GAYLATINO
RED POR LA IGUALDAD DE DERECHOS
WHAT IS GAYLATINO?

GAY ACTIVISTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN JOIN FORCES.

WE WANT EQUAL RIGHTS AND GOOD LIVING FOR EVERYONE.

COUNTRIES THAT TAKE PART IN OUR NETWORK

MISSION AND VISION.

STATE VIOLENCE AND THE VIOLENCE OF DE FACTO POWER GROUPS HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD IN OUR COUNTRIES.

BUILDING AN ANCESTRAL FUTURE THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

THE ANSWER TO A FUTURE FULL OF FREEDOM LIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

OVERVIEW OF THE GAYLATINO LOGIC CHAIN
WHAT IS GAYLATINO?

For centuries, patriarchy, machismo, colonialism, and racism have plagued "Latino" gay, bisexual, and trans men. In recent decades, in the face of fundamentalisms, the surge of hate speech has impacted both our lives and our rights. As if that was not enough, COVID-19 has fueled the various health, economic and social crises in our countries, against a backdrop of climate emergency.

Faced with this scenario of basic human rights violation, Latin American gay, bisexual and trans men and men who have sex with men (MSM) came together to form GayLatino, a network of activists that seeks to create a culture of support for gay, bisexual and trans men from Abya Yala, including their families and communities, to achieve fairer societies, with an emphasis on good living.
GayLatino was formed in Brazil in 2015, when 60 activists from countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay collectively spoke out: to contribute to the history of the regional LGBTI+ movement to encourage the full guarantee of human rights, including HIV care, marriage equality and all rights for everyone.

As a result of this union, and with an eye on the reality suffered by the community in our respective countries, the different perspectives and human leaderships were gradually enhanced, without neglecting the full right to pleasure and care. From this decolonizing standpoint, multiple masculinities, non-binary sexualities, ethnic, cultural and bodily diversities have been included.
WE WANT EQUAL RIGHTS AND GOOD LIVING FOR ALL EVERYONE.

This network also focuses on ensuring that all gay men, bisexuals, trans men and men who have sex with men in Abya Yala have access to jobs, decent housing, education, comprehensive health services, justice and security, which are all basic living conditions denied to them as a result of historical and daily discrimination.

GayLatino is not only an activism network but also a support and containment community for fellow members who are subject to the violation of their fundamental rights to find spaces in which they can feel safe and contained.

For this request for support to reach governments and all citizens, we focus on communication campaigns to contribute to the elimination of stigma, misinformation and thereby achieve the incorporation of perspectives concerning HIV and human rights related to gay men, bisexuals and MSM.
We want fairer societies that aspire to the Good Life, to love and be loved, to feel and give pleasure, to enjoy our lives in the company of our loved ones without fear, violence, stigma, or discrimination.
COUNTRIES

THAT TAKE PART
IN OUR NETWORK
The GayLatino network is active in 20 countries of the continent, working together for the enhancement of our rights. Paraguay is home to the headquarters of the network with the training center called "La Casa Embrujada"-The Haunted House-, located in Villela city, approximately 30 km from Asunción, the Paraguayan capital.

This network is coordinated from 6 work sub-regions to achieve a greater impact across the various countries.
1. The first is located within the Andean Region, which is made up of countries such as Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru. In January 2022, Colombia hosted the first meeting held by GayLatino in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to address important issues such as "GayLatino's sub-regional projects in Abya Yala and strategic alliances, as well as "Multi-country with the ALEP Consortium and Key Populations", among other topics.

2. The next one is located in Brazil, the founding country and venue of the first regional meeting where several measures in favor of the network were also implemented. These took place during 2016, where Gay Latino supported and took part in the meeting "Testing, Treatment and Combined Prevention of HIV among Gay Men" held in the city of Curitiba. In the same city, during 2019, the fifth meeting of the GayLatino network of activists took place for the first International LGBTI+ Congress to discuss issues such as the status of human rights violations, integral health (including HIV), education, identity, and the need to protect the rights of gay men.

3. The Caribbean is the third sub-region with Belize, Cuba, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico as member countries. In 2017, GayLatino attended a meeting of LGBT political leaders in the Dominican Republic.

