



March 10, 2016

Dear GLISA members:

Subject: One World Event Discussions with Federation of Gay Games

By now you will likely have heard the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) has withdrawn from discussions to establish One World Event in 2022. When we received correspondence to this affect, it was, frankly, a surprise. We feel that our members have a right to be made aware of our concerns and considerations; this letter is intended to address some of our issues.

In a recent letter, the co-presidents of the FGG organization referred to "a potential proposed partnership with GLISA (where) we have sought information from GLISA for the past several months...". Both aspects of this comment are less than accurate.

With respect to One World Event ("One WE"), the recommendations of the Cologne Report from January 2015 indicated unanimous Working Group support for the creation of a new and visionary entity in its recommendation to accept Option 4 of the Report:

The Working Group is recommending the creation of a new One World Event Entity. A new entity, whose first external task would be to plan and deliver One World Event in 2022, would be more than a merger of the existing organizations. In point of fact, a new One World Event entity would be the "home base", the "platform" for other organizations serving specific needs of the same global LGBTQI communities.

This recommendation was the singular proposal from the Working Group within the Cologne Report, a Report accepted and endorsed by the Boards of GLISA and the Federation. So, to be precise, there was, in fact, no "potential proposed partnership" at all.

The same Cologne Report, in Option 3, specifically rejected the following statement regarding integration of one organization into the other:

"Either the Federation or GLISA would cease to exist as an entity. The scope, breadth, history, and programs would be subsumed by the other organization and incorporated within their existing structure."

In their correspondence of March 2, 2016 the FGG co-presidents unilaterally revert to Option 3 - "...the FGG has extended an open invitation to GLISA to consider becoming a Member Organization of our Assembly." Since early 2015 when the Report was delivered to both Boards, the FGG supported a new One World Event entity, as recommended in the Cologne Report. In our view, the FGG has "broken faith" with GLISA and has deviated from the unified option they had initially endorsed within the Cologne Report.

In hindsight, there were several small, but telling, indicators of the shifting position of the Federation. For example, at two separate sports-planner's meetings, in August 2015 and January 2016, members of the Federation Board attending these meetings did not, in fact, discuss One World Event in their meetings with sports planners. In fact, they spoke only of their Gay Games, its history, its model, its delivery, when the GLISA Board members attending the same meetings spoke only of One World Event.

Further on this point, some months ago, it appeared the FGG Board changed course from its stated objectives - "the creation of a new One World Event Entity. A new entity...". as there was no discussion with or alerting this change of direction to GLISA or the global LGBTIQ community which had provided direction to this "new entity" goal in the 2014 Survey. In our view, such conduct demonstrates "breaking faith."

In light, the "open invitation to GLISA" to join the FGG simply highlighted what had become their objective; to absorb GLISA within the FGG structure.

The correspondence states the FGG Board "(has) sought information from GLISA for the past several months...". Indeed, the Board of the Federation did seek proprietary and private information from us. They requested information for a "Risk Analysis" group they had set up. In doing so, the Federation never shared the criteria of the risk analysis with GLISA; nor did they invite or suggest to us the idea of GLISA conducting a similar formalized process using the same criteria; nor did they establish with us if the timeframe of this activity was agreeable; or establish a joint process so both organizations would have similar information to review and compare. In effect, we were simply informed we had to provide this group with certain private and proprietary information, with no prior discussion or negotiation.

The demand for information from GLISA regarding the "risk analysis" group generated considerable concern within the GLISA Board. It was decided certain protocols needed to be in place in order to protect our own Transition Commission nominees from such conduct, to the highest degree possible. Alas, all of this concern has been moot.

A critical point the FGG correspondence neglects to mention, however, is the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") which is in place for the sharing of information and a confidential forum for dialogue in the development of the "new One World Event Entity".

Their demands and increasing levels of insistence with no discussion regarding the security of our information or receipt of information from the FGG, has generated several negative reactions by the GLISA Board members and members of the GLISA family. There was a distinct tone of intimidation which increased our concern the Federation was operating outside the MOU they had previously agreed to. It had us wondering - and worrying - if we would ever see any similar information from the FGG. And, it reinforced our growing concern, the Federation was acting improperly.

For several reasons, as we commented to the FGG Co-Presidents directly, we feel their organization has broken faith, not only with the global LGBTIQ community, but with GLISA as a partner in this initiative; with the MOU they signed last summer; and with the Option put forward by the Working Group in the Cologne Report.

So where do we go from here?

Well, the short answer is "forward." We have some signature events coming up and need to dedicate our energy to those events - the GLISA North America St. Louis Equality Outgames May 27-June 4, 2016 and the World Outgames in Miami in 2017. We are also planning on to re-directing our energy and resources to building GLISA Africa and GLISA Latino America. Also, GLISA has its annual meeting in late May 2016 and we'll be actively discussing our "next steps" with our member organizations. Key considerations in this discussion will be the feedback from the global LGBTIQ community in the 2014 Survey.

We would, of course, be interested in hearing from our member organizations. The current situation notwithstanding, what do you think GLISA's priorities should be? Where should we place our emphasis? How should we judiciously direct our time, resources, and funds?

Thank you.

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