

## Key Note Speakers

### Michelle Cilia (she/her)

Michelle Cilia graduated with a Diploma in Nursing in year 2000, a Degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) Nursing Studies in 2009, a Masters of Health Science in 2013 and Diploma in Social Studies (Gender & Development) in 2016. For the first twelve years of her career, she worked as a state registered nurse in various clinical settings including the A&E dept, surgical wards and paediatrics. In 2012, she was promoted to deputy/acting charge nurse, and she led the Woman & Child, and School Health Service teams within Primary Health Care for the following 7 years. Michelle joined the Gender Wellbeing Clinic team in 2018, and is now working full time as the charge nurse of this clinic. Her main role is to coordinate the biopsychosocial services for the transgender persons in the Maltese islands, as well as to engage in staff training, awareness and education.

### Profs. Joz Motmans (he/him)

Profs. Joz Motmans is visiting professor of Gender Studies at Ghent University and teaches a course on "Gender and Diversity". As a psychologist and social scientist, his research focuses on LGBTIQ+ studies, new social movements, legal gender recognition, equality and emancipation, health and quality of life, transgender families, gender non-binary persons, and social attitudes towards gender and sexual minorities. In 2012, Joz installed the Flemish TransgenderInfo Point in the Center for Sexology & Gender in the Ghent University Hospital, a free support, information, and expertise centre on transgender issues. He is also a founding board member and current president-elect of the European Professional Association for Transgender Health ([www.epath.eu](http://www.epath.eu)). Together with colleagues, Joz published the "ESSM Position Statement: Assessment and hormonal management in adolescent and adult trans people, with attention for sexual function and satisfaction" which was published in the Journal of Sexual Medicine (free download at [https://www.jsm.jsexmed.org/article/S1743-6095\(20\)30045-X/pdf](https://www.jsm.jsexmed.org/article/S1743-6095(20)30045-X/pdf)), and has published on aspects of language and ethics in transgender research and patient involvement in research. Joz is co-chapter lead of the new upcoming chapter on gender non-binary and co-edited the special issue on gender non-binary

### Dr. Cianán Russell (they/them)

Cianán joined ILGA-Europe in 2019. They started LGBTI activism in the US in 1996, and has previously worked with the Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance (USA), the Asia Pacific Transgender Network, and Transgender Europe. They have a Ph.D. in chemistry from Purdue University and served on the teaching faculty at Georgia Institute of Technology from 2008-2013. Personally, they run a support space for transmasculine and nonbinary survivors of sexual assault and rape.

## Moderators

### Gabriella Calleja (she/her)

Gabriella Calleja is the Head of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIGESC) Unit within the Human Rights Directorate in the Ministry for Equality, Research & Innovation. She served as the Chair of Malta's LGBTIQ Consultative Council between 2015 and 2020. She was the Coordinator of the Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement between 2007 and June 2018 and has been involved in advocacy work, policy development, strategic planning, training and capacity building, awareness raising and support to the LGBTIQ community since 2003. She served on the ILGA-Europe executive board between 2010 and 2014, three of those years as co-chair.

### Dr. Marceline Naudi (she/her)

Marceline Naudi is an activist and an academic. She is a social worker by profession and a member of the Department of Gender and Sexualities, at the University of Malta. She lectures and supervises student research on gender issues, violence against women, LGBTIQ+ and other anti-oppressive issues at Diploma, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level. She is active on the issues of gender equality and violence against women, LGBTIQ+, as well as wider human rights issues, both in Malta and in Europe. She is also an elected member of GREVIO, the Council of Europe monitoring body of the Istanbul Convention.

### Panelists

#### Dr. Mario J Cachia (he/him)

Dr Mario J Cachia is a Consultant Physician in Diabetes and Endocrinology at Mater Dei Hospital and a Visiting Senior Lecturer with the Department of Medicine at the Malta Medical School. He is the Clinical Lead at the Gender Wellbeing Clinic run by the Maltese National Health Service.

