

From: DS PDG

Sent: Friday, 24 March 2023 10:44 am

To: UNHC; AMER; AUS; BERLIN; DEVPP; DS PDG; EUR; GENEVA; HAGUE; LONDON; MEXICO; NUKU'ALOFA; NEW YORK; PACMM; PARIS; WASHINGTON

Cc: CMD; DCE; CEO; DS MLG; ALL DIVISIONS (FM); ALL POSTS (FM); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.P/S Associate MFA (Seemail); FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail)

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: Sydney World Pride 2023 - There is no natural floor to human rights

Āpitiḡanga - Attachments

- s6(a)
- A6 glossary of Te Reo Māori terminology for LGBTQIA+ peoples

Not for cable exchange

Rāpopoto - Summary

The clear message building up to [Sydney World Pride 2023](#) was that there was no natural floor to LGBTQIA+ rights, that leading liberal democratic countries have, in a short number of years, become leading sources of resourcing and narratives to regress human rights, and there must therefore be no complacency in the movement for equality. The message was particularly stark for Asia and the Pacific, which collectively receive only 5% of global LGBTQIA+ funding.

In response, Australia's hosting of World Pride was a tour de force demonstration of commitment to show up for LGBTQIA+ rights with resources, policy, and leadership at the political, official and societal levels. Aotearoa New Zealand's participation included Ambassador for Gender Equality (Pacific)/Tuia Tāngata Louisa Wall speaking at the donors and civil society preconference and flagship [human rights conference](#); hosting a session with Pacific parliamentarians and a breakfast for Pacific participants; meetings with Canadian LGBTQIA+ indigenous peoples and likeminded countries' LGBT envoys; and a [podcast interview with the Lowy Institute](#).

Aotearoa also funded the participation of eight Pacific representatives, including LGBTQIA+ rights activists from Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands and Vanuatu. Lead Adviser UNHC spoke at the donors' preconference on New Zealand's successful partnership with the Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network (PSGDN), and Consul-General Bill Dobbie and other Consulate-General staff marched in the Mardi Gras Parade and Pride March.

Hohenga - Action

- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- s6(a)

- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- s6(a)

Pūrongo - Report

From 23 February to 5 March 2023 Sydney became the first city in the Southern Hemisphere or the Asia Pacific to host the biannual World Pride events. Hosted to coincide with Sydney's annual Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras, Sydney World Pride 2023 included a two-day preconference on *Resourcing LGBTIQ Movements for Change in Asia and the Pacific*, a three-day headline *Human Rights Conference*, and an historic 50,000 person *Pride March* across the Sydney Harbour Bridge, only the third time the structure was closed for a march.

2 The Australian Government leaned heavily into the week's events, with Anthony Albanese becoming the first sitting Australian Prime Minister to march in the Mardi Gras Parade. Foreign Minister Penny Wong (virtually) announced the country's first [dedicated fund to promote international LGBTQ rights \(A\\$3.5m/year\)](#), and a forthcoming dedicated DFAT LGBTQIA+ human rights engagement strategy, covering bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, development and humanitarian assistance. The Government provided substantial funding for events at and surrounding the official programme, including for 50 human rights activists from across the Asia Pacific to attend. The Minister of Health announced [A\\$26m in LGBTQ health research grants](#), the Attorney General and Indigenous Australians minister also gave speeches, along with Gender Equality Ambassador Stephanie Copus Campbell, multiple senior DFAT officials, the New South Wales government, and the Mayor of Sydney. The ACT government also announced the introduction of an Australian-first [bill to stop deferrable medical interventions on intersex peoples](#).

3 Amongst the estimated 78,000 visitors that travelled to Sydney for the events were parliamentarians from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Sāmoa and Solomon Islands, Ambassadors whose mandates include LGBTQ rights from Aotearoa New Zealand, Argentina, Italy, United Kingdom, and United States, the European Union Commissioner for Equality, and the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (IE SOGI). EU Commissioner Helena Dalli announced a €15m call for proposals for LGBTQ civil society, s6(a)

and Asian Development Bank US Director Chantale Wong described her institution's moves beyond infrastructure to fund gender equality and social inclusion LGBTQI+ projects.

