Notices of Business – 2019 SGLMG AGM

Reviewing Corporate Sponsors of Mardi Gras on Human Rights Grounds

1. This meeting recommends that the Board move to condemn 2019 Mardi Gras sponsors:
   a. Gilead for price gouging of PrEP in the US.
   b. Qantas for their role in deporting refugees back to danger
   c. ANZ for their role in arms deals and investment in weapons
2. This meeting recommends that the Board create an ethics charter for corporate sponsorship in consultation with the community and the members.

Preamble

Mardi Gras needs to review its corporate partnerships on human rights grounds. We should not be making friends with industries responsible for the denial of life-saving medication to the queer community for profit, the violations of refugee rights, for the destruction of the planet, for the proliferation of war. We can do better.

We cannot imagine why Mardi Gras allowed the company Gilead to be a sponsor of our parade in 2019, when they are responsible for the price gouging of PrEP in the US. This inhumane and unethical price increase of up to $2000 per treatment has resulted in denying vital healthcare and HIV reduction to the LGBTQIA+ community. How can we let a company profiting off of denying life-saving medication to our community march in a parade celebrating us?

Furthermore, one of the worst atrocities committed against LGBTQIA+ people today is Australia’s treatment of refugees. These are people who’ve fled war and persecution or death for their identity. Many have been locked on Manus or Nauru, where homosexuality is still illegal, for years and years on end, with no light at the end of the tunnel. They’ve faced beatings and have little or no access to healthcare. Some are on their deathbeds. Some have been forcibly sent back to their executions in their countries of origin.

Mardi Gras has allied with big corporations who are active participants in Australia’s treatment of refugees. Qantas willingly deports refugees on behalf of the Australian government.

It is up to all of us in the LGBTQIA+ community to make some noise about this. It is unthinkable for us to sit by and do nothing.

See next page for original submission.
25.10.2019

To: company.secretary@mardigrasarts.org.au

The Company Secretary
Matthew Hall

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Preamble:

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It is up to all of us in the LGBTQIA+ community to make some noise about this. It is unthinkable for us to sit by and do nothing.

That the Board move to:

1. Condemn Mardi Gras 2019 sponsor Gilead for price gouging of PrEP in the US, therefore denying vital healthcare and HIV reduction to the LGBTQIA+ community

2. Condemn Mardi Gras 2019 sponsor Qantas for their role in deporting refugees back to danger

3. Condemn Mardi Gras 2019 sponsor ANZ for their role in arms deals and investment in weapons fuelling international wars and imperialism
4. Through consultation with the community and the members, create an ethics charter for corporate sponsorship to ensure transparent and ethical sponsorship practices going forward.

Proposed by: Bridget Harilaou

Signature: 

Membership No: 47631596

Seconded by: Dave Urquhart

Signature: 

Membership No: 1978 - 014