4. The fourth sub-region is Central America where Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama are located.
5. The **Southern Cone**, consisting of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay constitutes the fifth sub-region. In 2017, the third GayLatino Regional Meeting took place in the city of Rosario (Argentina) at the headquarters of the Ministry of Health. On that occasion, activists met to discuss the state of HIV care in the region and the need for community strengthening regarding combination prevention. In 2018, GayLatino’s Executive Committee met at its headquarters in Paraguay, to strengthen the intention to promote public policies that guarantee access to health services, to advocate for States to comply with UNAIDS recommendations and to strengthen the capacities, knowledge and leadership of young gay Latinos.

6. **Mexico** is the sixth sub-region. It played host to the second GayLatino Regional Meeting at the end of 2016, where more than one hundred gay Latino activists from across the region attended along with representatives from UNAIDS, UNFPA Mexico and CONAPRED (Mexico). On that occasion, the network expressed solidarity with the Mexican community for the immediate approval of the constitutional reform initiative in favor of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in that country, but also addressed issues such as equal marriage, the conservatism of churches in the region and its impact on the community, homophobia and its economic and financial costs and barriers to services, among other issues.

7. Finally, the **International Diaspora**, consists of Latino migrants in the United States and Europe.
Within these 6 sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, exists the Grupo de Referencia de Juventudes (GRJ) -Youth Reference Group-, the first thematic and reference group of GayLatino, established and approved by the Executive Committee in mid-June 2017. It is made up of young gay Latinos and other activists for the defense of the right to health and all human rights.
To promote measures that guarantee the access and fulfillment of the human rights of the community, GayLatino is defined under the values of:

Diversity  
Equality  
Visibility  
Pride  
Solidarity

Since 2015, we have been defending freedom, equity and access to comprehensive health services for the full enjoyment of life, free of discrimination and violence.
THE VISION IS AN ABYA YALA THAT RESPECTS, PROTECTS AND CELEBRATES THE LIVES OF LATINO GAY MEN.
During these 7 years we have held various meetings in places such as Curitiba (Brazil), CDMX (Mexico), Rosario (Argentina), Villeta (Paraguay) and Bogota (Colombia).

We have maintained close and fluid communication between activists in these spaces to discuss what is happening in the region, discuss initiatives at the international level and provide or request support in emergency situations, among other issues that concern the community.

In 2020 we launched the series “Between Pandemics” (an initiative led with GayLatino members to address the health crisis). Our organization was able to share a joint reflection on lessons learned from the response to HIV, possible strategies to address COVID-19 and the challenges for youths in Latin America.

This meeting was very important for the community, with the participation of Javier Arellano, UNAIDS LAC Youth Officer, Ricardo Baruch from IPPF Mexico, Matías Muñoz from the Asociación Civil Ciclo Positivo Argentina and a representative from the Grupo de Referencias de Juventudes Gay Latino.
The ever increasing inequality gap in Abya Yala and the recent COVID-19 pandemic crisis has affected access to and the guarantee of human rights. The most vulnerable groups are those who are most exposed to all forms of violence: LGBTI+ people along with other marginalized populations in the region such as indigenous peoples, black and afro-descendant people, farm workers, laborers, women and children among others.

Poverty, misery, evictions, and unemployment go hand in hand with hate crimes. Bearing this in mind, it should be highlighted that trans women are systematically murdered, which can be considered a developing situation of genocide.

The various crises unleashed in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic have had an impact on the HIV care and response in the region. Gay men, bisexual men and men who have sex with men are those most at risk, and we continue to claim our right to health, to live well, to pleasure and to live our lives to the fullest.
WE FIND
HOPE TOGETHER
WHEN IT IS MOST NECESSARY
In response to multiple crises within our unsustainable patriarchal and LGBTI-phobic societies, we seek to contribute to more resilient communities.

Thus, here at GayLatino we outlined a community project in response to this violence stemming both from the State and from other power groups, inaugurating a Network for Community Care and Reparations.

Our work is focused on the most underserved populations in terms of HIV: gay men, bisexuals, men who have sex with men (MSM), trans and non-binary people.

GayLatino's initiatives are evidence-based, with a model that can be evaluated over time, with clear monitoring indicators and a widespread reach to the base of the communities in the territories where the most vulnerable people are located.

