

HEART TO HEART



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT
2022/23

First published in 2023 by
GiveOut

3rd Floor, Thomas Ford House
23-24 Smithfield Street
London EC1A 9LF
United Kingdom

Cover Image Credits:
Colombo Pride Walk 2023
EQUAL GROUND, Sri Lanka

© GiveOut 2023

All rights reserved. This publication is copyright, but may be reproduced by any method without fee for education and advocacy purposes, but not for resale.

giveout.org

CONTENTS

- 2 Welcome
- 4 About Us
- 7 Our Grant-Making
- 12 Using the Law and Courts to Advance Equality
- 18 Building Supportive Communities and Safe Spaces
- 24 Providing the Evidence Needed for Change
- 30 Promoting Public Understanding and Acceptance
- 36 Delivering Emergency Support in Times of Crisis
- 42 Grant Partner Index by Region
- 46 Thank You

WELCOME

From Our Board of Trustees

Welcome to GiveOut's annual impact report. Inside you will find updates on the difference you are making to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) communities around the world. You will meet GiveOut's existing and new grant partners for 2023 and learn about their life-changing - and sometimes life-saving - work.

For those keen to find more detailed information, GiveOut have maintained fully audited accounts since our first year of operation and these are available on the Charity Commission's website.

GiveOut launched in 2018 with the mission to grow giving to support LGBTQI human rights worldwide. In just five years, through a period of pandemic, political upheaval, the impacts of climate change and other crises, we are so proud of what we have achieved together with our community and allies.

We have built an award-winning, unique organisation, providing a new way for our community and allies to support global LGBTQI activism. Prioritising good governance, we have brought together a world class, diverse board of trustees. We have developed an expert staff team working across growing giving, grant-making and operations, ensuring our supporters' donations are used responsibly, efficiently, and effectively. Most importantly, guided by LGBTQI activists on our Grant-making Advisory Panel, we have channelled £1.7 million in new funding to over 40 remarkable LGBTQI organisations across six continents, with a focus on the Global South and East.

Thank you so much to everyone who has joined GiveOut in helping to ensure that LGBTQI organisations around the world have more of the resources they need to defend our communities, tackle inequalities and campaign for lasting change.

Elliot Vaughn MBE, Chair, on behalf of GiveOut's Board of Trustees



GiveOut Team, Trustees and Partners at Five Year Celebration



GiveOut Team with Vice-Chair Bruna Gil

From Our Team

When Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, local LGBTQI organisations became humanitarian relief centres overnight, providing shelter, food, access to medicine, as well as relocation and evacuation assistance for displaced LGBTQI people.

In response to the crisis, GiveOut activated our LGBTQI Emergency Fund to support a global appeal by Outright International. Our community and allies in the UK donated almost £100,000 to support LGBTQI people most at risk in Ukraine and those forced to flee.

Ukrainian LGBTQI activist Lenny Emson told GiveOut how they felt about this response: “I was amazed at how many people reached out to us to help, from hugs to their homes. It was heart to heart, community to community.”

This report is a celebration of this solidarity and the incredible impact we can achieve together.

Over the last year, GiveOut has brought together our community and allies to support our grant partners to undertake vital work and win progress across five key pillars of activism. Read on to learn about this work in detail and the impact our partners have achieved, as they strive to build a world in which LGBTQI people everywhere can live their lives freely and fully.

Thank you so much to our grant partners and our community of supporters for making all of this possible. We are so proud to work with you.

Rupert Abbott, Executive Director, on behalf of the GiveOut staff team

ABOUT US

GiveOut are an award-winning international LGBTQI community foundation. We bring together our community and allies to support global LGBTQI rights activism, to build a world where LGBTQI people everywhere can live their lives freely and fully.

Around the world, LGBTQI people face discrimination, violence, and other serious human rights abuses simply for being who they are. Courageous activists are undertaking vital work to protect and improve LGBTQI lives, but they lack resources and funding is fragile, especially in the Global South and East. LGBTQI groups receive a tiny fraction of international development aid – just 0.04% of funding provided by governments. Our global LGBTQI community and allies want to provide support, but it is not always easy to do so.

GiveOut's purpose is to help address this urgent need by bringing together our community and allies, providing a platform for them to give in one place to support global LGBTQI rights activism. We pool the donations we receive to provide grants and other support to LGBTQI organisations worldwide, ensuring they have more of the resources they need to defend our communities, tackle inequalities and campaign for lasting change.

