



## Public Statement

The Global Philanthropy Project (GPP<sup>1</sup>) welcomes [Leaving No One Behind: the Equal Rights Coalition \(ERC\) Global Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development](#), to be held in Vancouver, Canada from August 6-8, 2018, as an historic opportunity for government, civil society, and private and public philanthropy to work in strategic partnership to advance lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) human rights across all regions of the world.

We affirm this meeting as a vital space for “high-level diplomatic engagement, working-level collaboration, and network-building among ERC stakeholders.”<sup>2</sup>

We strongly endorse the ERC’s core commitment to close consultation and engagement with civil society, in this meeting, and throughout the ERC’s work.

And we call on this meeting to build on the important milestones from conferences in Montevideo (2016), Washington (2014), Berlin (2013), and Stockholm (2011), as well as the newest data on the state of funding for LGBTI communities around the world.

To support these goals and advance a shared vision of leveraging sustained, relevant, and accessible resources for LGBTI human rights, in advance of the *Leave No One Behind Conference*, GPP is releasing the following statement, which includes a number of recommendations to inform the discussions that will take place in Vancouver and the work of the ERC beyond the conference. These recommendations are informed by GPP’s research, input from civil society partners, and members’ experience and expertise, identifying ways in which governments and private and public philanthropy can support local, national, regional, and global movements for LGBTI human rights.

As evidenced by the ERC itself, the increasing number of governments committed to challenging homophobia, transphobia, and violence and discrimination against intersex people affirms that the rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights law apply equally to LGBTI persons. At the same time, movements to advance LGBTI human rights and make development LGBTI-inclusive are growing rapidly, necessitating an increase in resources and partnership from donor governments and private philanthropy to ensure that no one is left behind.

**GPP firmly believes that LGBTI 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.**

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<sup>1</sup> Global Philanthropy Project is a collaboration of funders and philanthropic advisors working to expand global philanthropic support to advance the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people in the Global South and East. [www.globalphilanthropyproject.org](http://www.globalphilanthropyproject.org)

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://erc.ngo/>

**Towards this goal, GPP calls on governments to take the following actions:**

- Commit to increase the amount of funding directed towards LGBTI issues, so that those at the frontlines of change have the resources they need.
- Prioritize funding the work of LGBTI organizations in the Global South and East.
- Increase funding to lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex issues.
- Increase funding attention to the multiple, intersecting populations within LGBTI communities.
- Ensure that diplomatic and funding strategies for addressing closing civil society space are LGBTI inclusive and guided by the commitment to ‘do no harm’ to LGBTI communities.
- Ensure that civil society delegates are treated as equal coalition partners in establishing more effective mechanisms for coordination, including within and through the Equal Rights Coalition.
- Reaffirm through the ERC conference that all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are applicable to all persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.
- Ensure that all ERC member governments commit to reporting LGBTI funding data to future iterations of the *Global Resources Report*.

***For each of these points, we share additional detail below:***

**Commit to increase the amount of funding directed towards LGBTI issues, so that those at the frontlines of change have the resources they need.**

Although the past few years have seen an increase, current funding for LGBTI issues remains unacceptably low. In 2015-2016, for every \$100 in international aid and assistance that governments awarded, only 4 cents explicitly focused on LGBTI issues, and for every \$100 awarded by foundations, only 17 cents was explicitly LGBTI-focused.<sup>3</sup>

**Prioritize funding the work of LGBTI organizations in the Global South and East.**

More than 70% of resources for LGBTI issues go to work in the Global North, inverse to the world’s population.<sup>4</sup> According to GPP’s latest *Global Resources Report*, funding for LGBTI issues in the Global South and East fell by \$2.3 million (8%) in 2015-6, compared to 2013-2014.<sup>5</sup> This was most stark in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia, where 2015-2016 funding levels dropped \$17 million (over 30%) from 2013-2014 level.<sup>6</sup>

Gains and losses in funding in the Global South and East are strongly influenced by government investments. As the chart below shows, the total government funding dropped by \$13.5 million between the two reporting periods. ERC members can play a key role in advocating for sustained resources for the Global South and East and continuing to ensure LGBTI communities are prioritized through rights-based programming. The 2016 GPP report, *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*, provides an overview of these diverse funding strategies.

