

Bios – Queer EZ Conference - English

Key Note at the Senat

Matthew Blaise



Matthew Blaise is a non-binary, openly gay, award-winning LGBTQ+ rights activist whose work revolves around combating the challenges and stigma faced by gender non-conforming

individuals and the broader queer community in Nigeria. With a background in social justice and activism, Matthew has been at the forefront of important initiatives aimed at creating a more inclusive and accepting society for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender

identity. They have been instrumental in creating safe spaces, both in-person and online, to provide support for LGBTQI+ individuals.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the LGBTQ+ community, Matthew has garnered several awards and accolades. They received the 2023 Campaigner of the Year Award at the One Young World Summit, the 2021 MTV EMAs Generation Change Award, the 2020 SOGIESC Activist of the Year Award, and they have been nominated for The Future Awards Africa, the DAZED 100, and the Diversity and Difference Prize. They have also participated as a high-level speaker and panelist at various global conferences and seminars like the 2023 Women Deliver Conference, AFRICANXT 2023, the 2022 ILGA Conference, and the 2020 TFAA Diversity Summit. Among other prestigious international media outlets and publications, they have been featured in Vogue, Ze.tt, ZDFheute, Out Magazine, PinkNews, Time, Bloomberg, and Channel4News.

As the Founder and Executive Director of Obodo, a youth-led organization with a focus on amplifying the voices and experiences of queer Nigerians, Matthew has spearheaded initiatives aimed at advancing queer education and rights in Nigeria through innovative mediums like art and technology to drive progress.



Magda Liliana Rojas Rojas

Magda is a university professor at the District Institute of Community Participation and Action in Bogota, Colombia.

She accompanies the educational and methodological strategies for the participation of social organizations, including women, the LGBTI sector, children and youth, victims of armed conflict, people in the reintegration process and unhoused.

Key Note – Academic Setting



Dr. Stella Nyanzi

Dr. Stella Nyanzi is a Ugandan medical anthropologist with a PhD on youth sexualities from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Master of Science from University College London and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication from Makerere University Kampala. She has 25 years of academic research in sexual subcultures relevant to HIV/AIDS, African Feminism, critical masculinities studies, queer African studies, and dissidence studies. She is a prolific producer of scholarly academic knowledge about Uganda and The Gambia, available [here](#). She is also a dissident poet, social justice activist for women's rights, LGBTIQ+ rights, free expression, academic freedom, digital democracy, and civil and political rights of opposition political parties in autocratic dictatorships. Currently, she is a scholarship-holder of the Writers-in-Exile program of PEN Zentrum Deutschland and lives in Germany with her three teenage children.



Prof. Dr. Uta Ruppert

Uta Ruppert has worked as a professor of political science and political sociology at the Goethe University Frankfurt since 2002, with a focus on the Global South with particular attention to gender relations. She has been one of the directors of the Cornelia Goethe Center for Women and Gender Studies at her university for the same duration. Her main areas of work include the theory and practice of transnational feminisms, on which she has researched, taught and published internationally on a wide range of issues. Her most recent work in this topic area was the special issue of feminist studies published in the summer of 2020 together with Tanja Scheiterbauer and Katharina Liebsch.

Political Panel



Martin Wimmer (Unterabteilungsleiter Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung)

Since September 2023, Martin Wimmer has headed subdivision G 1 - Principles of Development Policy in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

In this role he is responsible for four departments: “Agenda 2030, Poverty and Inequality”, “Feminist Development Policy”, “Governance” and “Human Rights, Inclusion, Media”.

From 2019 to August 2023, Martin Wimmer was the first Chief Digital Officer (CDO) of a German federal ministry, first in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, then in the BMZ. Before that, he spent more than two decades in senior positions in the public and private sectors, always with a focus on change communications and digital transformation.



Anke Hennig, MdB und Stellv. Sprecherin der AG Queer der SPD-Bundestagsfraktion

Anke Hennig has been a member of the German Bundestag since 2021. She has been a member of the SPD since 1986.

