

Our team

Board

2025 – 2027

Isa Nico Borrelli

They/Them · Italy · Chair

Toggle Accordion



Isa Nico Borrelli (they/them) are an author, lecturer, and independent researcher focused on trans politics and language, part of PolitesSe, Centre of Research in Politics and Theories of Sexualities for the University of Verona.

Since 2015, they have worked nationally and internationally as a political communication strategist, studying and developing manifestos, policies, and comparative analyses, particularly concerning marginalised communities, including the LGB and trans communities. In 2023 they won the Rainbow Italian Awards for their work and activism. In 2024, their first essay “Gender is Over” was published by the Italian publisher Feltrinelli.

They are a militant trans/feminist activist who crosses grassroots movements and international organisations such as Separate Trans Collective Dissidente and Genderlens.

Erman Dolmac?

They/Them · Cyprus · Board Member

Toggle Accordion



Erman Dolmac? (they/them) is a Cypriot activist and researcher working at the intersections of LGBTI+ rights, feminist/queer theory, and ecology.

They coordinate the LGBTI rights Programme at the Human Rights Platform in Cyprus and are pursuing a PhD in Gender Studies at the University of Cyprus.

They organised grassroots initiatives, including intercommunal United by Pride and have extensive advocacy experience at both local and international levels. Finally, their work is rooted in creating spaces of justice, solidarity, and care in divided, postconflict and postcolonial contexts.

Tayri Fadil

She/Her · Italy · Board Member

Toggle Accordion



Tayri Fadil (she/her) is a performative artist and poet, part of the Amazigh diaspora in Europe.

She is an activist for trans rights, migrants' rights, and sex workers' rights, and fights against Fortress Europe and Western imperialism. She is part of local groups organising solidarity actions for Palestine.

In her words, this work is "against genocide, the occupation, and the support given by the EU, USA, and UK to the Zionist entity." She co-organises strikes and protests for trans rights, against the cispatriarchy and state violence.

Polo Keadze

He/Him · Georgia · Board Member

Toggle Accordion



Polo Keadze (he/him) is a young transgender man from Georgia with three years of experience in activism and NGO work.

Currently, he works at 'Temida,' a trans-led organisation in Tbilisi, providing HIV prevention services to trans and queer individuals. He also manages the Transgender Men Initiative Club in Georgia.

With a background in psychology, Polo is dedicated to advancing mental health support within the community and is pursuing a career as a psychotherapist.

Lilit Martirosyan

She/Her · Armenia · Board Member

Toggle Accordion



Lilit Martirosyan (she/her) is a transgender woman activist and the founding President of the Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO, the first trans-led organisation in Armenia.

Her leadership has played a pivotal role in advancing the visibility and recognition of trans communities in the South Caucasus and Central Asia. With more than 12 years of experience in human rights, she has extensive expertise in advocacy, policy reform, and movement building.

She also possesses strong skills in conflict management, strategic communications, community organising, and international cooperation, and collaborates with numerous global organisations to strengthen trans

rights and equality at regional and international levels.

Aleksa Radonji?

He/Him · Slovenia/Montenegro · Board Member

Toggle Accordion



Aleksa Radonji? (he/him) is a Montenegrin civil activist. He graduated at the Academy of Fine Arts, University of Ljubljana, with a BA degree in Art Conservation and Restoration.

With his educational and life experiences, he honours interdisciplinarity in all aspects of his work. At seventeen, he first joined Montenegro Pride Organisational Board, familiarising himself with the work of then recently founded Association Spectra, where 6 years later he would start working as a Communications Officer.

With current focus on LGR in Montenegro, he directs Spectra's campaigns to mobilise local and regional

communities, highlighting self-determination, being inherently anti-colonial, as a fundamental value.

Alex Shah

She/They · Azerbaijan · Board Member

Toggle Accordion



Alex Shah (she/they) is a multimedia journalist and young trans activist focused on reporting the voices of marginalised and underrepresented communities since the age of 16.

She publicly advocates for the legal and social protection of LGBTI communities, with a specific focus on trans sex workers, minors, youth in rural areas and students in her country and region.

