



IGLTA
FOUNDATION

LGBTQ+ TRAVEL IN 2025:

Scale, Strategy &
Systemic Change

IGLTA Foundation Impact Report



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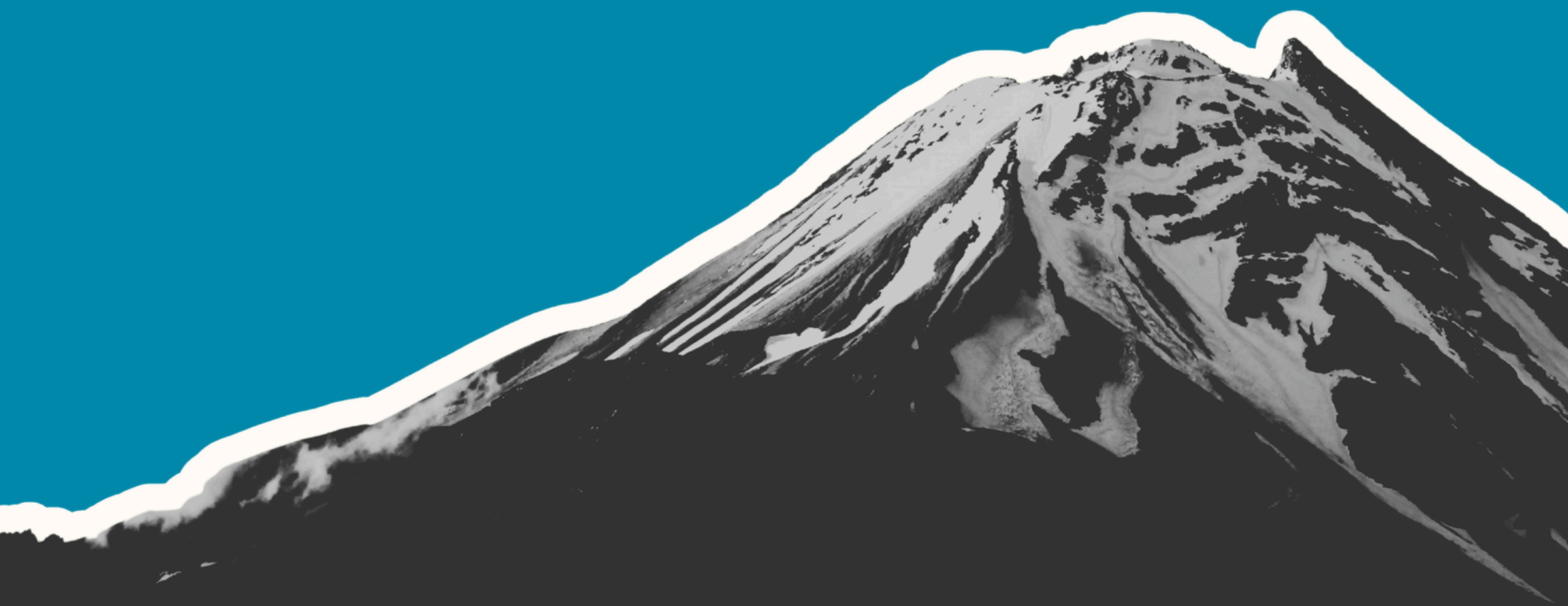
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GLOBAL IMPACT

ACCESS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL





Elevating Industry Standards at FITUR & UN Tourism

The year began with a defining moment in Madrid at FITUR 2025. Joel Diaz (he/him), IGLTA Membership Manager-Europe, represented the IGLTA Foundation in the UN Tourism Affiliate Members Corner, organized by the **United Nations Tourism Agency**.

This intervention reframed LGBTQ+ inclusion from a **social responsibility** conversation to a market value imperative, demonstrating to tourism ministries, DMOs, and global institutions that the LGBTQ+ travel segment drives economic resilience and innovation.



