



## How does the FGG promote its mission? Equality in sport and culture Equality through sport and culture

### *Who do we advocate for?*

#### ***For the participants in our events***

By creating, improving, and enforcing policies that ensure fairness and inclusion, the FGG promotes events that are truly about sport for all. By devising and helping our hosts guidelines and specifications for our events, we ensure that participants will have a satisfying and predictable competitive experience.

When we help our hosts to promote the Gay Games, we improve the chances of finding lively tournaments that offer real challenges, and that encourage people to attend the Games and profit from all their benefits.

#### ***For athletes in the LGBT sports movement***

LGBT sport exists between and outside the Gay Games. The Gay Games have led to the creation of countless clubs, organizations, and tournaments. The FGG support these organizations and events to expand the opportunities for competition in LGBT sport.

#### ***For LGBT athletes in mainstream sport***

The mandate of the FGG is also to speak out for athletes who remain silent due to homophobia in sport and in wider society. For every athlete competing in LGBT sport, there are hundreds competing, many closeted, in mainstream sport. The FGG challenges homophobia in sport, in particular by engaging with mainstream sport institutions, as exemplified by our historic meeting with the president of the International Olympic Committee last November.

#### ***For all athletes***

The FGG's values of participation, inclusion and personal best propose a model of sport that can inspire mainstream sport to greater inclusion, not just on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. More broadly, the fight for equality in sport benefits the global fight for equality for LGBTs, and for all.

### *How do we endeavor to achieve our goals?*

#### ***Through the Gay Games***

In accordance with our bylaws, the FGG's primary action to promote equality is via the organization with our host committees of the Gay Games. The Gay Games are the world's largest sport and culture event open to all, held every four years since 1982, and welcome over 10,000 athletes and artists from over 70 countries to participate in nearly 40 sport and culture events.

The Gay Games send a powerful message to mainstream sport: some athletes are gay, and to the LGBT community: some gays are athletes. On a personal level, the Games send a powerful message to gay men and women: whatever your ability, you can be an athlete, and to athletes that they can be gay.

The Gay Games empower women and men to live healthier lives, to express themselves through sport and culture, to join together to advocate change in sport, culture, and society in general.

They are a networking opportunity that encourages the creation of clubs and other organizations

#### ***Through partnerships***

The FGG firmly believes that the best way to promote our goals is through collaboration, including with our member organizations. We are a formal member of the ILGA and EGLSF and will soon join IGLTA (travel). We are proud founding members of coalitions such as Pride House International, the LGBT Sports Coalition, and Uprising of Love.

More info on the next page!

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They are a networking opportunity that encourages the creation of clubs and other organizations throughout the world, and that energizes participants to return to their communities, often homophobic towns, cities and countries, to live with pride and to organize for change.

The FGG and the Gay Games collaborate with and confront mainstream sport, challenging sport organizations to address institutional and cultural homophobia, and through the values enshrined in the Gay Games, to imagine a sport based on the values of participation and camaraderie rather than exclusively on competition.

The Gay Games offer a model of sport that promotes participation and that fights against discrimination, notably on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

We supported the [Russian Open Games](#) organized in Moscow by the Russian LGBT Sports Federation between the Olympic and Paralympic Games, an event in the true spirit of public affirmation of LGBT athletes like that of the very first Gay Game. Along with our Russian friends, the FGG, was invited to represent LGBT sport in a historic meeting in November 2013 with the new president of the International Olympic Committee.

Pride House International: The FGG encouraged and supported member organization Pride Sports UK and EGLSF to salvage plans for a Pride House at the 2012 Olympics after the Mayor's chosen operator abandoned plans just three months before opening ceremony. In partnership with GLISA International and London-area sport and community groups, a successful Pride House was organized at CA House and other venues.

The FGG continued these efforts after London 2012, which gave rise to Pride House International, in which we continue to take a leading role. In addition to sharing expertise and promoting new Pride Houses (2014 Commonwealth Games, 2014 FIFA World Cup, 2015 Pan Am Games, 2016 Olympics, 2016 UEFA Championships...), we have concentrated on support for Pride House Sochi.

We called on the UN to address Russian discrimination in the declaration of an Olympic Truce, and on members of the IOC, and launched the Same-Sex Hand-Holding Initiative "Remote Pride Houses", where groups around the world hosted events in solidarity with Russian LGBTs and allies in support of equality in sport.

