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Dear Supporter- *Participate!* is the newsletter of the Federation of Gay Games with the latest news from the FGG including: Russia and Sochi Actions - Pride House, Same Sex Hand Holding, IOC Principal 6, Bring Russians to GG9; Las Vegas Open Meeting; Tom Wadell Award; Nike Team Wear Program;

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Best wishes for a happy new year!

On behalf of the Federation of Gay Games, its board and assembly, representing over 50 organizations in Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Americas, let me wish you all as friends of the Gay Games movement a healthy and happy 2014, and express our hopes to see you in Cleveland and Akron for the 2014 Gay Games this August.

You'll find our end-of-year message [here](#).

Kurt Dahl
 Male co-president



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What we're doing about Russia, and what you can do to help

The FGG has taken a leading role in the worldwide response to the antigay laws in Russia and their impact on athletes competing in Sochi, those that will compete in future international sports competitions in Russia, and most important, the thousands of LGBT athletes and artists who live under the threat of the homophobic regime, including the 800 members of the FGG member organization the Russian LGBT Sports Federation.



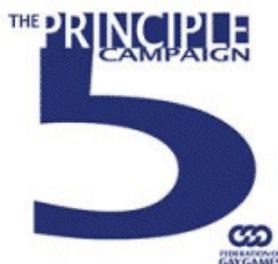
Pride Houses Worldwide

The FGG is a founding member of [Pride House International](#) (PHI), a coalition of LGBT sport and human rights groups, whose key focus now is a response to the situation in Sochi. PHI continues to lobby National Olympic Committees to host Pride House events in their hospitality houses in Sochi. Our appeal for people around the world to host their own Pride House events has proven a great success, and you can help by creating an event to promote solidarity with Russian LGBTs and the fight for equality in sport in your own community. Learn more [here](#), and write to pridehouseinternational@gmail.com for more info.



Same Sex Hand Holding

You can also join our campaign to promote the [Same-Sex Hand-Holding Initiative](#) - to encourage athletes to show solidarity with LGBT people by being photographed holding hands.



Beyond the Boycott

The FGG wants to go beyond boycotts and protests to engage in constructive engagement with mainstream sport to promote real change. In 2010 at the opening ceremony of Gay Games VIII, we launched the Principle 5 (now Principle 6) Campaign, calling on the International Olympic Committee to revise the Olympic Charter to include sexual orientation in the protections offered by the Olympic Movement.

Our hopes for such change were encouraged by our [historic meeting on 30 November with Thomas Bach](#), the new president of the IOC, which we hope will be the first of many constructive exchanges.

Uprising of Love

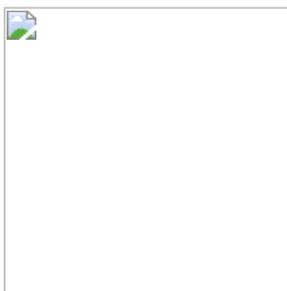


The FGG is also pleased to be a founding supporter of [Uprising of Love](#), a coalition of personalities, cofounded by Gay Games Ambassador Melissa Etheridge, to provide long-term engagement in support of Russian LGBT people



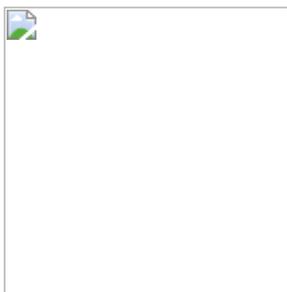
You can do your bit!

You can donate or even participate in the first [Russian Open Games](#), to be held in Moscow between the Olympic and Paralympic Games



Share Gay Games 9 with Russians!

You can help us bring to Cleveland and Akron all 200 Russian applicants for Gay Games scholarships. Our first scholarship crowdfunding campaign was a success, but we've still been able to satisfy only a fraction of the qualified applicants. We've launched a special campaign for Russian applicants to which you can contribute (and share). Find it [HERE](#).



You're invited to two meetings on the future of LGBT sports and culture

The Federation of Gay Games is pleased to invite you to the first of two open meetings.

Who: Representatives of LGBT sport and culture organizations, all LGBT athletes, artists, allies
 What: An open meeting on building the future of LGBT sports and culture
 Where: Lounge of the Tropicana Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, 3801 Las Vegas Blvd. South (the Strip at Tropicana Avenue), Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
 When: Friday 17 January 2014 (during Sin City Shootout weekend), 10:00am – 2:00pm
 Why:

- Review the status of the global LGBT sports movement
- Consider the impact at the local, regional, and global levels
- Discuss the future of quadrennial events
- Sochi 2014 and after

More info and free online registration [here](#)

Note that GLISA International and Regional has been invited to both meetings, the second of which will take place at the 2014 EGLSF Annual General Assembly in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Info [here](#).

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Tom Waddell Award

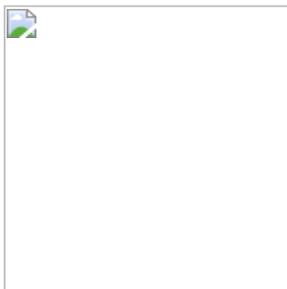
The FGG is pleased to announce that nominations are open for the Tom Waddell Award. This is the highest recognition offered by the FGG, and is presented at the opening ceremony of each Gay Games to one man and one woman who have made outstanding contributions to the Gay Games movement and the cause of equality.

A nominee must:

- Inspire pride through leadership and excellence in sports, culture, or volunteerism
- Devote their energies to the success of the Gay Games and/or related activities without regard for personal gain
- Participate at their personal best
- Personify standards of commitment, selflessness, and love of humanity

Anyone may nominate a qualified person: please visit our website for the nomination form. Deadline for nominations is 28 February.

Learn more and download the nomination form [here](#).



FGG Nike Team Uniform Program

Whether you're part of an FGG member organization or not (and if not, why not start one?), you can take advantage of the Gay Games Uniform Program (GGUP), in partnership with Nike and LIDS Team Sports. Participants planning the "look" for their teams at Gay Games 9 can now purchase high-quality custom Nike team-wear **at 30% off retail!**

Participating teams will be able to set up their own custom online store and choose the Nike items to offer, the colors they want, and the logos they want on their gear.

Teams in any country may participate (those outside the US will have their orders shipped to Cleveland where they will be collected in August 2014). **Free FGG Membership** for one year is included for non-member organisations.

To take part in this program, visit [the GGUP page](#)

Want to create a team? Click [here](#)

The Road to Cleveland + Akron

We're pleased to share an extract of the profile we published of Jennifer Dietrich, a triathlete recovering from hip surgery who's setting her sights on Gay Games 9 for her big return to competition. Jennifer is a schoolteacher in the Cleveland area, and her husband and students are her biggest fans, as she recounts:

"I am a member of Grunt Girl Racing, an all women's multisport team in the Greater Cleveland area, and I serve on their advisory board. I am also the managing editor of Grunt Girl Magazine, a new publication out this summer. My full-time job is as an English teacher at Westlake High School [Westlake is a town to the west of Cleveland]. Many of my students know I compete in triathlons, and they often ask what race I am training for next.

My sports have become such a huge part of the person I am today, and so I encourage my students to join teams and get involved in sports and activities that interest them. I have been talking about the Gay Games with my classes, discussing how significant this event will be for the city of Cleveland. My students are aware that I will be competing, and a few have expressed interest in signing up for some of the events, which I of course support with gusto". Read in full [here](#).

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