



2016 Year End Report

Revised January 4, 2017

THE INTERSEX CAMPAIGN FOR EQUALITY

The Intersex campaign for Equality (ICE), advocates for equality and human rights for intersex people, particularly the rights to physical integrity, self determination, legal recognition and de-pathologization. We do so via lecturing, publishing, consulting, social media, and lobbying the government for equal rights for intersex citizens. We are dedicated to representing all intersex people regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, ability or class.

2016 heralded some groundbreaking achievements for intersex Americans as a result of ICE's work. We successfully called for the following, as cited in the Public Statement of the Third International Intersex Forum (<http://ilga-europe.org/what-we-do/our-advocacy-work/trans-and-intersex/intersex/events/3rd-international-intersex-forum>):

1. International, regional and national human rights institutions to take on board, and provide visibility to intersex issues in their work.
2. National governments to address the concerns raised by the Intersex Forum and draw adequate solutions in direct collaboration with intersex representatives and organisations.
3. Media agencies and sources to ensure intersex people's right to privacy, dignity, accurate and ethical representation.
4. Funders to engage with intersex organisations and support them in the struggle for visibility, increase their capacity, the building of knowledge and the affirmation of their human rights.
5. Human rights organisations to contribute to build bridges with intersex organisations and build a basis for mutual support. This should be done in a spirit of collaboration and no-one should instrumentalise intersex issues as a means for other ends.

1. We successfully called on international, regional and national human rights institutions to take on board, and provide visibility to intersex issues in their work.

ICE continued to consult with the UN OHCHR, a relationship which began on Human Rights Day 2012, when a letter authored by our E.D. Hida Viloría was delivered to the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and Charles Radcliffe (http://www.ilga-europe.org/sites/default/files/hrd_2012_-_intersex_forum_-_un_navil_pillay_letter_2012.pdf). In 2016, ICE consulted the U.N.'s Free & Equal Campaign, directed by Radcliffe, on their Intersex Awareness Day campaign, which featured a fantastic animated video for families of intersex children, and a picture of our E.D. Hida Viloría with the following quote:

"I feel blessed that my parents allowed me to be who I am, and I encourage all parents of intersex kids to do the same. Trying to 'fix' healthy babies' bodies to fit social ideals is innately prejudiced, and prejudice is never the solution." (<https://www.unfe.org/intersex-awareness/>).

2. We successfully called on national governments to address the concerns raised by the Intersex Forum and draw adequate solutions in direct collaboration with intersex representatives and organizations.

Legal Recognition

One of the demands of Third International Intersex Forum is for "all adults and capable minors to be able to choose between female, male, non-binary or multiple gender options."

In this vein, on Intersex Awareness Day (IAD) 2015, our associate director Dana Zzyym filed a groundbreaking lawsuit against the State Department for gender recognition as a non-binary intersex person on their passport (http://www.lambdalegal.org/blog/20151026_zzyym-intersex-denied-passport). In November 2016, the court ruled in Zzyym's favor stating that the State Department violated federal law (http://www.lambdalegal.org/blog/20161122_zzyym). The federal government can no longer pretend that intersex people are all male or female, which facilitates the notion that we should receive nonconsensual cosmetic treatments to confirm us as such.

In addition, our ED consulted with Lambda Legal about discriminatory practices against intersex people by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

3. We successfully called on media agencies and sources to ensure intersex people's right to privacy, dignity, accurate and ethical representation.

One of the demands of the Public Statement of the Third International Intersex Forum (as well as the one before it in Stockholm), was for being intersex to be declassified as a "disorder of sex development", as it promotes stigma. We attained this goal in several high impact ways.

In Education

In January 2016, our E.D. Hida Viloría's essay "What's in Name: Intersex and Identity" was published in the college curriculum textbook *Queer: A Reader for Writers* (Oxford University Press). The essay—the only one by an intersex author selected for the textbook—is an examination of how stigmatizing, medicalized labels such as "disorders of sex development," or "DSD," further discrimination. Her essay, "Promoting Health and Social Progress by Accepting and Depathologizing Benign Intersex Traits," appeared in the "Normalizing Intersex" issue of *Voices: Personal Stories from the Pages of NIB* (http://www.nibjournal.org/news/documents/Voices_2016_OA_FINAL-withOLOS_version_001.pdf). The publication's readership consists primarily of physicians, and the essay encourages them to treat intersex patients as they would anyone else, to grant us the right to bodily autonomy and self determination, and to acknowledge that being intersex is a natural human variation rather than a "disorder."