Dr Cachia studied at the University Of Malta Medical School and then furthered his interest in Diabetes and Endocrinology at King's College Hospital, London working with Dr Peter Watkins and Professor Mike Edmonds and Professor Diego Vergani. Here he developed an interest in foot problems related to diabetes, particularly the Charcot foot. On his return to Malta, he set up the Diabetes Foot Services Clinic with the main interest being Charcot Neuroarthropathy. He was appointed the Clinical Lead of the Gender Wellbeing Clinic at its inception and was a member of the multidisciplinary team which set up and developed the parameters for the operation and conduct of the clinic within the confines of the relevant law. The clinic started to see the first clients in November 2018.

#### Profs. Karlien Dhondt (she/her)

Profs. Karlien Dhondt is a Professor Child & Adolescent psychiatry at Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium. She is a leading physician in the paediatric somnology and in the health care of gender diverse children and adolescents at Ghent University Hospital. She is consultant as well as supervisor. She was trained as a physician and a child & adolescent psychiatrist in the Catholic University of Leuven from 1990 until 1997, respectively from 1997 until 2003. She started working in the Ghent University Hospital from 2005 until today. In 2015 she received her PhD from the Ghent University. Besides a significant clinical experience in paediatric sleep, she also continued her research in that field. She published in international peer reviewed journals, has reviewed manuscripts for different professional journals, published several book chapters in professional books and coaches (doctoral) students.

Her general area of sleep research has been the description, elucidation of pathophysiology and treatment of sleep disorders in children, especially in paediatric/child psychiatric conditions. In addition, she is also involved in the research on nocturia in adults.

As a supervisor and coordinator of the paediatric gender team, she is involved in clinical activities as well as in scientific research regarding gender diverse children and adolescents. Psychosocial factors and psychiatric complexities in this research group are of her main interests, but broader topics including epidemiology, longitudinal follow up and hormonal, surgical treatment are also relevant and are elaborated in collaboration with the Centre for Gender and Sexology of the Ghent University Hospital.

She was consulted by the scientific board of EPATH (European Professional Association Transgender Health) and she was invited in scientific advisory boards on the topic of sleep and nocturia/nocturnal enuresis (2015-2017, resp. Ferring Denmark, Kimberly-Clarke London).

As a staff member (2015) of the medical ethics committee, that is housing in the Ghent University Hospital, she focusses on ethical questions regarding children and adolescents in complex conditions as well as in research proposals.

Since 2019, she is an official member of the Royal Academy of Medicine, Belgium (KAGB); and represents the child & adolescent discipline in organizing national symposia, in the role of jury on research proposals.

#### Richard Koehler (he/him)

Richard Koehler oversees TGEUs policy and advocacy work at the European level and has been a trans activist for more than a decade. Starting with TGEU as a member of the steering committee he has continuously initiated change to develop the structure and policy of TGEU drawing from his wide experience in international project management and NGO consultancy. Richard holds a degree in Law in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (LL.M). He has a background in International Business Administration with specialisation on NGOs in Russian-speaking countries.



**Dr. Jason Bonnici (he/him)**

Dr Jason Bonnici is a Specialist in Family Medicine and a Fellow of the Malta College of Family Doctors. He is the Honorary Secretary of both the Malta College of Family Doctors and the Association of Private Family Doctors. He is a GP Trainer within the Specialist Training Programme for Specialists in Family Medicine since its start in 2007, and teaches undergraduate medical students in the clinical attachments in family medicine within the Department of Family Medicine of the University of Malta.

**Colette Farrugia Bennett (she/her)**

Colette Farrugia Bennet read for a Master's Degree in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice, as well as a Master's Degree and Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from the University of Malta. She has over 15 years of experience working with individuals and families facing multiple challenges in the couple's relationship, attachment issues, and parent-adolescent relationships. Colette has specialised in the therapeutic empowerment and affirmation of diverse gender and sexual identities within the context of individual, couple and family therapy. She is also an activist for LGBTIQ rights and has been involved in the LGBTIQ movement for the past 20 years.