Trans Advocacy on the World Stage

The Foundation's commitment to safety and human rights reached new heights in **Geneva**. IGLTA Foundation Coordinator **Sonali Khan (she/her)** represented the IGLTA Foundation at **Trans Advocacy Week** inside the United Nations during Human Rights Council sessions.

She engaged directly with Permanent Missions of Norway, Spain, Malta, Denmark, the European Union, and UN agencies including WHO, UNAIDS, OHCHR, and the Global Fund—ensuring Global South trans and gender-diverse priorities shape international funding and policy decisions.



High-Level Diplomacy in South America

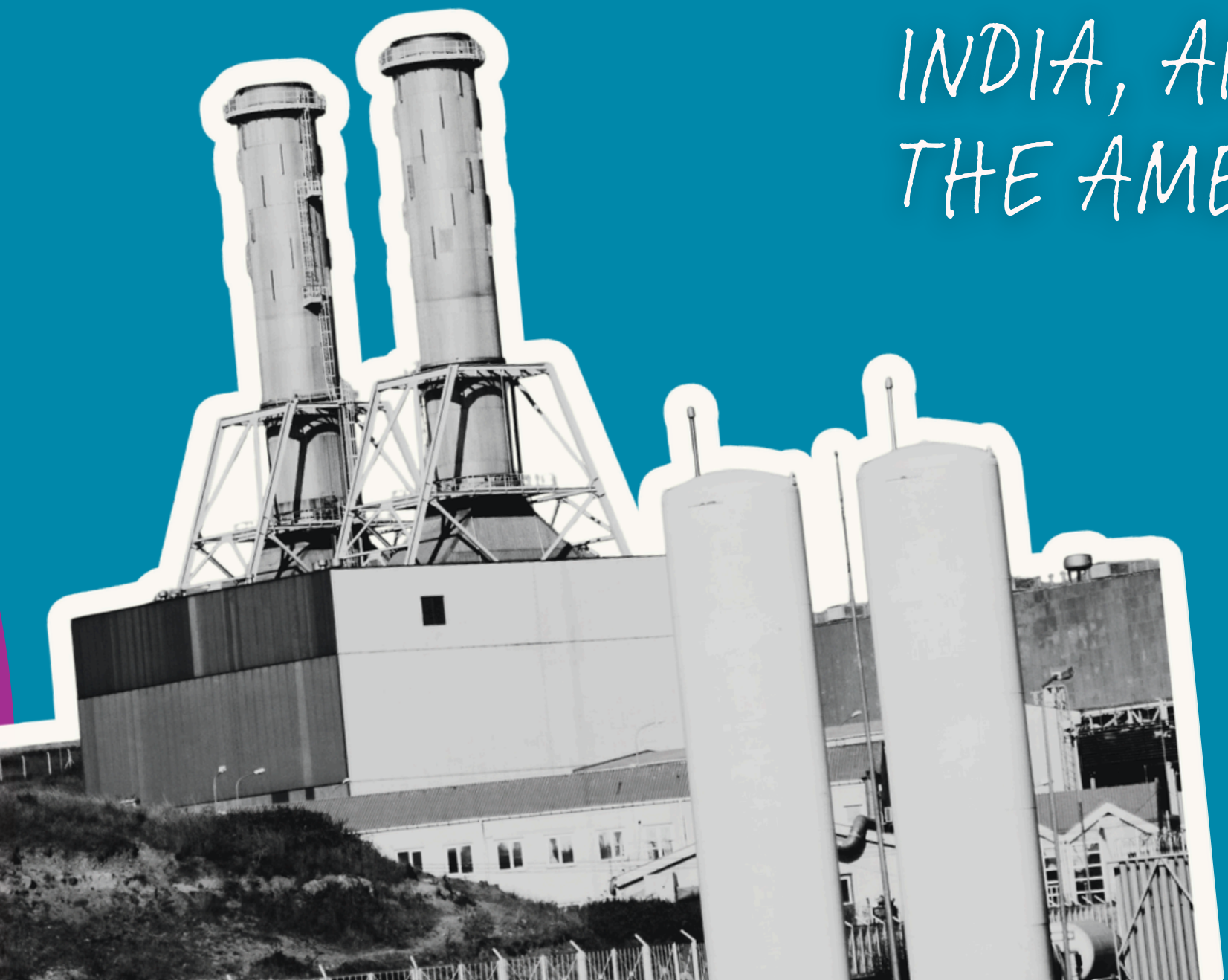
As part of the TUI Futureshapers program, Director of Partnerships TJ Chernick (he/him) represented the Foundation in **Uruguay**, holding strategic meetings with the **Vice President and Minister of Tourism**. These discussions strengthened LGBTQ+ tourism at the state level and opened **new pathways for governmental collaboration across South America**.





