



Global Philanthropy Project Position Paper For distribution to funders and policy-makers attending Women Deliver 2019 May 2019

Rising conservative, fundamentalist and anti-rights movements are united in their attacks against women, girls, lesbian, bisexual, trans, queer, and intersex communities, human rights defenders and others who don't conform to their vision of what constitutes the family, identity, and society. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) movements and women's movements intersect and are united by the experience of retrogressive laws, policies, practices and attacks that are rooted in patriarchy and control of sexuality, and which deny agency to certain sections of the population. To truly achieve gender equity and equality, all people must be able to make choices about their lives and bodies regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics; and must be able to live free from stigma, discrimination, and violence.

LGBTQI rights, women's rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) movements are all facing and resisting attacks from state and non-state actors alike. Together, there is an urgent need for progressive global funders to dramatically ramp up support for grassroots-led, gender transformative, and root cause approaches to realizing gender equality within and across LGBTQI, women and adolescent girls' rights, and SRHR movements.

The [Global Philanthropy Project](#) (GPP), a collaboration of 19 of the world's leading philanthropic funders of LGBTI rights [including several women's funds], works to expand global support to advance the human rights of LGBTI people in the Global South and East. Established in 2009, GPP's member organizations account for almost 40% of global LGBTI grantmaking¹, providing more than US\$90 million of funding in 2015-2016.

Through producing the leading bi-annual tracking resource on global LGBTI grantmaking, [The Global Resources Report](#)², along with other field-focused research³ and regular convenings of donors and activists, GPP has strong insight into opportunities for donors to have impact and address critical resource gaps in the global movement for LGBTI human rights and inclusive development.

In the lead up to important discussions about gender equality financing at Women Deliver 2019, and building on a range of research and consultations with partners and local civil society organizations, GPP recommends that funders committed to achieving gender equality prioritize:

¹Excluding funding in the US and Canada.

² 2015-2016 *Global Resources Report: Philanthropic and Government Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities*. (Funders for LGBTQ Issues and Global Philanthropy Project, 2018) <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/2018/04/17/grr15-16/>

³ Please see <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/research/> for a comprehensive range of research projects by GPP and our members.

Increasing support for lesbian, bisexual, queer women, transgender and intersex (LBQTI) issues.

According to the *2015-16 Global Resources Report*, only 3% of global LGBTI funding outside of the US was specifically directed to lesbian, bisexual, and queer (LBQ) women. Trans communities received 11% of total funding outside of the US, and intersex communities less than 1%. This lack of funding equity within the global LGBTI field means that across the world more than three-quarters of intersex organizations⁴ and more than half of trans organizations⁵ operate on an annual budget of less than US\$10,000. Preliminary research suggests a similar reality for LBQ communities, with almost half of LBQ organizations working with an annual budget of less than US\$10,000 and 40% with less than US\$5,000.⁶ Addressing these historical funding inequities by identifying LBQTI issues as a priority and committing to strategies that support LBQTI-led organizations is critical for inclusion and addressing rights violations that LBQTI people experience that are rooted in gender inequalities.

Funding at the intersection of women's rights and LGBTQI liberation movements

Funders often address women's rights and LGBTQI issues in separate program areas, but both activists as well as opponents to the rights of women and LGBTQI people know that these issues are deeply connected. For example, "gender ideology" or "anti-gender" movements in many parts of the world seek to halt progress on women's and LGBTQI rights by targeting marriage, gender identity, abortion, and birth control, claiming to protect family values while promoting retrograde notions about gender roles. Many LBQTI and women's rights organizations organize across movements to combat these threats, creating powerful opportunities to build solidarity. By supporting groups that are concerned with both women's and LBQTI rights, funders can help build stronger bases of support to combat these anti-gender forces. LBQTI activists are often on the frontlines and in leadership of feminist movements, but often don't receive support for this work. For example, while many trans and intersex groups around the world engage in feminist organizing, only 9% of trans groups and 18% of intersex groups received women's rights funding in 2014-2016.⁷

Resourcing the self-determined needs and priorities identified by LBQTI movements across the world.