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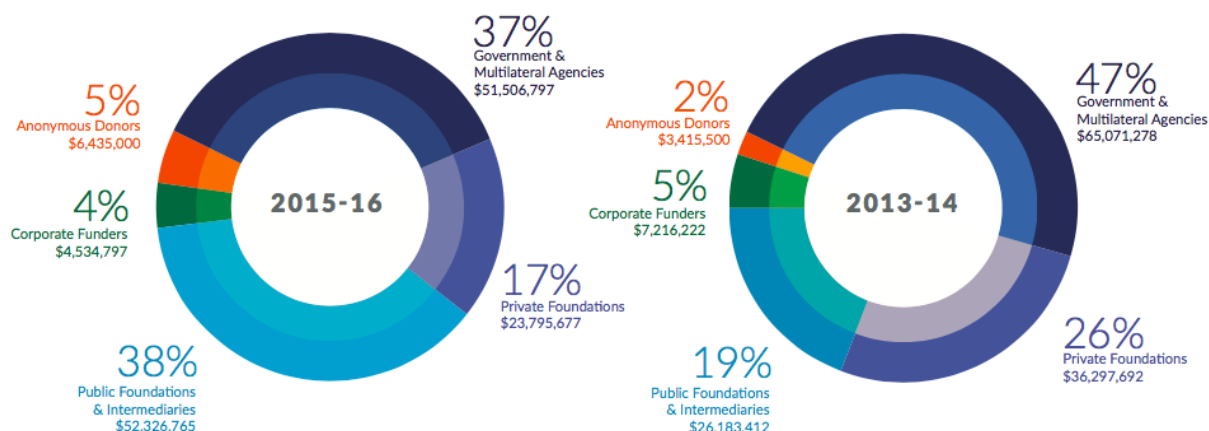
<sup>3</sup> Funders for LGBTQ Issues and Global Philanthropy Project. (2018). *2015-2016 Global Resources Report: Philanthropic and Government Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities*. Retrieved from GPP website: <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/2018/04/17/grr15-16/>. P. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., page 10.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. page 28.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., page 39.

## SOURCES OF LGBTI FUNDING FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST, 2013-2016



NOTE: This chart includes grants awarded to intermediaries for the purpose of being re-granted to other organizations.

NOTE: Figures for 2013-2014 include \$14,205,331 awarded for the Global South and East by the U.S. Government in 2014 and by the Global Equality Fund in 2014 and 2015, the only years for which these funding institutions have provided data for this report.

### **Increase funding for lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex 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 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 organizations<sup>7</sup> and more than half of trans organizations<sup>8</sup> operate on an annual budget of less than \$10,000.

### **Increase funding attention to the multiple, intersecting populations within LGBTI communities.**

This includes immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers; ethnic minorities; people with disabilities; sex workers; people who use drugs; and incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, amongst others.<sup>9</sup> LGBTI organizations addressing the diverse needs of their communities and organizations established to address these various intersection populations must both be supported towards shared and overlapping programmatic work.

### **Ensure that diplomatic and funding strategies for addressing closing civil society space are LGBTI inclusive.**

The closing space for civil society taking place around the world is a significant threat to LGBTI movements. Attacks on LGBTI human rights defenders and organizations must be challenged as attacks on civil society and human rights in general, rather than being singled out as a specific or “special” issue, and attention is given to building unity across civil society platforms<sup>10</sup>. In general, diplomatic support for LGBTI rights must function as a component of a broader commitment to all human rights, recognizing that human rights are universal, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

<sup>7</sup> American Jewish World Service, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice & GATE. (2017). *State of Intersex Organizing (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*, page 6. Retrieved from AJWS website: <https://ajws.org/what-we-do/sexual-health-and-rights/state-trans-intersex-organizing/>.