REGIONAL Powerhouses

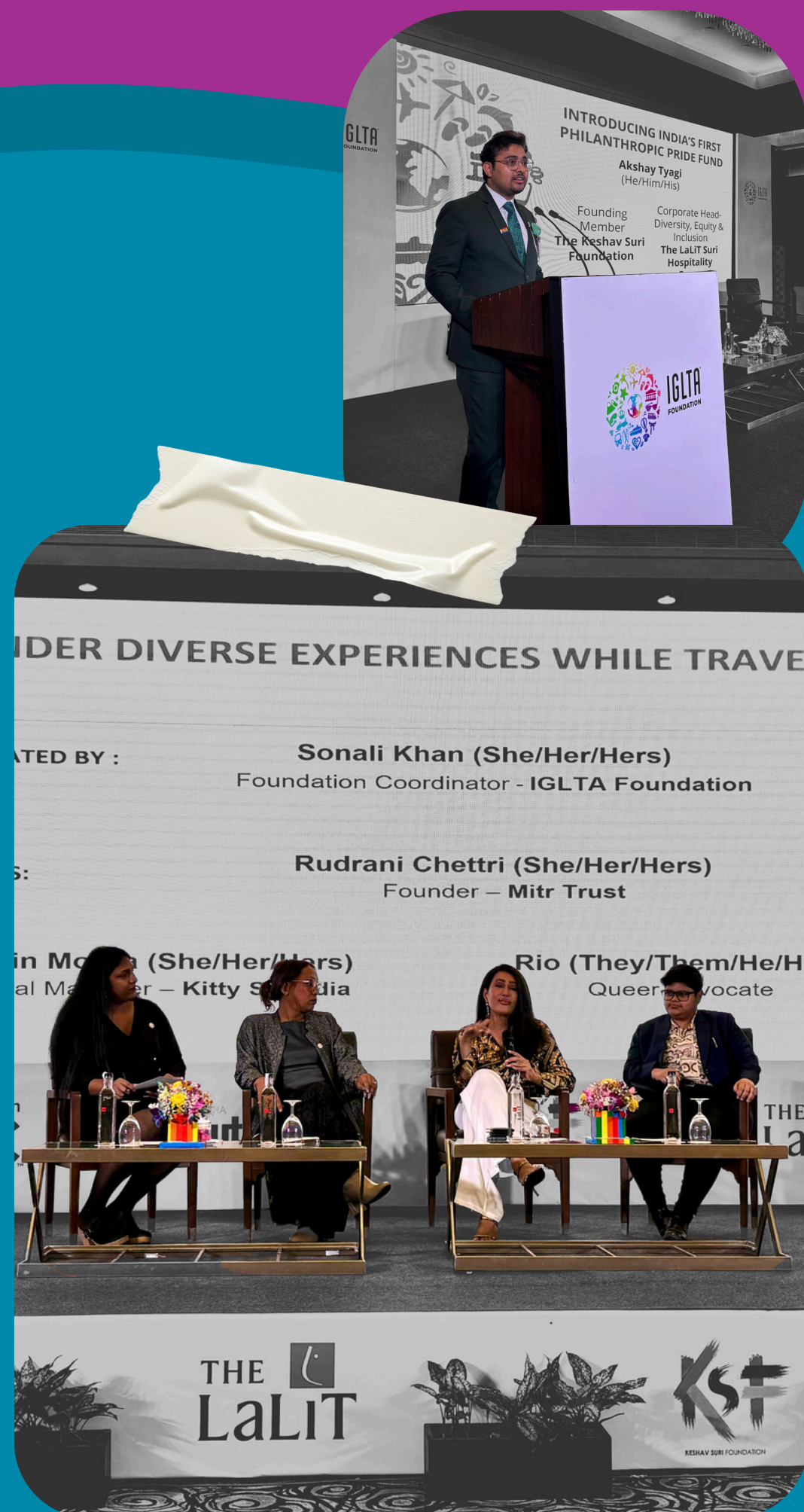
INDIA, AFRICA &
THE AMERICAS



INDIA

From Emerging Market to Global Priority

The 3rd Annual LGBTQ+ Travel Symposium took place in February 2025 in New Delhi, in collaboration with the **Keshav Suri Foundation** and **The LaLiT New Delhi**. Convening tourism leaders, hospitality brands, policymakers, and community organizations, the Symposium strengthened collaboration **across sectors** committed to advancing inclusive tourism in India.





During the Symposium, the IGLTA Foundation awarded the 2025 India Symposium Fellowship to **Prasenjit Chaudhuri (he/him)**, Founder, Out and About, recognizing a decade of pioneering work building community-driven, safe travel spaces for LGBTQ+ travelers.

Building on this momentum, The LaLiT New Delhi has been confirmed as host partner for the 2026 edition.

AFRICA

Defining the Cost of Exclusion

EQUAL Africa returned to **WTM Africa** in **Cape Town**, positioning inclusion as a business and safety imperative across the continent's tourism sector.

Sessions moderated by Foundation staff, fellows, and board members explored **allyship, inclusive marketing, leadership**, and destination readiness.

The 2025 **EQUAL Africa Fellowship** was awarded to **Brett Massoud (he/him)** (Dadamanga, Madagascar), recognizing his work advancing LGBTQ+ visibility, safety, and economic opportunity through locally rooted tourism experiences.





THE AMERICAS & EUROPE

Strengthening Alliances

In North America, the 2025 IGLTA Foundation **Impact Award**—presented by Destination Toronto—honored **Responsible Travel South America** for its sustained contribution to LGBTQ+ inclusive tourism.

