was born in Milan, where he still lives. He has been a member and part of the board of CIG Arcigay Milano since 2009. Within the organization, he is active in the School Group and the PRIDE Commission, which he coordinated from 2013 to 2014.

He holds a law degree from the University of Milan, a master's in international trade law from New York University, and an M.B.A. from Bocconi University. He is a licensed attorney in New York and in Italy and an entrepreneur in the electronics sector.

From 2012 to 2018, he served first as a member and then as president of the Board of Auditors of Arcigay, and in 2018 as Auditor for the European Pride Organisers Association.

Since November 2018, he has held the position of Head of International Affairs in the National Secretariat.

Sean Reggee (he/him)

Since 2011, Sean has worked on a number of advocacy and outreach programmes for trans and intersex communities in Zambia and across southern Africa. These include better access to information and access to sexual and reproductive health for trans and intersex persons, as well as sensitization of various stakeholders in order to influence positive structural and service reform in medical and legal access. Sean is building leadership among the trans and intersex movement as a developmental issue to sustain interventions of advocacy and empowerment.

Sizwe Inkingi (she/her)

Sizwe Inkingi, Policy Officer at Rainbow Railroad and former Project Coordinator at OCASI, has been a leading force behind the development of OCASI's LGBTQI+ resettlement guidelines across Canada. With expertise in foresight and scenario planning, Sizwe supports Rainbow Railroad's Policy and Advocacy team in anticipating political shifts in Canada, the U.S., and globally. She crafts strategic advocacy on LGBTQI+ human rights and humanitarian protection, while synthesizing data from Rainbow Railroad's Queer Forced Displacement Initiative. Sizwe plays a key role in advancing inclusive, future-oriented strategies for refugee protection and systemic change for forcibly displaced LGBTQI+ people.

Stelios Foteinopoulos (he/him)

Stelios Foteinopoulos leads the international policy and advocacy work of Kaleidoscope Trust, shaping global LGBTI+ and human rights policy. With over a decade of experience in policy-making, advocacy, and EU affairs, he has previously served as Head of Cabinet to the Vice President of the European Parliament and has worked extensively on justice, human rights, and development projects. Stelios holds an MSc in European Public Policy from UCL.

Tara Peel (she/her)

Tara Peel is Executive Director and Advisor to the President and former National Director for Health, Safety and Environment at the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). In her current role, Tara oversees the CLC's work on Health, Safety and Environment, Human Rights, Social and Economic Policy, International work as well as governance related files. In her previous role, Tara was responsible for developing national campaigns and providing analysis on a variety of workplace health, environmental health and sustainability issues. Tara was a member of the Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers and Communities and served as a member of the board of directors of Climate Action Network Canada (CAN-Rac Canada) and the national steering committee for the Green Economy Network (GEN).

She serves as a member of the Council of Governors for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety and previously served as a member of the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee to the Labour Program at Employment and Social Development Canada, and the WHMIS Current Issues Committee advising the Workplace Hazardous Materials Bureau at Health Canada.