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**COMPLETE****Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)**Started:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 10:29:06 AM**Last Modified:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 10:31:37 AM**Time Spent:** 00:02:31**IP Address:** 93.73.54.172**PAGE 1: Deadline: 1 September 2016 - 12 noon CET****Q1: Personal Details**

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**Q2: Member Organisation Nomination**

Member Organisation Name:	Gay Alliance Ukraine
Country:	Ukraine
Legal Representative Name:	Anna Leonova
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**Q3: What is your motivation to become an IGLYO board member?**

I would like to become an IGLYO board member because I want to participate in mobilizing young people against xenophobia and intolerance in Europe. Ukraine is decades behind many European nations in this regard. The level of social tension regarding LGBTIQ people in Ukraine is so high that lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender persons, queer and intersexual persons do not feel safe and comfortable in their everyday lives. A new wave of intolerance can now be observed as a result (side effect) of the Maidan protests (2013-2014) and Russian military aggression, which has empowered right-wing radical sentiments in Ukraine. In addition, right-wing groups have more than once expressed intentions for a struggle against "perverts" and for "traditional family values." I know that the strengthening of right-wing ideologies is observed in many other European countries, not only Ukraine. The concept of "traditional family values" and the right-wing ideology itself totally eliminates the concept of gender equality, tolerance, and diversity. I would welcome the opportunity to work toward counteracting these phenomena to change the situation. In my opinion, Ukraine will not be able to integrate into the EU until our society begins accepting the European standards and norms regarding life and liberty. The political situation in Ukraine has prompted me to action, and gives me hope for change and movement toward integration into the EU. There has been an increased flow of displaced people from the areas of anti-terrorist operation and annexed Crimea. This issue with IDPs in Ukraine can have similar solutions as could be found in Europe with migrants. The promotion and eventual acceptance of European values and standards will accelerate our evolution into a modern European country, with the proud name of Ukraine.

I really wish to make my contribution to the developments of human rights for LGBTIQ in Europe, share my experience on how to mobilize LGBTI Youth, tell more about working for the non-governmental sector, and share on the complexities of how these organizations interact to solve problems.

It is important for me to hear the problems of young people from other countries and their experiences in solving them in Eastern Europe specifically, as this knowledge will help me become better equipped to deal with social inclusion issues, innovations, and approaches in working with youth. I also want to share my own experience on increasing tolerance and eradicating stigma towards different minorities or discriminated/marginalized groups. Finally, I intend to participate meaningfully in local, national, and international anti-discrimination campaigns. In cooperation with other experienced LGBTI activists, I intend to learn more on sustainable change in government management based on European experience, and how NGOs can help spur such change.

**Q4: Tell us about your experience in LGBTIQ activism (including any involvement with IGLYO, if applicable). Please include details about projects and events you were involved in, detailing your role and responsibilities in them.**

As a volunteer, I have been involved in LGBTIQ activism since 2013 in performing various activities of Zaporizhia Regional Charitable Foundation "Gender Z", becoming a member in 2014.

I have been working directly with LGBTIQ youth in Zaporizhia Oblast (the region in the Southeastern Ukraine). I carried out different activities including training sessions, workshops, mobilizing events on topics such as anti-discrimination, gender equality, sexual health, safe behavior, effective communication, and youth activism and empowerment.

In May 2014, I assisted in the organizing of a successful flash mob on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

In January 2015, I helped organize the School of Tolerance for young LGBTIQ activists, and conducted various training sessions. 25 young activists from among the local LGBT community took part in it. Under my leadership, the inspiring commercials named "Ordinary People" about tolerance toward LGBTIQ people was filmed in 2015 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLCKH-FnaTc>). Soon it was posted on the IDAHOT international human rights organization's website. Also a captured frame from this video (with two workshop participants) was chosen as a poster for international #ThisValentine 2015 campaign, which aimed to strengthen support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people all over the world in their right to love. Later in 2015, this video won the II Prize at the Festival of Social Advertisement "Molodiya" in the Gender Equality category.

In my everyday work at "Gender Zed", I deal mainly with members of the LGBT community.

Since May 2015 I have been a program director of an all-Ukrainian Public Organization, "Gay Alliance Ukraine". Among our organization's goals is the development of democratic civil society. Another is improving the treatment of LGBTIQ people by the state and society in general in Ukraine. We have developed and implemented an advocacy strategy for these goals. All activities of the organization are also included in the media strategy of LGBTIQ movement of Ukraine. These strategies helped with the adaptation of the anti-discrimination issue in the Labour Codex last autumn, and it will help us to include anti-discrimination issues into the Ukrainian Constitution and enlist the support of authorities. In the future, it will help provide the LGBTIQ community with equal rights.