Purity K Tumukwasibwe

She/Her · Sweden · Board Member

Toggle Accordion



Purity K Tumukwasibwe (she/her) is a trans woman and trans activist from Uganda residing in Sweden.

She's a social scientist, and the Executive Director of Queerstion media (a BPOC trans refugees organisation based in Sweden) an anti-racism consultant at IGLYO, a co-founder and Board Member of Rainbow Refugees Sweden, co-founder of Refugee Trans Initiative Kenya, actress with National Black Theatre of Sweden, a musician who uses music as a tool to activism against transphobia, racism and refugee-phobia and a mother to baby Asante.

Staff

Juliane Rosin

She/Her · Executive Director

Toggle Accordion



Juliane has been professionally involved in civil society movements for almost 20 years, working at the intersection of advocacy, organisational development, and movement building.

Before joining TGEU, she held leadership and policy roles in feminist organisations and supported civil society organisations across Europe as well as internationally with strategy, governance, fundraising, and organisational change.

Alongside her professional work, Juliane has been active in the lesbian movement, including serving on the Board of the European Lesbian* Community (EL*C) and on the Advisory Board of Lesben*Ring in Germany.

She believes that strong, sustainable organisations are essential for strong movements and is passionate about creating supportive, collaborative environments where people and organisations can thrive together.

Languages: German, English, a bit of French

Miles Tanhira

He/Him · Programmes Manager

Toggle Accordion



Founder of Queerstion Media, Miles (he/him) is a journalist and brings over 10 years of experience within media & communication, LGBTQ and migration activism.

Miles holds a Masters in International Migration and Ethnic Relations, BSc in Political Science and a BA in Communication Science.

He has worked previously for RFSL as coordinator for a Global LGBT Leadership training Rainbow Leaders as well as Editor for Soginews global LGBT news site.

Miles wants to amplify the voices of further marginalised trans communities particularly trans migrants in Europe through an intersectional perspective.

Languages: English, Shona, and Swedish.

Vanya Solovey

He/Him · EECA Advocacy & Programme Officer

Toggle Accordion



Vanya (he/him) has previously worked with TGEU as a translator and interpreter, and will now join as EECA Officer. He comes from Russia and has experience in grassroots leftist, feminist, queer, and trans activism.

With a background in linguistics and gender studies, Vanya has written his doctoral thesis on the feminist movement in Russia.

Languages: English, Russian, German, French, and some Czech.

Daniyar Orsekov

He/Him · Senior EECA Programme Officer

Toggle Accordion



Daniyar (he/him) started his activist journey in 2004 in Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia. In 2009, Daniyar became the founder of national LGBT organisation Kyrgyz Indigo and worked for 10 years as its Executive Director.

Since 2020 Daniyar has been working at international organisation ECOM as an advocacy coordinator and contributed to capacity building and expert agency of transgender people of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Languages: English, Russian, Kyrgyz.

Richard Köhler

He/Him · TGEU Expert Advisor & Senior Policy Officer

Toggle Accordion



Richard Köhler (he/him) built up TGEU's policy and advocacy work at the European level and has been a trans activist for two decades.

Richard leads on TGEU's work for self-determined legal gender recognition procedures and successful strategic litigation to help advance and protect trans people's rights in the courts.

