



Biographies Guests and Speakers

Boris Dittrich



Boris Dittrich leads Human Rights Watch's advocacy efforts on the rights of LGBT people around the world. He meets regularly with victims of homophobia and trans-phobia, and with government officials, members of parliament, and journalists in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe to push for progress on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. For more information see:

<https://www.hrw.org/about/people/boris-dittrich>

Marieke Brouwer



Drs. Marieke Brouwer (1958) studied theology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and psychology of religion at the Katholieke Universiteit in Nijmegen. She works as a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Amsterdam since 1991. She is also a spiritual director and directs the Huis op het Spui, the spiritual centre of the Lutheran Church in Amsterdam.

Kees Waaldijk



is professor of comparative sexual orientation law at Leiden Law School in the Netherlands. He has published widely on the process of legal recognition of same-sex orientation in different countries. His inaugural lecture was about *The Right to Relate*, which like most of his publications is online available at

www.law.leidenuniv.nl/waaldijk. He is currently developing a *Global Index on Legal Recognition of Homosexual Orientation*, also presented on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPwrJ9t0Zi4>).

Eric Gitari



is founder and executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Kenya (www.nglhrc.com). He studied Law at the University of Nairobi. He has challenged the government's refusal to register NGLHRC in the Kenyan High Court in *Eric Gitari vs NGO Board* (<http://kenyalaw.org/caselaw/cases/view/108412/>) and won in a groundbreaking judgment in April 2015 where judges said sexual orientation is protected in the Kenyan Constitution. Eric is currently leading a challenge against forced anal testing to prove sexual orientation in the Mombasa High Court and has also petitioned the Constitutional Court in Nairobi seeking the invalidation of Kenya's anti-gay laws. Eric has been actively involved in doing the groundwork that led to the adoption – by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights – of a first [resolution condemning violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity](#).

Maria Kozlovskaya



worked for the Russian LGBT Network, an umbrella group that documents homophobic violence and discrimination, provides psychological and legal support, runs awareness raising campaigns, and has lobbied internationally including in the United Nations, as a lawyer and project manager for more than 4.5 years.

In September 2012 she was the first person to draw the attention of the UN Human Rights Council on hate crimes and violence against LGBT people in Russia.

She was part of the campaign against the anti-gay “propaganda” law in Russia and described it as a “green light for nationalistic groups to act violently against LGBT people.”

Since November 2016 she lives in the Netherlands and works as a part of international team at COC Netherlands.



Nicole Sprokel

*senior political affairs officer at Amnesty
International Netherlands*



Wendy

Vocalist / musician / composer / poet. Making music since I am ten years old, I started in the church. My feeling is my guide ! My roots is the secret of my story.