- Member of the Achmer local council since 2011
- Member of the Bramsche City Council from 2015 to 2021
- Member of the School and Culture Committee, Chairwoman of the Social and Sport Committee
- Local mayor Achmer since January 2018
- District council member for electoral area I in Bramsche

She is deputy spokesperson for the working group Queer of the SPD parliamentary group.



Dr. Adrian Hector (Abgeordneter der Hamburgischen Bürgerschaft)

Dr. Adrian Hector has been a member of the Hamburg parliament and spokesperson for gender diversity for the Green parliamentary group since August 2022.

He is a member of the following committees: Equality and Anti-Discrimination Committee; Transportation Committee; Sports Committee and the European Committee.



Dr. Jens Kreuter (Managing Director of Engagement Global)

Dr. Jens Kreuter is a lawyer and theologian. From 2001 to 2006 he was responsible for dealing with social and socio-political issues in the EKD church office. After a short stint as personal assistant to the head of the Lower Saxony State Chancellery, he became the Federal Commissioner for Civilian Service on October 1, 2006, a position he held until his military and civilian service were suspended. He continued to work in the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and was responsible for the development of the Federal Voluntary Service and the International Youth Voluntary Service as well as the expansion of the youth voluntary services. Jens Kreuter is married and has three children. Since February 1, 2015, Dr. Jens Kreuter acts as the Managing Director of Engagement Global.



Dr. Annette Mummert (GIZ)

Since July 2023, Dr. Annette Mummert is the new head of the Governance and Conflict department in the sectoral department of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) GmbH. After studying economics, she received her doctorate in 2000 at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Economic Systems/Friedrich Schiller University Jena. She began her professional career as a research assistant at the Nuremberg Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK). As a management consultant for development cooperation, various short-term assignments in the topics of labor market and employment policy and public finances in Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia followed, and from 2014 as a senior specialist planner in accountability in the sectoral department at GIZ. This was followed by further positions in GIZ's Africa department, including 2017-2020 as program manager of a good financial governance project in Tanzania.

Activist Panel

Maria Sjödin (Executive Director – Outright International)



Prior to becoming Executive Director, Maria served as Outright's Deputy Executive Director, leading the work of the development and communications teams. In this position, they oversaw a period of extraordinary growth in visibility, diversification and increase in funding. They also launched groundbreaking initiatives, such as Outright's COVID-19 Global LGBTIQ Emergency Fund and pioneering engagement with international businesses.

Maria previously served as Executive Director of RFSL, Sweden's largest LGBTIQ organization. While in this position, Maria established RFSL's international program, played a key role in ensuring that the human rights of LGBTIQ people become ingrained in the Swedish government's agenda for development and foreign affairs, advocated for marriage equality (achieved in 2009) and the abolishment of forced sterilization of trans people as a requirement for legal gender recognition (outlawed in 2013).

Maria has conducted leadership training for hundreds of LGBTIQ activists on topics including strength-based coaching and appreciative inquiry. They regularly provide expert opinions to governments, foundations, U.N. agencies and corporations.

Maria (they/she) is frequently quoted by the media, including by outlets like Time magazine and Thomson Reuters.



Ise Bosch

Ise Bosch has been supporting social acceptance of sexual diversity for over 25 years. She is co-founder of filia. the women's foundation, co-founder of the heir network Pecunia e.V., and managing director of Dreilinden gGmbH, which supports and invests in international LGBTQI+ empowerment. Both organizations are based in Hamburg.

The first edition of her book "Better Donations! A Guide for Sustainable Commitment" was published in 2007, the second edition in 2020. In 2018, Ise Bosch received the German Donor Prize.

"TransformativePhilanthropy - Giving with Trust" (with Justus Eisfeld and Claudia Bollwinkel) was published in 2018. In 2022, Ise contributed the chapter "Unlearn Money" to "Unlearn Patriarchy" (eds. Lisa Jaspers, Naomi Ryland, Sylvie Horch, Ullstein Verlag, Spiegel Bestseller).



