



WOMEN DELIVER 2026

BREAKING SILOS AS A FEMINIST IMPERATIVE AND QUEER REALITIES IN FEMINIST SPACES

Hosted by [ILGA World](#), [ILGA Oceania](#) and [Outright International](#), this session explored the lived realities of LGBTQ+ individuals within feminist and SRHR movements, while interrogating the structural and political silos that continue to limit meaningful inclusion.

My lived reality as a queer person within feminist movements:

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I started out organizing within the LGBTQ movement and realised that a lot of the work was geared toward only some members of the community. And so we co-founded a queer women's organisation where we could advocate with and for queer women in their fullness. One strategy we had hoped to use in order to amplify the issues of queer women was partnering and working directly with national feminist coalitions. We applied for membership and while it eventually was approved, it wasn't an easy process. While the feminist coalition had a mandate to work with and for women, there were members who didn't see the issues of queer women as women's issues. And so even after we were accepted there were still challenges when it came to working together.

Navigating being queer in the feminist movement has been highly dependent on the type of movement and individual privileges one possesses. Coming from the Caribbean, a selectively conservative region, there have been many moments of joy to be found in feminist spaces and also many instances of erasure and silencing.

First the joy: Many queer people have found allies and family within feminist movements. Especially within younger generations there is a true understanding and appreciation of intersectionality, the power of difference in the movement and the fact that we're not going to win if we aren't in this together. Queer people in the region also continue to challenge the movement in many necessary ways.

But there have been significant challenges where the feminist movement historically has not always been welcoming to queer people because of the feeling that queer issues complicate the mandate of the movement or reduce the likelihood that the issues the movement puts forward will be taken seriously. There's an expectation that queer people can join the movement and contribute but hide their queerness and assimilate so as to not damage the appearances of the movement. There are also several instances of the efforts and work of queer people toward feminist movements not being acknowledged.

Privilege also plays a big role as in many ways the feminist movement can still be highly represented by academia and theory and therefore not accessible to everyone. The biggest gaps in representation and inclusion then tend to reflect what is palatable and accepted and what does not challenge – which of course is not representative of the queer community in its fullness.

I think it is important to name this in the feminist movements we exist in, and to, as bravely as possible – and where possible – not hide our identities in these movements even in the face of discomfort. Also understanding that this is not possible for all queer people so for the ones with the privilege and power to do so – to do so.