<sup>8</sup> American Jewish World Service, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice & GATE. (2017). *State of Trans Organizing (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*, page 6. Retrieved from AJWS website: <https://ajws.org/what-we-do/sexual-health-and-rights/state-trans-intersex-organizing/>.

<sup>9</sup> *2013-2014 Global Resources Report*, Page 24.

<sup>10</sup> *The Perfect Storm*, Page 5.

**Ensure that civil society delegates are treated as equal coalition partners in establishing more effective mechanisms for coordination, including within and through the Equal Rights Coalition.**

Providing resources and structuring coordination mechanisms to ensure their full, active, and meaningful participation. In addition, recognizing the historic and ongoing role that private and public foundations play in local, national, regional and global LGBTI movements, GPP looks forward to taking an active and supportive role in effective coordination and cooperation amongst all actors working to advance LGBTI human rights across the world.

**Reaffirm through the ERC conference that all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are applicable to all persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics.**

Dedication of resources to developing practical ways in which such inclusion can be incorporated into the full range of policies and programs that are being developed to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Further, ensure that the application of the SDGs to LGBTI persons is included within ongoing global, regional, and national-level review processes, and civil society organizations are adequately resourced to participate in such processes.

**Ensure that all ERC member governments commit to reporting LGBTI funding data to future iterations of the *Global Resources Report*.**

This report is the premier resource providing critical data for policy-makers, strategists, grantmakers, donor governments, and civil society. Towards that end, GPP continues to commit to working with grantmakers and donor governments to ensure flexibility of data collection, meeting the needs and constraints of each reporting body.

**In summation, GPP is eager to collaborate with our government partners towards global LGBTI funding informed by the diverse needs of LGBTI movements.**

Through global and regional conferences, commissioned research, and dialogue with activists at the national and local levels, funders have the opportunity and responsibility to develop grantmaking informed by the needs of LGBTI movements.

Accessible LGBTI grantmaking is:

- **Easier to access and manage:** through intermediaries that successfully work in partnership with Global South and East LGBTI organizations; by lowering the application thresholds required to receive government funding; by developing capacity-building pathways for LGBTI groups on the ground to access funding directly.<sup>11</sup>
- **Flexible:** responsive to grantees' needs to adapt and change their work based on the dynamic context in which they are working; increasing the amount of funds awarded as general operating support, which is currently less than one in every five dollars given to LGBTI organizations.<sup>12</sup>
- **Long-term and consistent:** investing in LGBTI organizations over multiple years as well as during periods of crisis.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Cook, Barbary and Bia Vieira. (2016). *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*, Page 5. Retrieved from GPP website: <http://globalphilanthropyproject.org/2016/07/03/the-road-to-successful-partnerships/>

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, Page 13.

<sup>13</sup> Davis, Meg. (2016). *The Perfect Storm: The closing space for LGBT civil society in Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Kenya, and Hungary*. Page 5. Retrieved from GPP website: <http://globalphilanthropyproject.org/2016/04/22/perfectstormreport/>

## **About GPP**

Global Philanthropy Project (GPP) is a collaboration of funders and philanthropic advisors working to expand global philanthropic support to advance the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people in the Global South and East.

Established in 2009, GPP's 19 member organizations include many of the leading global funders and philanthropic advisors for LGBTI rights. As the first international cohort of LGBTI funders, GPP is internationally recognized as the primary thought leader and go-to partner for donor coordination around global LGBTI work.

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American Jewish World Service  
Arcus Foundation  
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice  
Baring Foundation  
Dreilinden gGmbH  
Ford Foundation  
Fund for Global Human Rights  
Foundation for a Just Society  
Global Fund for Women  
Hivos  
Horizons Foundation  
Mama Cash  
Open Society Foundations  
The Other Foundation  
Sigrid Rausing Trust  
UHAI - the East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative  
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights  
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights - Africa  
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund