

NEWS/BUSINESS/FINANCE/LIFESTYLE EDITORS
[For Immediate Release]

Finalists of the 2019 Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Awards Announced

Hong Kong, 19 March 2019 – Community Business, a leading not-for-profit organisation advancing responsible and inclusive business practices in Asia, today announced the finalists associated with its leading **2019 Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Awards**. The winners of the Awards, as well as the top corporates and SMEs in the **2019 Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Index**, will be announced at the fundraising Gala Dinner to be held on 14 May 2019 at Hotel Icon, in commemoration of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT).

The 2019 Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Index, first launched in 2015, is Asia's first benchmark on corporate policies and practices for creating inclusive workplaces for LGBT+ employees. The Index is offered every two years, while the Awards are made on an annual basis. This year 61 organisations have participated in the Index, varying from large multinationals to small NGOs. They represent multiple industries, including financial services, hospitality, technology, legal, media, properties and the third sector. Also established in 2015, the LGBT+ Inclusion Awards celebrate efforts to promote LGBT+ equality and inclusion in the workplace and community and provide an important platform for the finalists and winners to promote and amplify their meaningful efforts. The award nominations have been assessed based on the extent to which they are strategic, proactive, impactful, sustainable and paying it forward.

"I am delighted to see such a high calibre of nominations received across all categories. The strong commitment of these nominees reflects the increasingly central role that LGBT+ inclusion is playing in corporate D&I strategies. While there is much to be done before we reach true equality in Hong Kong, we are incredibly proud to have the opportunity to celebrate these achievements within the community. I wish all the finalists the best of luck and look forward to the winners' announcement in May." said **Fern Ngai, CEO of Community Business**.

1. LGBT+ Network Award sponsored by HSBC

To recognise an employee network that has played a proactive role in promoting LGBT+ inclusion demonstrating strong engagement with, and commitment to, local Hong Kong LGBT+ employees.
Eligibility: An LGBT+ employee network based in Hong Kong

Finalists (listed alphabetically by organisation)

- **Credit Suisse**, Hong Kong LGBT Open Network
- **J.P. Morgan**, PRIDE Hong Kong
- **Morgan Stanley**, Asia Pride and Allies

2. LGBT+ Executive Sponsor Award sponsored by Nomura

To recognise a senior business executive sponsor based in Hong Kong who has spoken up and used his/her influence to promote LGBT+ inclusion in the workplace and beyond in Hong Kong.

Eligibility: A senior business executive based in Hong Kong who is not in a line Diversity & Inclusion role

Finalists (listed alphabetically by first name)

- **Peter Picton-Phillipps**, EY
- **Rachael Shek**, Eversheds Sutherland
- **Sanjeev Chatrath**, Global Business Executive

3. LGBT+ Inclusion Champion Award sponsored by Eversheds Sutherland

To recognise an LGBT+ employee based in Hong Kong who has taken proactive and effective steps to promote an LGBT+ inclusive culture in the workplace and beyond in Hong Kong.

Eligibility: An LGBT+ employee (any level) based in Hong Kong

Finalists (listed alphabetically by first name)

- **Louis Ng**, Fidelity International
- **Michael Lam**, Goldman Sachs
- **Rob Head**, Thomson Reuters

4. LGBT+ Ally Award sponsored by Morgan Stanley

To recognise a non-LGBT+ individual who has demonstrated personal passion and commitment to promoting LGBT+ inclusion in the workplace and beyond in Hong Kong.

Eligibility: An employee (at any level) who does not identify as LGBT+, based in Hong Kong and who is not in a line Diversity & Inclusion role

Finalists (listed alphabetically by first name)

- **Byron Phillips**, Hogan Lovells
- **Imaan Bhatia**, HSBC
- **Marta Bezoari**, PIMCO Asia
- **Sudesh Thevasenabathy**, AXA Hong Kong

5. LGBT+ Community Impact Award sponsored by Goldman Sachs

To recognise a community-based LGBT+ initiative that has had a significant positive impact in promoting LGBT+ inclusion in Hong Kong.

Eligibility: An initiative led by a not-for-profit organisation in Hong Kong

Finalists (listed alphabetically by organisation)

- **Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China**, A Woman is a Woman
- **Blessed Ministry Community Church**, Living Your True Self 活出真我
- **Planet Ally**, Asia-Pacific Rainbow Families Forum

Biographies for each finalist can be found [here](#).

To assist with the selection of the final winner for each award, Community Business has convened [a judging panel](#) comprising of external experts from academia or the relevant field, a senior executive from the award sponsor and two judges from Community Business. The final winners for each award will be announced at the prestigious Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Gala Dinner where over 300 guests will celebrate and acknowledge leadership and commitment to LGBT+ inclusion. To commemorate IDAHOT, guests are encouraged to wear a flair of Pride with their black-tie attire. Tickets for this fundraising event are selling fast.

For details about the 2019 Hong Kong LGBT+ Inclusion Index and the associated Awards, please click [here](#).

– End –

Community Business is a not-for-profit organisation (Hong Kong Charity Number 91/6560) whose mission is to lead, inspire and support businesses to have a positive impact on people and communities. A recognised leader in advancing responsible and inclusive business practices in Asia, Community Business facilitates networks, conducts research and events, leads programmes and campaigns and provides training and consulting. Our focus on responsible business is aligned to four mission-led themes:

- Building responsible leadership
- Tackling workplace inequality
- Ensuring employee wellbeing
- Promoting social inclusion

Falling underneath the tackling workplace inequality theme, Community Business' 'Creating Inclusive Workplace for LGBT+ Employees' Campaign, launched in 2008, has been a long-term and sustained effort designed to encourage and support companies to put LGBT+ inclusion firmly on their corporate agenda.

The campaign aims to:

- Raise awareness of LGBT+ inclusion as a business issue
- Increase understanding of LGBT+ issues from an Asian perspective
- Encourage and support companies to create inclusive workplaces for their LGBT+ employees in Asia
- Advocate for positive change in wider society

Founded in 2003 and based in Hong Kong with a presence in India and the United Kingdom, Community Business works with companies of all sizes and from diverse industries across Asia, harnessing the power of business to drive social change. For more information, please visit www.communitybusiness.org.

Media Contacts – Community Business

English Enquiries

Emily Moss (莫明俐)

Senior Manager, Marketing & Communications

Tel: +852 2152-1889 | Direct: +852 2201-1869

Email: emily.moss@communitybusiness.org

Chinese Enquiries

Delorian Ko (高子盈)

Marketing & Communications Associate

Tel: +852 2152-1889 | Direct: +852 2201-1822

Email: delorian.ko@communitybusiness.org