

Maria Sjödin



Maria has been a leader in the LGBTIQ movement for 25 years, first in her home country, Sweden, and for over a decade in the international movement. They joined Outright International in 2014 and was appointed executive director in 2022.

Maria was previously Outright's deputy executive director, leading the work of the development and communications teams. In this position, they oversaw a period of extraordinary growth in visibility, diversification, and increased funding. They also launched groundbreaking initiatives, such as Outright's COVID-19 Global LGBTIQ Emergency Fund and pioneering engagement with international businesses.

Maria previously served as Executive Director of RFSL, Sweden's largest LGBTIQ organization. While in this position, Maria established RFSL's international program, played a key role in ensuring that the human rights of LGBTIQ people become ingrained in the Swedish government's agenda for development and foreign affairs, advocated for marriage equality (achieved in 2009), and the abolishment of forced sterilization of trans people as a requirement for legal gender recognition (outlawed in 2013).