



# IPsyNet

International Psychology Network for Lesbian,  
Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues

## Achievement Highlights from 2015 & Objectives for 2016

The **International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet)** was formed in 2005 and is open to membership of national, multinational and international psychological associations. The American Psychological Association's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office serves as the IPsyNet secretariat. 2016 will be the fifth year IPsyNet has received support from the Arcus Foundation, with significant portions funding work by the Psychological Association of the Philippines and the Psychological Society of South Africa.

**The Mission** of the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet) is to facilitate and support the contributions of psychological organizations to the global understanding of human sexual and gender diversity, to the health and well-being of people around the world who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual or intersex(LGBTI), and to the full enjoyment of human rights by people of all sexual orientations, gender expressions, gender identities and sex characteristics.

### IPsyNet Strategic Plan Goals 1-4 Achievement Highlights from 2015 Associated with Each Goal

1. *To increase psychological knowledge of human diversity in sexual orientation, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics.*

#### 2015 National and Regional Conferences LGBTI Programming

- **Interamerican Congress of Psychology**, July 12-16, Lima, Peru: 1 invited address, 3 symposia, and 10 thematic papers.
- **Psychological Association of the Philippines 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention & Asian Association of Social Psychology 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference** (jointly held), August 19-22, Cebu City: 1 Continuing Education Session, 3 symposia, 6 individual papers; [media coverage](#).
- **21<sup>st</sup> South African Psychology Conference**, September 15-18, Johannesburg: 2 symposia, 56 individual papers, and 3 posters.

#### IPsyNet Website

- In July IPsyNet launched a new website. It features pages about IPsyNet, Advocacy & Policy, Practice, Education & Training, and Membership.

#### Other Highlights

- **Australia:** In June, the **Australian Psychological Society's Gay and Lesbian Issues in Psychology Interest Group** presented a Continuing Professional Development day-long workshop, *Mental Healthcare Professionals Working with Transgender People* for 55 providers.
- **Hungary:** In September, the LGBTQ Section of the **Hungarian Psychological Association** held a one-day accredited training for 17 practitioners about LGBTQ basic knowledge.
- **The Philippines:** In October, the **Psychological Association of the Philippines** held its second writers workshop for 18 Filipino LGBT psychologists and scholars from around the country to

prepare their research papers for potential publication in the second special edition of the *Philippine Journal of Psychology* on LGBTI psychology in 2016.

- **South Africa:** Members of the **Psychological Society of South Africa's Sexuality and Gender Division** held training workshops at 3 universities about the society's [Sexuality and Gender Diversity Statement](#) for 46 post-graduate psychology masters students.
  - **United Kingdom:** In December, the **British Psychological Society's Psychology of Sexualities Section** published the first of two editions of the [Psychology of Sexualities Review](#) with a special section on international perspectives on LGBTI psychology.
  - **United States:** In July, the **American Psychological Association** partnered with the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) by convening a group of experts to produce a consensus statement regarding psychotherapy to change gender identity and sexual orientation in children and adolescents. In October, SAMHSA issued the report, [Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth](#).
  - **IPsyNet:** Extensive preparations were made for the International Congress of Psychology in Yokohama, Japan, July 24-29, including wide distribution of a [Call for Programming](#), securing an invited address, 5 invited symposia, a pre-conference workshop, time and space for IPsyNet planning and organizing meetings, agreement from organizers to schedule LGBTI related programming as a track, and groundwork for visits with local LGBTI NGOs.
2. *To apply psychological knowledge in support of the well-being and full enjoyment of human rights by people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics.*

#### Achievements

- **Australia:** In February, the **Australian Psychological Society** adopted the position statement, [Psychological Practices that attempt to change Sexual Orientation](#). It strongly asserts that therapeutic efforts to change sexual orientation fail to meet the criteria of evidence-based practice and may also be counter to the organization's Code of Ethics. It advocates for the use of evidence-based strategies that include challenging negative stereotypes, seeking social support, and self-acceptance, among others.
- **Germany:** the **Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans\*, Intersex and Queer People in Psychology** advised three counties on teaching about sexual orientation in schools.
- **Ireland:** the **Psychological Society of Ireland's president issued remarks** on the potential harms of the inappropriate use of psychological research during the Marriage Equality Referendum.
- **South Africa:** In June, the **Academy of Science of South Africa** published [Diversity in Human Sexuality: Implications for Policy in Africa](#). The report examines questions about the roles of biology and the environment in determining gender diversity and human sexuality, and whether sexual orientation can be altered through therapy, among others. **Psychological Society of South Africa's** President and Sexuality and Gender Division member, Juan Nel, served on the 13-member panel that produced the study.
- **United Kingdom:** In January, the **British Psychological Society's Psychology of Sexualities Section** joined with 13 other mental health organizations in the United Kingdom on a [Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy in the UK](#). The MoU represents a commitment by leading medical and psychological professionals to end the practice of conversion therapy in the UK and states that training should refer to the previously published guidelines for working with gender and sexual minority clients.
- **Philippines:** In April, the **Psychological Association of the Philippines** held its Second National Facilitators Workshop on Conducting LGBT Psych 101. The 18 participants will each conduct at least two public education sessions within six months.
- **United States:** In May, the **American Psychological Association (APA)** published its public information brochures about [sexual orientation](#) and [gender identity](#) in traditional and simplified

Chinese. The **Hong Kong Psychological Society** produced the translations. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court decided [Obergefell v. Hodges](#), which resulted in marriage equality for same-sex couples nationally. The court cited 10 pages of APA's amicus brief.