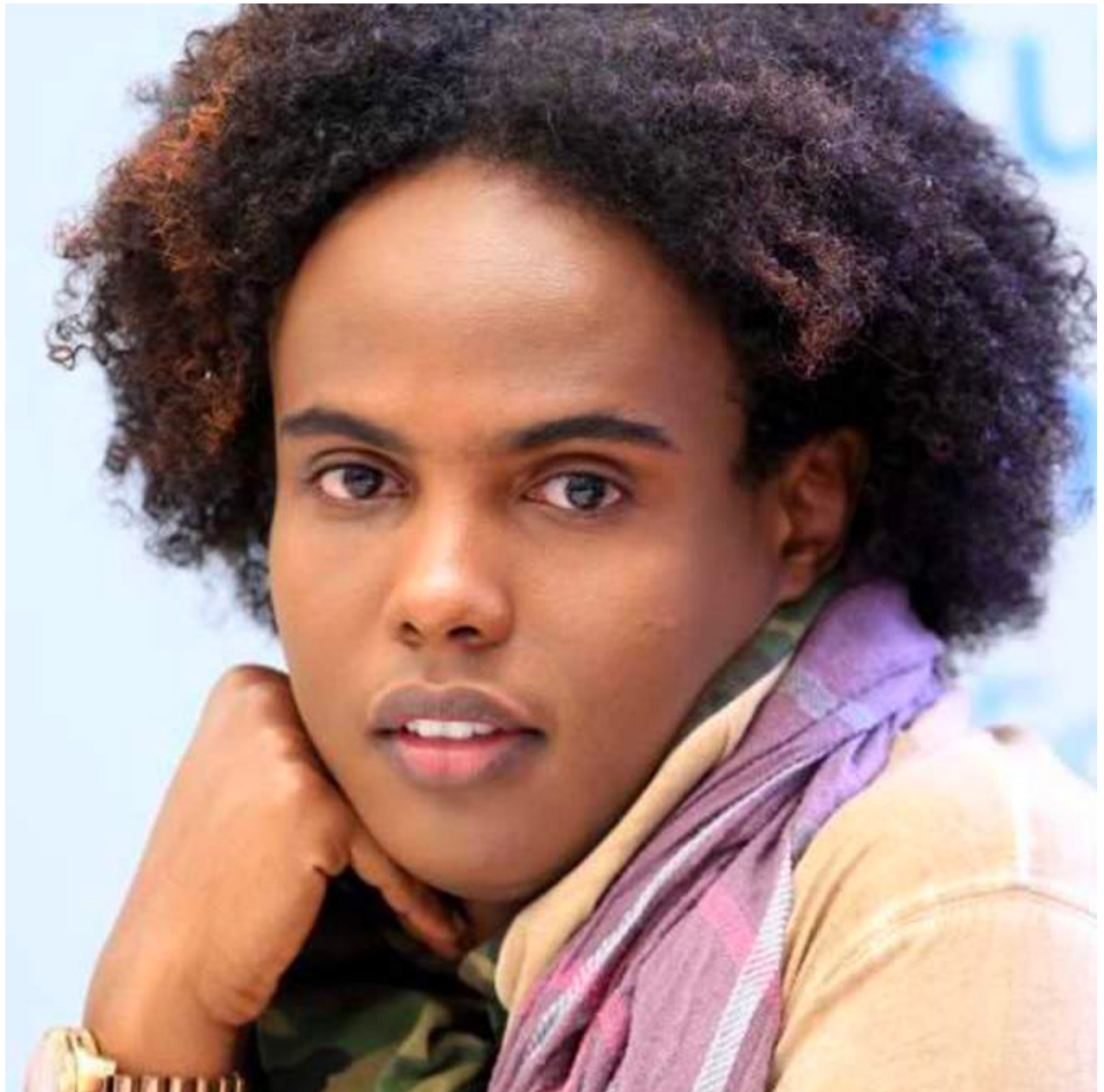
Richard holds a degree in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (LL.M). He also has a background in International Business Administration with specialisation on NGOs in Russian-speaking countries.

Languages: German, English, Russian, some French.

Farah Abdi

She/Her · Policy Officer, Asylum

Toggle Accordion



Farah (she/her) came to Europe at the end of 2012, fleeing fear of persecution because of her gender identity. Her work as an activist began as a way to combat the rise in xenophobia, racism, islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination.

Farah has worked relentlessly over the last eight years to tell the unheard stories of refugees. She wrote and published her first autobiography, "Never Arrive," in 2015. She has also written columns on immigration for publications like Malta Today and the New Internationalist.

Farah looks forward to contributing to TGEU and bringing a new perspective.

Languages: English, Kiswahili, and some German.

Deekshitha Ganesan

She/Her · Manager – Policy and Advocacy

Toggle Accordion



Deekshitha (she/her) is originally from India and is a lawyer by training. Prior to joining TGEU, she worked as a research and litigation associate at the Centre for Law and Policy Research in India, focusing on transgender rights, disability rights, and equality and non-discrimination.

At TGEU, Deekshitha works primarily on the portfolios of health and responding to the anti-gender movement.

Languages: English, Tamil, Hindi.

Nisha Damji

He/they · Communications Manager

Toggle Accordion



Nisha (he/they) is the Communications Manager at TGEU. They lead the organisation's communications strategy, narrative development, and media engagement. Nisha oversees TGEU's flagship campaigns, including Trans Rights Index & Map, Trans Murder Monitoring and TDoR, shaping how the organisation communicates its work and impact across Europe and Central Asia.

Previously, Nisha led TGEU's owned communication channels, including websites, social media, and newsletters, driving content strategy, editorial direction, and brand consistency.

Originally from the UK, Nisha holds a BA in Sociology and History of Ideas and is currently pursuing an MA

in Sociology: European Societies at FU Berlin. They are a trained journalist with a professional qualification in strategic communications. Languages: English, Gujarati, German.

Amanita Calderon-Cifuentes

She/They · HIV Research and Advocacy Officer

Toggle Accordion



Amanita Calderón-Cifuéntes (she/they) is a Colombian scientist and trans rights advocate with over 20 years of education in molecular biology and microbiology; and more than a decade of experience in HIV advocacy.

She conducts participatory research on infectious diseases and the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of transgender people, grounded in her lived experience as a migrant, sex worker, person who uses drugs, and trans woman living with HIV.

She has worked with UN and EU agencies, contributing community-informed perspectives to HIV strategies

and public health policy. She currently represents TGEU on the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board as one of two NGO Delegates for Europe.

Languages: Spanish, English, and French.

Freya Watkins

She/Her · Senior Research Officer

Toggle Accordion



Originally from the UK, Freya (she/her) is a researcher and activist with experience in disability, queerfeminist, union, and housing struggles.

With an academic background in linguistics and psychology, Freya collaborated closely with deaf and hearing sign language-using communities during her doctoral research.

She previously worked as German-English translator and was on a Steering Committee researching queerphobic conversion practices within psychology.

At TGEU, Freya will use her data and research skills for trans rights, leading the Trans Rights Map and

Trans Murder Monitoring projects, as well as contributing to other research.

Languages: English, German, British Sign Language, some French, Spanish, ASL, IS, DGS.

Alina Kolosova

She/Her · Grant/Operations Manager

Toggle Accordion



Alina (she/her) is trans rights activist, the co-founder of initiative in Tajikistan with more than seven years in human rights advocacy and over two decades working in finance, corporate governance, and grant management.

She worked for intergovernmental humanitarian, international post-war reconstruction and development organisations, private bank, public-private partnerships, and multilateral projects, for USAID among many.

Alina is an Economics, Tax Law, Audit, and Evaluation expert, particularly in institutional policy design, operational capacity-building, risk assessment, and development of a blueprint for organisation's financial sustainability.

Languages: Russian, English, Farsi, basic Uzbek.

Vanja Cipurkovic

He/Him · Community Building Officer

Toggle Accordion



Trans community organiser with ten years of experience, Vanja (he/him) is responsible for engaging with TGEU's wide network of members to support their movement-building efforts.

Part of Trans Network Balkan since its inception, Vanja served as the Network's Visibility Coordinator in 2018, and later moved to the role of Capacity Building Coordinator.

As a member of his local LGBTQI group in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vanja took the lead on a portfolio of arts and culture-focused events.

Languages: English, BCMS, basic German

Béla Hackenberg

She/Her · Communications Officer

Toggle Accordion



Béla (she/her) is responsible for planning, creating, publishing, and analysing content in TGEU's owned communications channels (websites, social media, newsletters) with a focus on community-driven, engaging video and editorial content in an accessible yet specific tone of voice and style of written and verbal communication.

Outside of work, she produces and hosts a queer-feminist interview podcast that focuses on amplifying the voices of multiply marginalised queer and trans people.

Béla is also a freelance political educator, journalist, author, moderator, community organiser & artist for various projects in Berlin and beyond.

She has a bachelor's degree in European Science with a specialisation in Gender & Diversity Studies from Maastricht University and is currently pursuing her masters in Gender, Intersectionality & Politics at Freie Universität Berlin.