In Europe, the Foundation partnered with the **European LGBTQ+ Travel Alliance** (ELTA) to expand visibility, safety, and collaboration across Eastern Europe. This partnership includes the launch of a regional webinar series and a future Think Tank focused on data-sharing and destination readiness.



INNOVATION

BUILDING THE
FUTURE SUPPLY
CHAIN



TUI FUTURESHAPERS

LGBTQIA+ Travel Innovators

In partnership with the **TUI Care Foundation**, the IGLTA Foundation launched **the first-ever LGBTQIA+ Travel Innovators Program**, supported by the Foundation's first six-figure grant.



The program supports **27 entrepreneurs from 20 countries** through mentorship, business training, and access to global tourism networks. The program is building toward **a global Pitch Competition in Sevilla in October 2026**, strengthening the pipeline of inclusive tourism products worldwide.

Emerging Destinations & Communities (EDC)



The EDC network expanded to **55 members globally** in 2025.

This initiative provides visibility and commercial pathways for LGBTQ+ welcoming businesses **operating in destinations with limited governmental support or tourism infrastructure.**



RESEARCH & TOOLS:

THE DATA
ADVANTAGE



TRANS & Gender Diverse Travel Guide:

A Roadmap for Safe and Enjoyable Adventures.

Released by the **IGLTA Foundation's Gender Diverse Travel Advisory Group (GTAG)**, this global guide provides essential safety information and practical tools for trans and gender-diverse travelers. Supported by **AWAY** and the **Arcus Foundation**, it also equips travel professionals to create more affirming guest experiences.