Uprising of Love: The FGG is a founding supporter of Uprising of Love, a coalition of entertainment personalities aimed at fighting antigay laws in Russia, co-founded by Gay Games Ambassador Melissa Etheridge.

#### ***Through events***

The FGG builds relations and visibility for its mission by cross promotions. In recent years, the FGG has had agreements with events including the 2011 Eurogames and Asia-Pacific Outgames, as well as events organized by our member organizations (IGLA championships, TIP Paris International Tournament, etc.).

The FGG attends, whenever logistics and finances permit, conferences and seminars on issues of interest to LGBT sport and culture. These can be organized by mainstream organizations, such as the 2013 USOC Diversity Symposium or Play the Game, an international conference in which the FGG has spoken on our gender policy (Cologne, 2011) or on our doping policy and on Pride Houses (Aarhus, 2013).

#### ***Through greater visibility worldwide***

The Gay Games have a great message that needs to be heard by more people around the world. There's a long way to go, but we've made great progress.

First, via our own communication channels, including a blog with 1000 daily views, our Facebook account with nearly 3000 likes, and our Twitter account, which has just exceeded 4000 followers. We also communicate via three newsletters for the entire Gay Games family, for our member organizations, and for our Ambassadors.

Our Awards program, created for our 25th Anniversary in 2007, is now an annual event that recognizes individuals and organizations who contribute to our common mission of equality.

**Website/blog:** [gaygames.org](http://gaygames.org)  
**Twitter:** @GayGames  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/federationofgaygames](https://www.facebook.com/federationofgaygames)

LGBT Sports Coalition: The FGG is a founding member of the LGBT Sports Coalition, a product of the Nike LGBT Sports Summits. The FGG is a member of the coordinating committee of the Coalition, which has just made its first grants from a donation of USD 200,000 from Nike, and will be disbursing USD 500,000 more this year.

Other organizations: Beyond supporting the development of new member organizations, the FGG has contributed and encouraged the creation of new groups, including GO! Athletes (guests at Team Philadelphia Sportfest), Equality Coaching Alliance (launched by Gay Games stalwart Roger Brigham), etc. We have promoted videos from sports people and organizations for the You Can Play and It Gets Better campaigns, and enjoy good relations with ally groups like Athlete Ally, NCLR, Campus Pride, and StandUp Foundation. With All Out and IGLFA, we led a petition campaign for action against the lesbophobic Nigerian women's football federation.

We have worked with and consulted organizations as diverse as dotgay LLC, UNESCO, and the World Anti-Doping Agency.

**The FGG is proud to be a supporter of the Sydney Bingham Cup's "Out on the Fields" project, the world's largest survey on homophobia in sport. Please take the survey at [outonthefields.com](http://outonthefields.com).**

We attended the IOC conferences on Women in Sport (Los Angeles, 2012) and on Sport for All (Finland, 2010), and the IOC/UNESCO conference in Durban in 2010. Other events focus on LGBT organizations, such as the EGLSF Building Bridges conferences, or the Nike LGBT Sports Summits.

Closer to home, each edition of the Gay Games since 1994 has offered a conference or seminar. There will be three conference events at Gay Games 9: an educational conference in Akron and two health-related conferences in Cleveland and Berea.

Outside the Gay Games, the FGG also supports conferences, such as Sport & Homophobia (Lyon, 2006), the FSGL conference in Paris in 2011, or the workshop on LGBT sport relations to mainstream sport at Pride House London.

We honor individuals and organizations from our own movement, but from outside our movement as well, including luminaries such as ice hockey's Brian Burke, the NCLR, or the Trevor Project.

Our Ambassadors, whose latest additions include Matthew Mitcham, Blake Skjellerup, Brian Sims and Joanna Lohman, promote the Gay Games, but more broadly our shared mission through their contributions on issues like homophobia in sport, HIV stigma, and women's participation in sport.

We have improved FGG's visibility as a resource for the press. We are now regular contributors in media both LGBT (Outsports, Gay Star News, etc.) and mainstream (Inside the Games, Slate, the Pod Delusion, etc.).

We are very proud to launch at Gay Games 9 a major initiative: **sport.hiv**, a worldwide portal for information about sport and HIV/AIDS.