Accurate and Ethical Representation in the Media

In December, we celebrated an important win for intersex equality: *National Geographic* magazine decided, upon our E.D. and others' request--not to use the pathologizing definition of intersex which they had originally chosen for their "Gender Revolution" issue. They corrected the definition in the online issue, and their editor-in-chief explained, in a subsequent *National Geographic* article, why they decided to do so, quoting our E.D.:

"This definition is opposed by intersex advocates across the globe for the simple reason that it pathologizes us, thereby promoting the erroneous, stigmatizing view that intersex people require 'fixing.'"

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/01/gender-issue-reader-comments-faq>

In addition, on January 4, 2017, our E.D. was quoted in *People Magazine*, bringing attention to the need for non-binary gender registration to be a voluntary adult designation, to need to end IGM, and the need for equal rights and protections for intersex people, in the process.

"Intersex people have suffered for centuries because of the notion that only males and females exist, which is why our associate director Dana Zzyym successfully fought for federal gender recognition as intersex on their passport last year," Hida Vioria, chairperson of the Organisation Intersex International tells PEOPLE. "Having intersex acknowledged as a legal sex/gender category is critical to ending intersex oppression, such as the barbaric nonconsensual medical practices which attempt to render us all males or females," Vioria continues. "We commend Keegan and Zzyym, and note that until equal services and protections are available to all intersex citizens, this designation should remain a voluntary one only, for adults who seek it." (<http://people.com/bodies/new-york-city-issues-nations-first-known-intersex-birth-certificate/>).

4. We successfully called on funders to engage with intersex organizations and support them in the struggle for visibility, increase their capacity, the building of knowledge and the affirmation of their human rights.

Intersex Visibility in the Arts

The Intersex Campaign for Equality has always believed that the arts are a powerful medium for social change as art can change hearts and minds. In 2015, we called on Astraea's Intersex Fund to fund a documentary about intersex people. Our grant was renewed and we continued filming in 2016 with our co-producer Sam McConnell (*The Out List*, *The Trans List*), a successful professional in the field. Similarly, we're excited that our E.D.'s memoir *Born Both: An Intersex Life*, will be the first book by an openly intersex person to be published by a "Big Four" publisher (on 3/14 by Hachette Book Group). Although Hachette is not an LGBTQIA funder, they are dedicated to drawing as much attention as possible to the memoir's message of the need for an end to IGM and for intersex acceptance and equal rights. We have been notified that there is interest in foreign language translations, and curriculum use in the U.S., which will give the message even wider reach.

5. We called on human rights organisations to contribute to build bridges with intersex organisations and build a basis for mutual support. This should be done in a spirit of collaboration and no-one should instrumentalise intersex issues as a means for other ends.

We consulted with Lambda Legal, the legal representatives in our associate director's lawsuit, throughout the year on intersex issues. In April, 2016, when they filed their opening brief, they educated about IGM in their article, "Surgery for our Communities: Inflicted or Accessed?" http://www.lambdalegal.org/blog/20160422_zzyym-surgery.

We built upon our relationships with human rights NGO's Attorneys for the Rights of the Child (ARC), and Genital Autonomy America (GA America). Both organizations advocate for an end to Female Genital Mutilation and circumcision, and are expanding their stance against infant genital cutting to include Intersex Genital Mutilation (IGM). ARC renewed its commitment to serve as our fiscal non-profit sponsor, enabling us to receive donations and our grant from Astraea. GA America invited us to consult them on their website renovation (scheduled to launch in spring 2017), which will include intersex information and resources, and in turn we amended our mission statement to call for genital autonomy for all humans.

Bodily Autonomy and Self-Determination

One of ICE's founding goals, and the primary goals of the intersex advocacy community, as stated in the first demand of the Public Statement of the Third International Intersex Forum, is: "to put an end to mutilating and 'normalising' practices such as genital surgeries, psychological and other medical treatments through legislative and other means. Intersex people must be empowered to make their own decisions affecting own bodily integrity, physical autonomy and self-determination."

We continued to educate and provide peer support to parents of intersex children as to the need to put an end to IGM, and we are touched and thrilled to report that parents have been heeding the call. Throughout the year, we received emails from several parents who, motivated by our E.D.'s highly publicized story of being happy that they were born with ambiguous genitalia and raised without IGM, have decided to forego IGM and love their children as they are, allowing them to make their own choices about their bodies and identities.