Among my official responsibilities (which are described in my CV) I would like to highlight some of the projects I am currently coordinating:

- «Promoting the implementation of fundamental rights and freedoms and combating homophobia by increasing public awareness», which aims to raise awareness among the general Ukrainian society about human rights.
- "Protection and Advocacy for LGBT rights in Ukraine" in 2015-2016, which concentrating on monitoring of hate crimes based on homophobia and transphobia, within the project we provide legal counseling to people who faced discrimination.
- "Gender Social Theatre", which aims to promote gender equality within the Ukrainian society via art.
- "An integrated approach to improve the situation with human rights for LGBT", which aims primarily to mobilize the LGBT community and raise awareness about their rights.

Gay Alliance Ukraine is the key organization which holds the main national LGBT events in Ukraine, such as KyivPride and OdessaPride, which attract society's attention to LGBT issues each year and pushes our PCs to pay attention to homophobia and transphobia in Ukraine. We have a network of friendly mass-media which highly influences authorities and helps to form a more positive attitude toward the LGBT community.

I am on the organizing committee of the Annual National Conference of LGBT-movement and MSM-service of Ukraine. For the past two years, we have been responsible for the pre-conference for young (under age 30) LGBTIQ activists.

I am also a team member of "KyivPride", and the only organizer for two years of the "School of Young Activists" within KyivPride events.

I am a member of American Embassy Youth Council 2016, and responsible for educational activities on Empowering Ukrainian Identity for Youth in Ukraine.

Above all, I am a gender expert within my organization, with a focus on transgender and intersex issues. I have been, and remain, a trainer on human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination, and a mentor for young LGBTIQ people.

**Q5: From the list below, please select the top three skills you would like to contribute with.**

Leadership, Event Management,  
Public Speaking/Presentations

**Q6: Please give one real life example for each of the choices above to demonstrate your experience in each.**

**Leadership.** Leadership, for me, is like art. It is the possibility to guide others by providing them your own experience, skills, time, energy, and emotional intelligence so that they can realize their full potential, both personally and professionally. Currently, "information overload" is all around us. A good leader should know how to simplify information, and true leaders are always helpful in all situations.

During the Annual Conference of LGBT-movement and MSM-service of Ukraine we have the survey on the most influential leaders of Ukrainian movement, and this year I've ranked fifth.

Also was chosen this year for American Embassy Youth Council as a first ever member to represent Ukrainian LGBT community.

**Event management.** In autumn 2015 (25-27 September) I organized the First festival of social theatres. The aim of the festival was to collide gender social theatres and other types of social theatres. I see great potential in mutual cooperation between these two groups, and that was confirmed during the Festival when other social theatres showed interest in including gender equality issues into their plays.

Ten various social theatres participated, each working with a vulnerable social group - women feel discriminated against, LGBT, internally displaced people, HIV-positive people, and disabled people. More than 70 people took part.

The festival program was varied: presentations of the theatres, performances by the troupes, discussions, master classes, and trainings.

After the First festival of social theatres came to conclusion, it was obvious to me that the project should be continued, and expand its network to other initiative groups.

**Public Speaking/Presentation.**

In 2015 I participated in one of the first open exhibitions about LGBTI people in Ukraine, in Ukraine's most famous art gallery, "PinchukArtCenter". (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ANALwChsLg> )

Patriots, Citizens, Lovers... (2015), by the 2014 Future Generation Art Prize winner Carlos Motta, was developed in conversation with Ukrainian journalist Maxim Ivanukha and is composed of ten urgent interviews with Ukrainian LGBTI and queer activists, who discuss the critical and dire situation of lesbian, gay, trans, and intersex lives in Ukraine in time of war.

The exhibition was open for over 6 months, where I was speaking openly about Ukrainian LGBTI citizens who are vulnerable targets of a violent homophobic rhetoric, and who remain largely under-recognized in a context that deems sexual and gender issues minor in light of the serious Ukrainian economic and political crisis. Social invisibility, physical and psychological abuse, political violence, and a deeply patriarchal culture frame the context for the difficult work of LGBTI activists who denounce discrimination and demand the transformation of the system. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG52qrKqk7I>)

**Q7: Being on the IGLYO board requires a commitment of around 10 hours a week for two years. How would you manage this role on top of other commitments and continue to contribute for your full mandate?**

At the moment I am employed on a part-time basis. I do not bind to the office and / or office schedule.

I have vast experience in managing multiple projects simultaneously, and I am able to prioritize and fully implement all my obligations without difficulty.