Abdul-wadud Mohammed, a notable queer rights advocate, currently holds the position of Deputy Director at LGBT+ Rights Ghana, an organization he co-founded. Since 2014, he has been deeply involved in advancing LGBTQ+ rights and community growth in Ghana.

In 2022, he played a crucial role in the communications working group that championed the renewal of the Independent Expert on SOGI's mandate at the UN. Additionally, he actively contributed to the recent Universal Periodic Review for Ghana at the UN, where he led the coalition of Partners for SRHR. Concurrently, Abdul-wadud is pursuing his M.A. in Human Rights at Friedrich

Alexander University, Erlangen – Nürnberg.



Ivan Javier Escobar Cubides

Ivan Javier Escobar Cubides is project coordinator at Asociación Corazón Diverso in Colombia.

He is known as a business administrator, with a master's degree in corporate social responsibility, defender and activist for the human rights of the LGBTI population of Bogotá.

His work at the Asociación Corazón Diverso is characterized by the promotion of grassroots work. The organization is in constant communication with institutions and contributes to the social, economic and political empowerment of LGBTI people.

As part of his career as an activist and defender of the rights of the LGBTI population, he is currently active as a gay men's advisor for Bogotá's LGBTI public policy, and is part of the Bogotá LGBTI Working Group, which he coordinated for five years. He is also responsible for organizing the Pride event in Bogotá, currently considered the largest social mobilization in the country, and organizes the annual León Zuleta Awards, a national award for individuals and companies committed to LGBTI rights without being part of the community themselves.

Projektvorstellungen



Klaus Jetz has been working with the Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany LSVD since 1995, firstly as LSVD's press spokesperson in Cologne and Berlin. Since 2004 he is LSVD's director and since 2007 he is working as well as Executive director of LSVD's human rights foundation, the Hirschfeld Eddy Foundation.

Before joining LSVD he worked as a journalist for Latin American issues, as a translator for Spanish and Latin American literature, with a Central American Tourism office and in a media watch project with the Heinrich Böll Foundation. He studied in Cologne (Germany), Seville (Spain) and Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) and holds a master degree in French, Spanish and Latin American Literature and History.



Ivana Stankovic is a lawyer specialized in human rights with years of experience in the non-profit and development sector. Her focus centers on a human rights-based approach to migration and the implementation of inclusive gender policies and programmes. Currently, she holds the role of Advisor at the project Social participation of people on the move and local population in host regions of the Western Balkans in GIZ Serbia.



Vladimir Sjekloća is an expert in refugee and migrant protection and cultural mediation. He is an author and editor of many publications specialised in protection of various marginalised groups. As an experienced trainer and facilitator, Vladimir holds trainings/seminars on different topics such as LGBTQIA+ persons in mixed movements, position of UASC, harmful practices in countries of origin, etc. Since 2016, he serves as a director of Crisis Response and Policy Centre (CRPC), a Serbian NGO.



Sören Landmann (pronouns: he/him, they/them)

Sören Landmann studied psychology at the University of Trier. As founder and chairman of the non-profit association "Aktionsbündnis gegen Homophobie" (Action Alliance against Homophobia), he has been campaigning for an open and discrimination-free society for 15 years. Thus, he was co-initiator of the initiatives MARRIAGE FOR ALL and Basic Law for All as well as in 2022 of the Alliance Queer Emergency Ukraine. Sören Landmann is the LGBTI representative of the city of Mannheim and represents the interests of the city in the global Rainbow Cities Network and currently in the working group of the National Action Plan "Queer Living" of the German government.



