

## **Different Central America: Human rights for LGBTI groups, human rights for all**

LGBTI people (lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transexuals and intersex) in the four countries where the project is present (Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador) represent a particularly vulnerable group. They are victims of discrimination and physical or psychological violence, sometimes reaching as far as homicide, and often accompanied by a wall of silence from some in the community. LGBTI people also find it difficult to turn to the police or the justice system in these countries, as often they encounter a response that is discriminatory, denigrates their identity and/or blames the victim. Furthermore, there is a trend in the region toward criminalising or obstructing those who defend human rights, particularly of LGBTI groups. They are particularly exposed to violence and in some cases they have even been victims of illegal detentions and systematic inspections by police.

### **Project beneficiaries**

The project works with people in the LGBTI community to create mechanisms for protection and self-protection, to strengthen the culture of reporting human rights abuses, to communicate on the situation and to mobilise the whole of society around the message that expanding human rights for people of all sexual orientations does not take rights away from anyone else, rather it consolidates rights for all.

### **Aims**

The project aims to develop an integrated strategy for action at national and regional level, to promote and defend the rights of the LGBTI community. Firstly it proposes to strengthen the LGBTI movement and its organisations:

- at national level, by providing legal, medical and psychological support services to the victims of discrimination and violence, as well as training for those promoting LGBTI rights and LGBTI groups and collectives;
- at regional level, in Central America, by consolidating exchanges and mutual defence between organisations for sexual diversity, by creating a permanent observatory on LGBTI rights abuses in the four countries of the region.

Secondly, it proposes to give greater visibility and voice to the LGBTI community, reaching public opinion through awareness-raising campaigns, training courses on human rights and gender-based discrimination for opinion-leaders and opinion-makers, as well as activities in schools to tackle verbal, psychological and physical attacks and the culture of discrimination (homophobic bullying).

Finally, we will lead activities that target institutions, pushing them to improve their response and their dialogue and relations with LGBTI organisations, in order for their rights to be fully enforced.

### **Partners**

Terra Nuova (project leaders), RE.TE, Asociación EntreAmigos (El Salvador), Asociación Lambda (Guatemala), Asociación Kukulcán (Honduras), Centro de Prevención y Educación contra el Sida (Nicaragua), ARCIGAY Italy.

### **Duration**

30 months (start date 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014)

### **Financial support**

European Union