This Community Care Network is an evolutionary breakthrough in the new phase of GayLatino and is designed as a care and repair system that offers a model of sustainable human development with a focus on building resilient communities in a context of multiple crises: health, socioeconomic and climate crises.
Our action plan is based on three key pillars:

1. Community health and wellbeing
2. Community research
3. Continuous community learning

First, health is thought of from a comprehensive, holistic, human rights perspective. The purpose is to access the right to enjoy a life full of wellbeing, from the ideal of good living (tekokatú/tekokavi), supported by local community health networks and community-based preparedness and response.

The creation and distribution of knowledge is key to taking better care of ourselves. The community research point includes participatory diagnostics, community eco-mapping, information gathering and information analysis. We are also working on systems for information sharing and community health surveillance, including mental health.

The last pillar is focused on continuous community learning, which consists of the development of local expert educators, as well as partnerships for information exchange and education to contribute to a culture of change, towards societies that are more respectful of human rights, especially of the most vulnerable populations.
Development based on local priorities.

- Organizational diagnosis.
- Community skills diagnosis.
- Communities decide.

Local ties

- Local technical assistance.
- Local academic and business ties.
- Connections to local systems such as food production or community transport.

Priority topics:
1. Health and community wellbeing.
2. Community research.
3. Continuous community learning.

Regional ties

- Communication, mentoring, networking building.
  - Technical provider network/platform.
  - Bonds between networks.
  - Tools and lessons learned.

Development model

- Case studies/models of safe and friendly environments.
- Multimedia production.
- Community production.

Skills, models, support for:

- Community diagnosis and mapping.
- Community-driven monitoring.
- Community research, vulnerability and quality of life.

Support for:

- Enhanced community centers.
- Community cultural production.
- Management and administration skills and systems.

Local systems

- Support for:

Local priorities

- Local ties

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Local systems

- Support for:
BUILDING AN ANCESTRAL FUTURE THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

For that reason, we at GayLatino seek to deliver results at the regional level through connections throughout Abya Yala and the Caribbean. Cross-border action strengthens us to confront the devastating crises we are experiencing in the world.

We are working on the development of community models, such as best practices, case studies, monitoring tools and knowledge production to build skills based on community evidence that will enable us to act in our countries to guarantee rights.

We are also working to form links with academic and business sectors, as well as local systems for food production and community transportation. We are driven by the purpose of enabling more LGBTI people to have access to opportunities to fully develop.

We understand the importance of producing worthwhile representation in multimedia content, which is why we are also committed to this work and support improved community centers as well as community cultural production. The awareness of cultural diversity, as well as the promotion of values aligned with respect for human rights, are fundamental to promote community networks that can provide alternatives to crises.
At GayLatino we start locally, from the community, and we recognize ourselves from our common origins as a territory of numerous colonized native peoples. We claim our diversity as descendants of different ancestries. As such, our local bonds are connected at the regional level, to research and promote new sustainable systems.

These are our contributions to the region we want to live in. These are our actions to recover Abya Yala and so many other identities that were taken. Our militancy, decidedly anti-patriarchal, anti-racist, anti-colonial, anti-supremacist, envisions a world like the one imagined by our ancestors: A world in which many worlds fit.

Us, gays, latinos, dark-brown-skinned people, black people, indigenous peoples, sudacas*, migrants, descendants of slaves, workers, laborers, farm workers, HIV-positive, and many others, rose up to say enough is enough. Now it is our turn to recover and propose better alternative ways of living. Without violence, exploitation or oppression. Free. Happy. To the maximum.

*Sudaca: South American (pejorative)
OVERVIEW OF THE GAYLATINO LOGIC CHAIN

DIAGNOSIS

- Diagnosis of Civil Society Organizations.
- Community diagnosis.
- Identification of local technical assistance providers.
- Diagnosis of capacity building.

SUPPORT

- Capability building.
- Outcome-based ties (local, regional).
- Systems development.

PRODUCTS

- Development model.
- Tools and lessons learned.
- Research and development of sustainable systems.

OUTCOMES

- Community responsiveness.

IMPACT

- Improved community response to HIV and related problems.
- Improved health outcomes.
- Evidence-based culture.
ORGULLO LATINO
ABYA YALA

f ṭ,i @redgaylatino

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