[Download here](https://www.iglta.org/foundation/travel-safety-guide/)

<https://www.iglta.org/foundation/travel-safety-guide/>



Trans & Gender Diverse Travel Guide:

A Roadmap for Safe and
Enjoyable Adventures

Comprehensive Guide for LGBTQ+

INCLUSIVE

Communication in Tourism

This **practical resource** helps tourism and hospitality professionals ensure their communication and marketing reflect diversity and authenticity.

The guide was accompanied by the July 2025 **webinar, *The Power of Words – Strengthening Tourism Through Inclusive Communication***, hosted in partnership with **UN Tourism**.

[Download Here](https://www.iglta.org/foundation/travel-safety-guide/)

<https://www.iglta.org/foundation/travel-safety-guide/>



LGBTQ+ Travel in **BRAZIL**

Data, Insights & Strategies for Inclusive Business

Based on the IGLTA Foundation **Leadership Think Tank** held in **São Paulo**, this report outlines six strategic pillars for equitable tourism growth.

Informed by **a survey of more than 400 respondents**, the study highlights Brazil's leadership potential in advancing LGBTQ+ inclusive business practices.

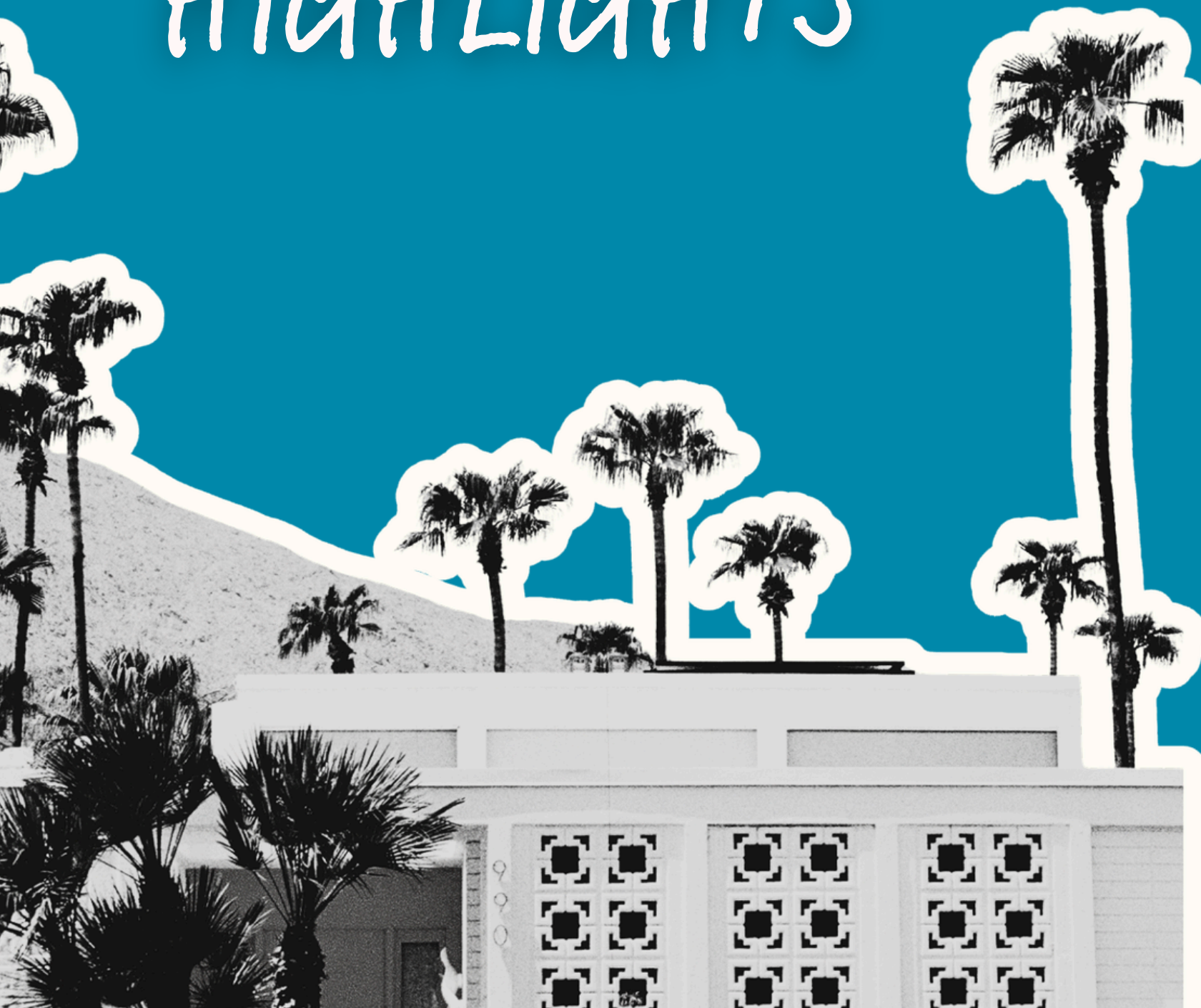




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2025 GLOBAL CONVENTION

HIGHLIGHTS





Pre-Convention Engagement:

In collaboration with Travel Unity, Visit Greater Palm Springs, and College of the Desert, the Foundation engaged students entering the tourism workforce, expanding pathways for LGBTQ+ inclusive careers.

FutureShapers & Innovators Programs:

Showcased mentorship and leadership pipelines, including the LGBTQIA+ Travel Innovators Program.



Leadership Think Tank:

Convened with support from Simpleview to explore systemic change and long-term strategies for inclusive tourism

Impact Award: Presented by Destination Toronto.



IEC Youth Travel Session:

Addressed challenges faced by 2SLGBTQIA+ youth traveling, studying, and working abroad.

Voyage Fundraiser:

Hosted at the Dinah Shore Estate, raising more than US\$120,000.





Convention Fellowships:

Five LGBTQ+ leaders received Convention Fellowships, strengthening global representation and leadership.