Languages: English, German, some French & Spanish

Gloria Lentini

She/Her · Grants Development Officer

Toggle Accordion



With a background in cultural diplomacy, project management, and grant coordination, Gloria (she/her) has extensive experience in securing and managing grants from European and international donors.

Before joining TGEU, she worked at a research organisation in official relations with UNESCO, where she focused on identifying funding opportunities, preparing successful project proposals, and liaising with

European and international partners.

She also volunteered with a grassroots association in Italy supporting marginalised groups, including migrants and unhoused people, where she contributed to initiatives fostering social inclusion, cultural participation, and awareness on gender identity and discrimination.

Languages: English, Spanish, Italian, German (intermediate) and French (basic)

Aoife Doran

They/Them · Senior Communications Officer

Toggle Accordion



Aoife Doran (they/them) is the Senior Communications Officer at TGEU coordinating the day-to-day editorial output across TGEU's website, social media, and newsletters.

Aoife brings a strong background in international development, most recently in communications roles supporting major international NGO clients, specialising in editorial strategy, long-form content production and multimedia production.

They hold an Erasmus Mundus MA in Journalism, Media and Globalisation from Aarhus University and the University of Amsterdam, and a BSc in Politics and Social Policy from University College Dublin.

Outside of work, Aoife is a programme coordinator at a FLINTA*-led skateboarding organisation in Berlin, where they run programmes for migrant youth and handle grant writing and donor reporting.

Languages: English, German, Irish and a little French.

Guendalina Di Luigi

She/Her · PhD Candidate – Gender Insight Network

Toggle Accordion



Guendalina Di Luigi (she/her) is a PhD Candidate within TGEU's Gender Insight Network, an international interdisciplinary network investigating the biopsychosocial influences of gender during (diverse) hormonal transitions.

Her PhD project is funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) programme. It examines how societal polarisation around gender-affirming medical care shapes public policy and affects the health and lived experience of trans and gender diverse people across societies with different levels of structural stigma.

She previously worked at the Department of Medical Psychology and the Centre of Expertise on Gender Dysphoria at Amsterdam UMC, researching the experiences, well-being, and social contexts of LGBTI communities, particularly trans and gender diverse people.

Her work explores the relationship between minority stress, social environments, and mental health, aiming to advance evidence-based approaches to trans health and social justice.

Languages: Italian, English.

Consultants

Arpi Avetisyan

She/Her · Strategic Litigation Consultant

Toggle Accordion



An international human rights lawyer with over 20 years of experience, Arpi (she/her) supports TGEU's strategic litigation work. Her career to date includes strategic litigation before the European Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Justice and UN human rights treaty bodies as well as research, advocacy, and capacity development.

Previously she led the strategic litigation work at ILGA-Europe. As the Litigation Adviser at INTERIGHTS, she provided litigation advice to NGOs in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe.

Arpi holds a BA in Sociology and MA in Conflictology from Yerevan State University, Armenia; and LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, UK.

Languages: English, Armenian, Russian, intermediate French.

Linn Julian Koletnik

They/Them · Research Consultant

Toggle Accordion



Linn Julian Koletnik (they) works on our flagship research reports such as Trans Rights Index and Map, Trans Health Map and Trans Murder Monitoring.

Linn is a non-binary queer transfeminist activist and the Founder and former Executive Director of TransAkcija Institute.

Linn holds an MA in Gender Studies from Central European University. They have been involved in Slovene LGBTIQ+ activism since 2006 and have experiences within various structures of organising, community and capacity building, advocacy, research and media work.

Languages: English and Slovene

Dragiša Mio?

He/Him · Graphic Design Consultant

Toggle Accordion



Dragiša (he/him) is graphic designer who works on helping TGEU to convey their messages through beautiful visuals and thoughtful design. He holds MS degree for Graphic Product Design from Faculty of Graphic Arts in Zagreb and has been working with NGO's who fight for human rights and wellbeing for over 7 years now.

Sebastian Rowlands

They/Them · Senior Advisor on Resilience and Backlash

Toggle Accordion



As Senior Advisor on Resilience and Backlash, Sebastian will support TGEU to combat the anti-gender movement.

With eight years' experience in sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV, global health, and LGBTQI+ rights, their interest lies in the intersection of gender and violence, sexuality, social norms, and marginalisation.