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LGBT MPA Urges Global Events Industry to Address Safety and Access in Event Site Selection

Alexandria, VA — The LGBT Meeting Professionals Association (LGBT MPA), the voice of the LGBTQIA2+ global events community, affirms the importance of international meetings in fostering connection, knowledge exchange, and economic opportunity. At the same time, the organization emphasizes that global convening carries professional responsibilities. Where meetings are held directly affects who can participate.

When associations select destinations where some participants may face legal risk, harassment, or discrimination because of who they are, inclusion becomes a duty of care issue. An event cannot be considered representative of the professional community if a portion of the individuals must evaluate personal safety before deciding whether they can attend. This concern is especially real for the LGBTQ+ community, who may face a different level of personal risk when traveling internationally.

LGBT MPA is not advocating disengagement from regions of the world, nor discouraging global collaboration. Rather, the organization encourages responsible planning. If an organization chooses a destination that creates elevated risk for part of its membership, it assumes a heightened responsibility to ensure those members still have a safe and equitable path to participate.

Responsible convening requires planning, transparency, and accountability. Organizers should consult knowledgeable experts before finalizing sites and publish clear, plain-language guidance well in advance so attendees can make informed decisions. Events should include enforceable codes of conduct, confidential reporting channels, trained support contacts, and defined response protocols.

Equally important, participation pathways should be announced at the same time as the destination. If some professionals may not feel safe traveling, they should still be able to present, network, meet clients, and maintain leadership visibility through equivalent hybrid participation. Watching a livestream is not participation.

“Global meetings are designed to bring people together,” said Cameron Curtis, CMM, CAE, CEO of LGBT MPA. “No professional should have to choose between career development and personal safety. Inclusion must be operational, not aspirational, and participation should be accessible whether someone attends in person or virtually.”

LGBT MPA encourages global associations and event organizers to treat inclusion as an operational planning requirement alongside security, health, and accessibility. A successful international event is not defined only by attendance or economic impact. It is defined by whether every professional has a genuine and safe path to participate.

About LGBT MPA

The [LGBT Meeting Professionals Association](https://www.thelgbtmtpa.org) (LGBT MPA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is the leading voice for the LGBTQ+ global events community. Established in 2018, LGBT MPA connects, empowers, and advances meeting professionals through education, research, advocacy, and networking to help create a global events community where all are accepted, equal, and belong.

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