Donors' pre-conference

4 On 27 & 28 February a donors' pre-conference was held to bring together governments and private foundations with LGBTQIA+ civil society organisations from across Asia and the Pacific. Ambassador Wall represented New Zealand in a high-level donor government panel on "The Role of Donor Governments in Resourcing LGBTIQ Movements for Change in Asia and the Pacific." A funding survey presented at the outset of the Conference set the scene for this conversation. It showed that in the calendar years 2019 and 2020, a total of US\$576m was given to LGBTI issues, which represents only 4 cents of every 100 dollars in global overseas development assistance (and 35 cents of every 100 dollars in private foundation funding). Of that amount, almost 60 percent goes to the United States, four percent to Asia, and less than one percent to the Pacific. New Zealand was also invited to speak at the Conference (together with CEO Isikeli Vulavou), on our successful partnership with the Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network, a regional network of LGBTQI organisations and individuals in the Pacific ([DEVPP FM of 12/08/21 refers](#)).

5 Key messages from civil society were to increase overall funding to LGBTQIA+ issues, reduce reporting burdens, provide longterm and core funding, and fund local organisations over large international NGOs or consultancies, including where necessary by supporting peer-to-peer learning within and amongst civil society organisations and parliamentarians. Civil society also emphasised the importance of locally-specific strategies for protecting LGBTQIA+ rights. s6(a), s7(b)(i), s7(b)(ii), s7(b)(iii)

Human Rights Conference

6 With no international agreement on LGBTQIA+ rights, there is no straightforward multilateral forum to coordinate efforts. In the UN's absence, the [Equal Rights Coalition](#) (UNHC's FM 30 September 2022 refers) and World Pride Human Rights Conference have emerged as the convening places for likeminded States. The Sydney conference provided opportunities for direct engagements with multiple likeminded delegations. s6(a)

7 s6(a)

8 s6(a)

9 s6(a)

10 s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

11 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

12 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

13 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

14 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

15 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

16 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

17 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

18 In addition to government representatives, visible Aotearoa participation in Sydney World Pride included:

- Conference speaking engagements by:
 - Green MP Elizabeth Kerekere
 - General Manager Advisory, Research, and Engagement Team, New Zealand Human Rights Commission Andre Afamasaga
 - Tiwhanawhana Trust (national Takatāpui organisation) Trustee Kevin Haunui; and
 - New Zealand-based F'INE Pasifika Executive Director Phylesha Brown-Acton; and
- Australia-based men's mental health organisation Haka for Life joining Australian First Nations representatives in opening and closing the Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade.

19 MFAT also funded eight Pacific participants to attend Sydney World Pride, including LGBTQIA+ activists from Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and the Cook Islands, CEO of the Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network, Isikeli Vulavou, and the General Secretary of the Conference of Churches, Rev James Baghwan, (who spoke at the Donor Pre-Conference on Faith and the Lives of LGBTI People in the Pacific). Ambassador Wall also coordinated with external experts to prepare a glossary of Te Reo Māori terminology for LGBTIQ+ peoples with graphic design and printing undertaken in-house by MFAT, as a koha for Pacific counterparts at the conference ([attached](#)).

Tākupu - Comment

20 As the first event of its kind to be held in the Southern Hemisphere or Asia Pacific, and with a strong focus on Indigenous peoples and the Pacific, the case for New Zealand's participation in Sydney World Pride 2023 was particularly strong. Nonetheless, given LGBTI rights are a leadership (top tier) priority under [New Zealand's International Human Rights Action Plan 2019-2023](#), the fact of dramatic under resourcing of LGBT rights in Asia and the Pacific, and that many of our likeminded partners are stepping up, we see a case for ongoing prioritisation of Aotearoa New Zealand participation in World Pride events as the convening place for global public and private donors to LGBTQIA+ rights. We therefore encourage Aotearoa New Zealand representation at the next World Pride events in Washington D.C. in 2025, and Amsterdam in 2026.

Mutu/Ends