

DIVING DEEPER: Under the surface of LGBTI Sex Workers funding data

Global Resources Report Factsheet

This factsheet aims to summarise and compile information on funding focused on LGBTI sex workers from the [2017–2018 Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for LGBTI Communities](#) (Global Resources Report, or GRR) published in May 2020. The GRR documents over 19,764 grants awarded by 800 foundations, NGO intermediary funders, and corporations and by 15 donor government and multilateral agencies over the two-year period of 2017–2018.

Additionally, this factsheet provides recommendations to funders interested in supporting sex workers within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities and shares resources for further learning.

Why Dive Deeper?

The biennial *Global Resources Report* contains over 125 pages of data and analysis – and yet there are many more ways to assess and engage with the information collected by Funders for LGBTQ Issues and Global Philanthropy Project (GPP).

In 2021, for the first time, GPP is sharing a series of “Diving Deeper” briefs and this fact-sheet to explore a number of new analyses using the GRR dataset. As we move towards development of the next iteration of the *Global Resources Report* which will be published in 2022, this series further illuminates the importance of the GRR data in ongoing strategy and advocacy towards impactful resourcing of LGBTI human rights advancement and inclusive development. The “Diving Deeper” briefs are developed to serve as tools for LGBTI movements, funders, and policy makers.

Why this factsheet?

Sex workers exist across diverse genders, sex characteristics, sexual orientations, and lived experience including lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex sex workers.

Development of this factsheet began in late 2020 – a year after ILGA World passed [a resolution opposing all forms of criminalisation and legal oppression of sex work](#). At the same time, the Trans Day of Remembrance reminded us that between January 2018 and September 2020, [60% of the 3,664 trans and gender diverse individuals murdered](#) whose occupation is known were sex workers.

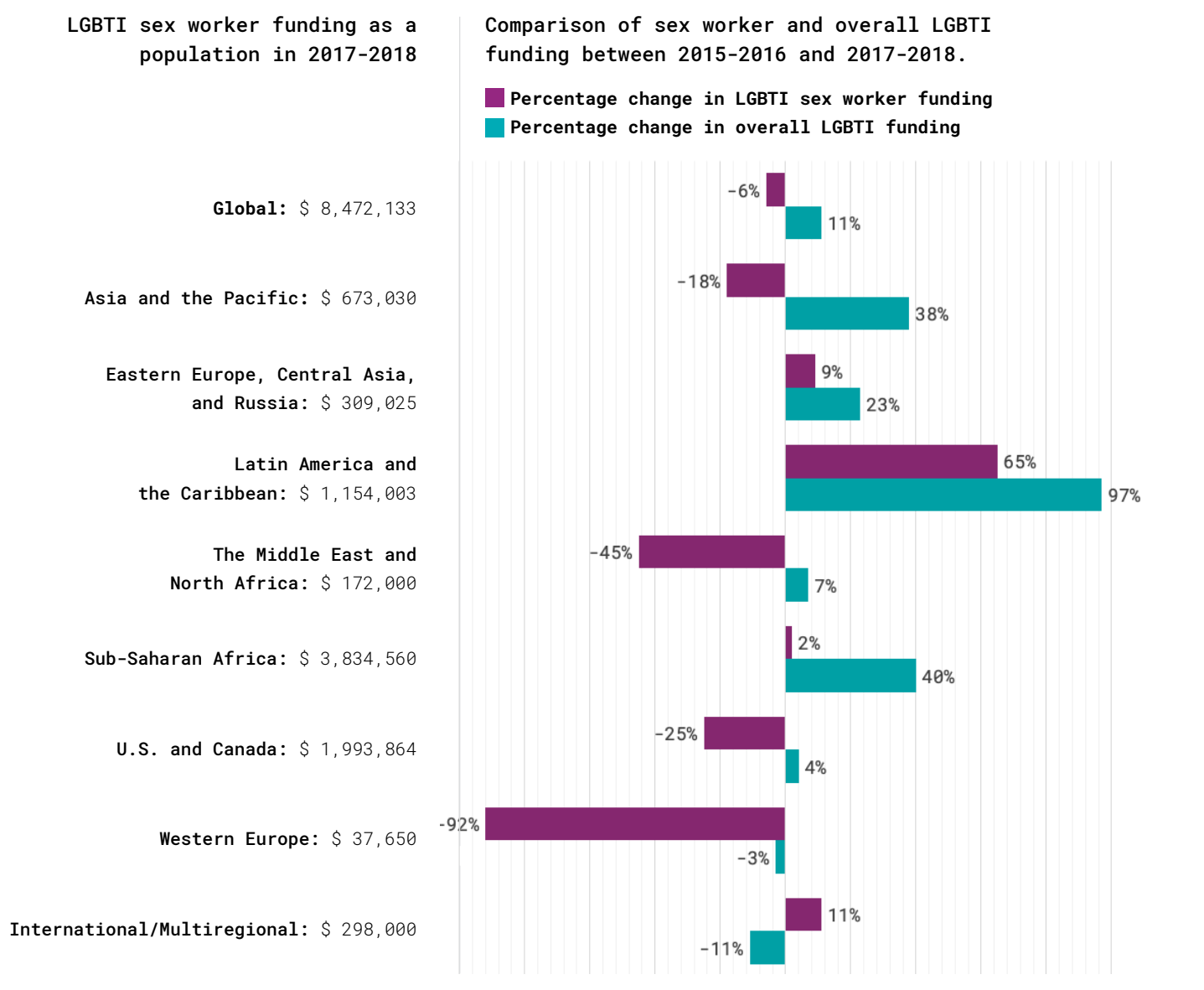
While there have been some increases in funding for LGBTI sex workers over time, there is great work ahead to come closer to meeting community needs or move towards funding equity.