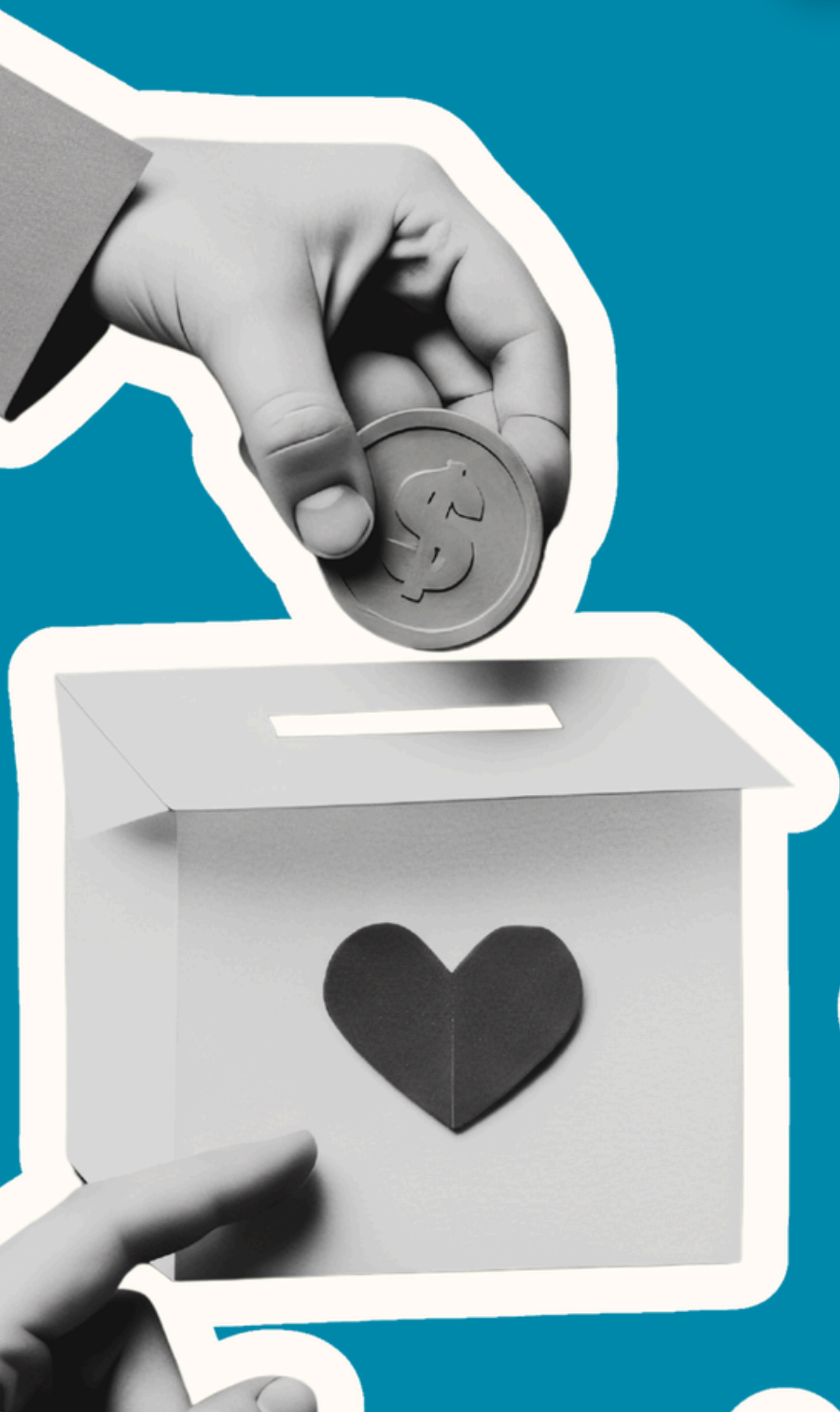


Global Debut of the **Trans & Gender Diverse Traveler Guide.**





FUNDRAISING & STRATEGIC VISIBILITY



IPW Pride Reception

More than **800 attendees** joined the IGLTA Foundation Pride Reception at IPW, making it the most visible LGBTQ+ gathering at the convention. The event served as a **high-impact partnership and visibility platform**, significantly strengthening the Foundation's pipeline of destination, media, and corporate partners.



Pride Auction & CharityBuzz Campaigns

The annual Pride Auction returned on 13 June 2025 in collaboration with CharityBuzz, **reaching more than 250,000 high-net-worth bidders**. The Foundation was also selected as a beneficiary of CharityBuzz's April Global Auction, receiving direct proceeds and expanded donor visibility.



VISIT  DALLAS



SHERATON
GRAND
Rio Hotel & Resort



LOS  CABOS



HUDSON YARDS® NEW YORK THOMPSON® PALM SPRINGS

AI

AXEL HOTELS

TRS


HAYES & HAYES
OUTFITTERS

TURQUESA
HOTEL

Featured donors included WorldPride, H&H Outfitters, The Ritz-Carlton Berlin, Round Hill Hotel & Villas, Axel Hotels, Los Cabos Tourism Board, Out in the Vineyard, VIVA Cruises, Sheraton Grand Rio Hotel & Resort, Oscar Wilde Tours, Visit Dallas, Thompson Palm Springs, Hudson Yards Experiences, TRS Hotels / Palladium Hotel Group, and New York Hilton Midtown.

Recognition & Organizational Leadership

Travel Unity Awards:

Program Manager Amine Gabbouj was named a **finalist for the 2025 Travel Unity Awards**, recognizing leadership in advancing diversity and accessibility in global tourism.

Institutional Leadership:

Through global advocacy, diplomacy, and research, the Foundation strengthened its role as a trusted partner to governments, multilaterals, and the private sector.



PARTNERS & STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Key partners supporting the Foundation's work in 2025 include:



