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GLAAD partners with 2014 Gay Games

GLAAD's partnership with the Gay Games comes at a time when Olympic LGBT athletes and visitors could face legal repercussions just for being who they are

NEW YORK – As athletes gather in Sochi, Russia, where anti-gay laws have persecuted the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, GLAAD is proud to announce a partnership with the 2014 Gay Games, the world's largest inclusive multi-sport event this year.

GLAAD's partnership extends its long-time involvement in supporting LGBT athletes, calling on leagues to support LGBT people and advocating positive media attention around LGBT inclusiveness in sports.

Through the new partnership with the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation, GLAAD will strengthen the outreach and Gay Games help participants share their inspirational stories, while building partnerships with LGBT sports organizations.

The Gay Games stands in contrast to other global sporting events. Held every four years since 1982, the Games are open to all adults regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. An estimated 10,000 participants are expected to be involved in the 35-plus sporting events this August 9-16 in Cleveland and Akron, Ohio.

"We have seen over the last several months, especially around the Olympics, how vitally important it is to have LGBT inclusion in sports. Our partnership with the Gay Games will give LGBT athletes the platform to tell their stories to the mainstream media and talk about their love of sports. It is only by highlighting these athletes that we shift the culture, both within sports, but across the globe, to a place of wider acceptance."

Sarah Kate Ellis, President and CEO of GLAAD

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"From high-profile LGBT athletes like Jason Collins or Brittney Griner to recreational and student athletes, GLAAD is committed to ensuring equality is a part of sports. Its work marries well with the mission of the 2014 Gay Games – Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™. It's not about how many medals someone wins, equality in sports is about allowing people to play in inclusive and welcoming environments."

Steve Sokany, co-chair, 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation



About GLAAD

GLAAD amplifies the voice of the LGBT community by empowering real people to share their stories, holding the media accountable for the words and images they present, and helping grassroots organizations communicate effectively. By ensuring that the stories of LGBT people are heard through the media, GLAAD promotes understanding, increases acceptance and advances equality.

www.glaad.org | www.facebook.com/glaad | www.twitter.com/glaad

About the Gay Games

The Gay Games is an international sporting and cultural event held every four years under the founding principles of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™. Launched in 1982, the Games invite participation from everybody, regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political beliefs, athletic or artistic ability, age, physical challenge or health status.

The Games are intended to bring a global community together in friendship, to experience participation, to elevate consciousness and self-esteem, and to achieve a form of cultural and intellectual synergy. The Gay Games is open to anyone 18 years or older. About 10 percent of participants are from outside the LGBT community.

The 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation will be August 9-16, 2014, in venues around Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, in the United States. More than 35 sports and culture events will be held, with more than 10,000 people from more than 60 countries expected to participate.

GG9CLE.com | [facebook.com/GayGamesCleveland](https://www.facebook.com/GayGamesCleveland) | www.twitter.com/GG9Cleveland

See the 30-second video debuting during Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony (in select markets): <http://bit.ly/GG9GoAllOutUSA>

About the Cleveland Foundation

The Cleveland Foundation is the world's first community foundation and one of the largest today, with assets of \$1.86 billion and 2012 grants of \$91 million. Through the generosity of donors, the foundation improves the lives of Greater Clevelanders by building community endowment, addressing needs through grantmaking and providing leadership on vital issues.

As part of its centennial year in 2014, the Cleveland Foundation is proud to be the first presenting sponsor in Gay Games history. The foundation's support of the Games continues its long-standing commitment to social justice and inclusion.

For more information on the Cleveland Foundation:

ClevelandFoundation.org | [@CleveFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandFoundation) | [Facebook.com/ClevelandFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandFoundation)

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