The *Global Resources Report* taxonomy documents funding for sex workers in two ways: by subpopulation within the category of socioeconomic group, and by sub-issue within the category of overall LGBTI human rights. In this factsheet, we share both types of analysis.

In the charts below, please note that we include funding focused on the U.S. in global totals, in the Global North, and in the region of the U.S. and Canada. Those totals incorporate additional data from Funders for LGBTQ Issues’ annual [Domestic Tracking Reports](#) for 2015–2018. Funds awarded for the purpose of regranteeing are excluded from all calculations.

Reviewing data for 2017–2018, the most recent available, we see that in all regions and in a global analysis funding focused on LGBTI sex workers as a population has not matched the growth in overall LGBTI funding and in some regions has decreased over time.

Chart 1:



Further, when reviewing funding by issue addressed, LGBTI sex workers’ human rights made up less than 1 percent of overall LGBTI human rights funding at the global and regional levels. In some regions, no funding was reported for LGBTI sex workers’ human rights within 2017–2018.

Chart 2: LGBTI sex worker human rights as an issue area

Geography	Total amount of LGBTI funding awarded towards sex worker human rights as an issue in 2017–2018 (USD)	LGBTI sex worker human rights funding as a percentage of all LGBTI human rights funding in 2017–2018
Global	\$ 531,822	<1%
Asia and the Pacific	\$ 51,762	<1%
Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia	\$ -	n/a
Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 52,343	<1%
The Middle East and North Africa	\$ -	n/a
Sub-Saharan Africa	\$ 339,580	<1%
U.S. and Canada	\$ 88,136	<1%
Western Europe	\$ -	n/a
International/Multiregional	\$ -	n/a

Why are the totals different between sex workers as a population and sex worker human rights as an issue? Funding focused on sex workers might be awarded for a range of issues other than Human Rights, including the issue areas of Strengthening Community, Families, and Visibility; Economic Issues; Health and Wellbeing; Confronting Violence, Homophobia, and Transphobia; and others.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO LGBTI FUNDERS:

- Increase explicit funding to sex worker-led organisations and networks within LGBTI, Women’s Rights, and Gender Equality funding streams.
- Ensure clear documentation and transparent reporting of rights-based funding to sex worker-led organisations and networks, with consideration to security concerns.
- Develop opportunities to build institutional and network-level education and analysis-building regarding the intersections and complexities of sex workers’ lives.
- Ensure the meaningful involvement of LGBTI sex workers in funding processes and decisions.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Fast-Track or Off Track: how insufficient funding for key populations jeopardises ending AIDS by 2030](#) Sex Workers Factsheet (Aidsfonds, Bridging the Gaps, PITCH, 2020)
- [Sex Workers View, Advancing Human Rights: The State of Global Foundation Grantmaking](#) (HumanRightsFunding.org 2017 data from Candid and Human Rights Funders Network)
- [The Needs and Rights of Male Sex Workers](#) (Global Network of Sex Work Projects, 2014)
- [The Needs and Rights of Trans Sex Workers](#) (Global Network of Sex Work Projects, 2014)
- [Underserved. Overpoliced. Invisibilised. LGBT Sex Workers Do Matter](#) (International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe, 2015)
- [Vibrant Yet Under-Resourced: The State of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Queer Movements](#) (Mama Cash and Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, 2020)



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. globalphilanthropyproject.org



Red Umbrella Fund works to strengthen and ensure the sustainability of the global Sex Workers’ Rights movement by catalysing new funding specifically for sex worker-led groups and national and regional networks. redumbrellafund.org



Funders for LGBTQ Issues works to increase the scale and impact of philanthropic resources aimed at enhancing the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities, promoting equity and advancing racial, economic and gender justice. lgbtfunders.org



The Sex Work Donor Collaborative is a network of funders that have come together to increase the amount and quality of funding to support sex workers’ rights. sexworkdonorcollaborative.org