Jannes Vahl (pronouns: he/him, they/them)

Jannes Vahl is founder and managing director of the Hamburg-based agency fair narrative. The journalistic and activist platform provides communication for sustainable campaigns, initiatives, brands or companies. As a press officer, he currently covers topics such as the situation of refugees at the EU's external border, green start-ups along the sub-Saharan, hygiene for the homeless, as well as personalities like Louisa Schneider, Rebecca Freitag or Arved Fuchs. For twenty years, Jannes Vahl has worked as a journalist and in the last ten years founded non-profit entities such as clubkinder e. V. in Hamburg, the international species protection association Nepada Wildlife or GoBanyo gGmbH. He also works for government agencies, foundations and brands such as Dr. Bronner's, HVV, Marine Stewardship Council, Startnext or GIZ.

**Stana Iliev** (pronouns: she/her)

Stana Iliev is a political communications and advocacy expert with expertise in stakeholder engagement and international cooperation. She is a campaign manager at All Out in Germany, a board member of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, and a dedicated human rights activist and researcher with an MBA and PhD in political science.

Day 2 - Activist Panel



Edward Mutebi is an LGBTIQ* Human Rights Activist and founder of LET'S WALK UGANDA (LWU), an organization dedicated to advocating for the rights of the LGBTIQ* community.

He is a founding member of Pen Berlin, an organization committed to supporting writers in danger. He recently completed his master's degree in social work and human rights with focus on Forced Anal Examination as a form of Torture and Forced Migration. Fleeing his home country in 2018, Edward sought

asylum in Germany due to the threat of persecution based on his activism and sexuality.

Today as the LGBTIQ community in Uganda is faced with the life-threatening Anti-Homosexuality Law, Edward and his Organization LWU are among the petitioners who are challenging the Law in the constitutional court of Uganda and calling for its repeal.

Edward believes that international pressure and the petitioning of the constitutional court are among the keyways to have the Law repealed, hence calling for everyone's solidarity and support.



Abdul-wadud Mohammed, a notable queer rights advocate, currently holds the position of Deputy Director at LGBT+ Rights Ghana, an organization he co-founded. Since 2014, he has been deeply involved in advancing LGBTQ+ rights and community growth in Ghana.

In 2022, he played a crucial role in the communications working group that championed the renewal of the Independent Expert on SOGI's mandate at the UN. Additionally, he actively contributed to the recent Universal Periodic Review for Ghana at the UN, where he led the coalition of Partners for SRHR. Concurrently, Abdul-wadud is pursuing his M.A. in Human Rights at Friedrich

Alexander University, Erlangen – Nürnberg.

Matthew Blaise

Matthew Blaise is a non-binary, openly gay, award-winning LGBTQ+ rights activist whose work revolves around combating the challenges and stigma faced by gender non-conforming

individuals and the broader queer community in Nigeria. With a background in social justice and activism, Matthew has been at the forefront of important initiatives aimed at creating a more inclusive and accepting society for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender

identity. They have been instrumental in creating safe spaces, both in-person and online, to provide support for LGBTQI+ individuals.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the LGBTQ+ community, Matthew has garnered several awards and accolades. They received the 2023 Campaigner of the Year Award at the One Young World Summit, the 2021 MTV EMAs Generation Change Award, the 2020 SOGIESC Activist of the Year Award, and they have been nominated for The Future Awards Africa, the DAZED 100, and the Diversity and Difference Prize. They have also participated as a high-level speaker and panelist at various global conferences and seminars like the 2023 Women Deliver Conference, AFRICANXT 2023, the 2022 ILGA Conference, and the 2020 TFAA Diversity Summit. Among other prestigious international media outlets and publications, they have been featured in Vogue, Ze.tt, ZDFheute, Out Magazine, PinkNews, Time, Bloomberg, and Channel4News.

As the Founder and Executive Director of Obodo, a youth-led organization with a focus on amplifying the voices and experiences of queer Nigerians, Matthew has spearheaded initiatives aimed at advancing queer education and rights in Nigeria through innovative mediums like art and technology to drive progress.



Marina Usmanova (Kherson-Frankfurt-on-Oder) - co-founder, board member, project manager, fundraising, specialist of psychological projects, coordinator of development and training programs. Preferred pronouns she/her.