#### In Development

- A joint position statement about LGBTI psychology and human rights to be adopted by IPsyNet member organizations and disseminated internationally.
  - A workshop for psychologists and LGBTI human rights advocates to increase knowledge and skill in applying psychological theory and research to reduce prejudice and stigma towards LGBTI people and to enhance participants' resiliency.
3. *To increase the number of psychological organizations that develop and/or disseminate and implement standards of care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual or intersex people and those who may identify or express themselves in another way regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.*

#### Achievements

- *Germany*: In March, the **Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans\*, Intersex and Queer People in Psychology** adopted [Recommendations for Psychotherapy and Counseling with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients](#).
- *Ireland*: In April, the Psychological Society of Ireland adopted [Guidelines for Good Practice with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients](#)
- *United States*: In August, **American Psychological Association** adopted [Guidelines for psychological practice with transgender and gender nonconforming people](#).

#### Initiatives

- *Hungary*: In April, the **Hungarian Psychological Association** received funding through the APA from a grant from the Arcus Foundation to develop guidelines for working with LGBT people.
  - *South Africa*: A working group of the **Psychological Society of South Africa's Sexuality and Gender Division** is actively developing Affirmative Practice Guidelines.
4. *To advance the organizational effectiveness of the network and the capacity of its members to engage with issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics around the world.*

#### Communication & Organizing

- Bi-Monthly conference calls of IPsyNet Representatives for member organization activities updates and planning for IPsyNet initiatives.
- **Psychological Association of the Philippines 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention**, August 19-22, Cebu City: The LGBT Special Interest Group formed in 2014 held its second "Meet, Greet & Mingle" informational and social meeting.
- **21<sup>st</sup> South African Psychology Conference**, September 15-18, Johannesburg: The Sexuality and Gender Division formed in 2014 held an organizing meeting for all interested Conference attendees and held its first election for an 8 member executive committee.

#### New Members

- *Germany*: **Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans\*, Intersex and Queer People in Psychology**/Verband für lesbische, schwule, bisexuelle, trans\*, intersexuelle und queere Menschen in der Psychologie (VLSP), based in Germany, joined in August 2015.

**IPsyNet Strategic Plan Goals 1-4**  
**Objectives for 2016 Associate with Each Goal**

1. *To increase psychological knowledge of human diversity in sexual orientation, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics.*

2016 International and National Conferences LGBTI Programming

- **International Congress of Psychology**, Yokohama, July 2016
  - Track of programming on LGBTI issues with 50 presentation
- **Psychological Association of the Philippines 53<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention** and the **22<sup>nd</sup> South African Psychology Conference**
  - Track of programming on LGBTI topics with 15 presentations each

Development of Curricula and Resources

- *South Africa:* The **Psychological Society of South Africa** will develop a postgraduate course in African perspectives on sexuality and gender.
- *IPsyNet:* Will develop research summaries, fact sheets, and talking points summarizing relevant psychological research on socially and politically important topic areas for use by psychologists, other related professionals, and advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender human rights in communicating psychological knowledge to the public, media, and policy makers.

2. *To apply psychological knowledge in support of the well-being and full enjoyment of human rights by people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics.*

Objectives

- *Philippines:* the **Psychological Association of the Philippines** will research the extent to which sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) take place among Filipino therapists and counselors, raise awareness of the PAP Ethics Code, which has an explicit clause against discrimination and harm, and the PAP non-discrimination public policy statement that notes the dangers of SOCE.
- *IPsyNet:* **IPsyNet** will (1) pilot a training curriculum for psychologists and LGBTI human rights workers to promote intergroup contact that reduces anti-LGBTI social stigma while strengthening personal resilience in the face of such stigma, and (2) publish a joint position statement adopted by all IPsyNet member organizations in support of human rights for LGBTI people.

3. *To increase the number of psychological organizations that develop and/or disseminate and implement standards of care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual or intersex people and those who may identify or express themselves in another way regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.*

Objectives

- The **Hungarian Psychological Association**, the **Psychological Association of the Philippines**, and the **Psychological Society of South Africa** will publish psychological practice guidelines for LGBT clients in their respective contexts

4. *To advance the organizational effectiveness of the network and the capacity of its members to engage with issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics around the world.*

- **International Congress of Psychology, Psychological Association of the Philippines 53<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention** and the **22<sup>nd</sup> South African Psychology Conference**
  - Planning meetings of IPsyNet Representatives, Special Interest Group, and Division, respectively
  - Meeting for conference attendees to learning more about IPsyNet and member organization activities
- Bi-monthly calls of IPsyNet Representatives
- New IPsyNet members
- Secure additional funding