LBQTI people, through social justice movements, organizations, and other mechanisms of civil society, must play the lead role in shaping the path toward a world that is free of violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics. Crucial to this is drawing on the expertise of Global South- and East-based LBQTI organizations in the

⁴ *State of Intersex Organizing (2nd Edition)*, page 6. (American Jewish World Service, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice & GATE, 2017). <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/2017/10/31/the-state-of-intersex-organizing-2nd-edition-and-the-state-of-trans-organizing-2nd-edition/>

⁵ *State of Trans Organizing (2nd Edition)*, page 6. (American Jewish World Service, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice & GATE, 2017). (Same link as above)

⁶ Forthcoming research by Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Mama Cash, and Feminist Solutions towards Global Justice (FemJust).

⁷ Text slightly modified from the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice *Feminist Funding Principles*. <http://astraeafoundation.org/microsites/feminist-funding-principles/#two>

development and implementation of funding opportunities. We encourage funders to draw on the expertise of established funding infrastructure within international LBQTI movements, particularly community-led funds in the Global South and East (such as UHAI: The East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative), funds that are led by and for the communities that they serve (such as the International Trans Fund and International Human Rights Fund), and women's funds, which often play the role of bridging LBQTI and women's rights movements and donors (such as the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Mama Cash, and Urgent Action Funds).

Funding regions, subregions, and countries that receive less funding.

Movements for LBQTI human rights and inclusive development are truly global, with advances or pushbacks in one country yielding implications for others in the same region and beyond. The growth of LBQTI movements in every part of the world is accelerating these advances and pushbacks, placing greater emphasis on the importance of funders coordinating, and being driven by evidence, to ensure that LBQTI movements and communities across the world have the resources they need, not just in the countries that receive the most attention of the international community.

Over the two-year period of 2015-2016, for every US\$100 of international aid and assistance from government and multilateral donors, less than four cents explicitly focused on LGBTI issues.⁸ LGBTI organizations, especially those in the Global South and East, have tremendous potential to make meaningful human rights gains but lack sufficient support for their work. It is crucial that in delivering this funding, private, public and government donors and partners must prioritize ensuring that the maximum amount of resources directly reach local and regional organizations and equality movements working on the frontlines of advancing the rights of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

Existing funding gaps can be addressed by investing in areas that currently receive less support, whether from governments, foundations or individual donors. For example, less than US\$6 million was awarded for LGBTI issues in West Africa in 2015-16, with 40% of that funding awarded in one country. In comparison, while still insufficient, both East Africa and Southern Africa received more than US\$13 million each in funding.⁹

Committing to "do no harm."

Any funding provided by donors should advance the rights of, and not cause harm to, LGBTI people and should facilitate alliances with other advocates, including feminist and women's rights advocates, to create inclusive movements for human rights. This includes both providing flexible, long-term support to organizations (including sufficient notice of any changes in funding relationships), and ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of all grantee partners, particularly those working in high-risk environments. Committing to "do no harm" includes ensuring that any intermediary organizations funded to support LGBTI organizations have strong experience in working with LGBTI movements in other contexts and are committed to their leadership, capacity development, and long-term sustainability. There is a strong

⁸2015-2016 Global Resources Report, page 9.

⁹ 2015-2016 Global Resources Report, pages 58-9.

ecosystem of LGBTI intermediaries that have developed best practice in this area.¹⁰ Further, it involves funding organizations that meaningfully recognize intersectionality within the movement and substantiate that recognition by prioritizing funding to LBO, trans and intersex communities, as well as LGBTI communities facing multiple oppressions based on race, class, age, location, etc.

GPP regularly provides in-capital briefings, and independent research, analysis, and advice to donor governments, multilateral funding institutions, and other grantmaking organizations. We welcome you to consider the GPP and its members a thought-partner and resource and we look forward to opportunities to collaborate in support of protecting and fulfilling the human rights and dignity of all people to live free of violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.

Please feel free to contact Matthew Hart, GPP Director, at mhart@globalphilanthropyproject.org to meet with the GPP and its members at Women Deliver to discuss the current landscape for global LGBTI funding, including gaps and opportunities for meaningful investment in grassroots-led gender-transformative and root cause approaches to realizing the rights and dignity of all LGBTQI people.

GPP Member Organizations



¹⁰ *The Road to Successful Partnerships: How governments in the Global North can effectively partner with intermediary organizations to support LGBTI communities in the Global South and East.* (Global Philanthropy Project, 2016) <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/2016/07/03/the-road-to-successful-partnerships/>