Loki von Dorn (Dnipro-Berlin) - co-founder, board member, project manager, curator and coordinator of cultural and entertainment projects. Trans non-binary person, preferred pronouns he/him, they/them.

The organization Kwitne Queer is the voice of LGBTQI refugees from Ukraine in Germany. A team created to provide assistance and support to Ukrainian LGBTQI people who were forced to flee the war in Ukraine. We strive to create a safe and supportive community for our compatriots in Germany. We also strive to gain political subjectivity and the ability to speak for ourselves. Because there is nothing for us without us!

The mission of Kwitne Queer is to provide assistance and support to Ukrainian LGBTQI people who were forced to seek refuge in Germany as a result of the war in Ukraine. One of our most notable achievements was the Ukrainian bloc we organized at Berlin Pride 2023, for the first time with the support of the Ukrainian Embassy in Germany, where we expressed our support for Ukraine and our friends in the homeland. It was an opportunity to show that Ukrainian LGBTQI people have their own agenda and place in a tolerant society.



Andrea Correa - General Director- La casa de Lxs Locxs Foundation, EPICENTRA project (Colombia)

Andrea is recognized as a trans woman, activist, leader and human rights defender, especially for the rights of trans and LGBTI people in Colombia. She has been a promoter of health communities, achieving recognition at the district, national and international level. She is characterized by being a woman with inspirational leadership who has contributed to the work between civil society and government. Also, she has assisted with the design and implementation of LGBTI projects with emphasis in community service and health, providing support services to trans women, families, female sex workers and Venezuelan refugee and migrant communities.

Additionally, she is the founder and director of La Casa de Las Locxs Foundation, which is a community-based organization that provides community health services to trans people and sex workers. She currently coordinates the project "Ni pollas ni viejas 2", an intergenerational project where sex workers, trans women and cisgender women, white people, racialized people and all diversity participate in construction of strategies to achieve rights human. Further, she is the co-founder of EPICENTRA, a project designed in 2022 between Temblores ONG and La Casa de la Lxs Locxs Foundation.



Vladimir Sjekloća is an expert in refugee and migrant protection and cultural mediation. He is an author and editor of many publications specialised in protection of various marginalised groups. As an experienced trainer and facilitator, Vladimir holds trainings/seminars on different topics such as LGBTQIA+ persons in mixed movements, position of UASC, harmful practices in countries of origin, etc. Since 2016, he serves as a director of Crisis Response and Policy Centre (CRPC), a Serbian NGO.

Moderation – Erfahrungsräume



Tshamala Schweizer is Managing Director of Afrokids International e. V. in Stuttgart, sociologist, political scientist, systemic-integrative social therapist and Trainer for anti-racism and diversity.



Ali Naki Tutar is an advisor for queer BIPOC/refugees at the Rat & Tat Center Bremen as well as founder and board member of Queeraspora e.V.



Rosmery Schoenborn Valencia is German-Colombian, born in Cali, Colombia. She is an actress and theater teacher.



Ina Wolf (project officer "Fluchtgrund: queer - Queer Refugees Deutschland")

Ina is a certified professional for young LGBTIQ* refugees, manager for intercultural opening, live online trainer, co-founder of Rainbow Refugees Cologne and co-founder of Sofra Cologne. She worked for two years in inclusion and awareness raising projects with LGBTIQ* refugees and migrants. She is also a specialist for inclusion and awareness projects for young migrants and new immigrants, as well as for trainings around the topic of LGBTIQ* refugees/new immigrants.

Facilitation: Sonja Schelper



Sonja Schelper is a psychologist and organizational consultant with extensive international foundation experience. She was managing director of filia.die Frauenstiftung for 13 years and for many years accompanied the "Masakhane" project for the empowerment of LBT groups in six countries in southern Africa, which was funded by the BMZ.

As a lesbian feminist, she is a member of the Yogyakarta Alliance, EL*C and lesbianglobal.