Our Vision, Mission and Values

Our vision is of a world in which LGBTQI people everywhere can live their lives openly and fully, free from discrimination, fear and violence.

To achieve this vision, **our mission** is to grow giving to support the global struggle for LGBTQI human rights.

To guide our work and decisions, we have five core organisational values:

1

Respect

We are respectful to each other, our supporters and partners. We are an open and approachable grant-maker, providing resources not strategies, aware of our privilege, and working in a way that seeks to avoid power asymmetry.

2

Ambition

We are ambitious to make a meaningful difference to the global LGBTQI movement and the lives of LGBTQI people. We are aware that change may take time, are committed to learning, and hopeful that innovative strategies can achieve lasting change.

3

Integrity

We use our supporters' donations responsibly, efficiently and effectively, working with transparency, integrity and accountability, and we strive to complement and collaborate with existing funding infrastructure in the LGBTQI movement.

4

Solidarity

We are part of and work in solidarity with the global LGBTQI human rights movement, harnessing the power of our community and allies, and fostering connections to provide long-term and sustainable support.

5

Equity

We recognise the diversity of the global LGBTQI movement and seek to reflect this. We provide support across the movement, understanding that different parts of our community need different levels of support in different places.



GiveOut Community
Celebrating Five Years of
GiveOut

Community Giving

Sharing
Impact

Pooling
Donations

Providing
Grants

Identifying
Grant Partners

Due Dilligence
and Vetting



Ryan Silverio, Rima Athar and Neish McLean (left to right)

A Note From Our Grant-making Advisory Panel

It has been our pleasure to participate in GiveOut's Grant Making Advisory Panel (GMAP) for another year. GMAP was created in 2020 as a step towards making the grant-making process at GiveOut more participatory. Resonating strongly with GiveOut's values and grant-making principles, participatory grant-making is a power-shifting ethos; a process that places the LGBTQI movement at its centre and transforms the power dynamics in relation to grant-making in line with emerging best practices.

As experts in the global LGBTQI movement and activists in our own right, we provide recommendations on renewing grants, reflect on gaps in the overall grant portfolio, and help identify pioneering new groups for GiveOut to support.

This year, GMAP met in March 2023 to review and recommend GiveOut's fifth portfolio of grant partners. We commended the intentionality behind the thematic areas covered by the portfolio and their alignment to some of the gaps that had previously been identified, namely the intersection of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) and climate justice, LGBTQI refugees, and providing even more support to trans-led groups. We also recognised GiveOut's commitment to building trust and providing long-term, sustainable support by renewing grants as a priority.

In this fifth portfolio we are delighted to see five new partners added to the list of LGBTQI organisations funded by GiveOut's community of supporters. These include Iranti, an LBT-led media advocacy organisation from South Africa; ILGA Asia, who alongside their capacity building and advocacy efforts in support of the LGBTQI movement across Asia are involved in supporting LGBTQI refugees from Afghanistan; and Fundaciòn Amal Argentina, who are advocating for the implementation of a programme to increase the number of LGBTQI people resettled in Argentina because of climate related disasters.

Looking ahead, we have been pleased to provide input into the review of GiveOut's grant-making strategy. We have shared ideas for how GiveOut can contribute to more positive impact through their grant-making programme, doubling down on providing core, flexible support, and considering other ways to support and amplify the work of LGBTQI activist organisations worldwide. Watch this space!

For now, we hope you enjoy reflecting on another year of impact achieved by GiveOut's grant partners, often against the odds.

Rima Athar, Neish McLean and Ryan Silverio

OUR GRANT-MAKING

To create a world where LGBTQI people can live their lives freely and fully, we need a properly funded global LGBTQI movement that can advocate on behalf of our communities. With the right resources, our movement can help eliminate discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, change attitudes and create safe spaces in places where LGBTQI people and identities are not accepted.

In the Global South and East in particular, LGBTQI activists' efforts are hampered by substantial legal and practical barriers to fundraising, beyond those experienced elsewhere. Pooling donations from our community and allies, we are building a safe, reliable source of funding, especially for groups in these regions.

Recognising the diversity and complexity of the movement, we strive to make our portfolio of grant partners representative of the global movement as a whole, in terms of geography, thematic focus and community served. Each funding round integrates a more diverse set of grant partners than the last. We provide support at all levels of the global movement but prioritise funding where it is needed most.



Our Fourth Grant Cycle 2022 - Five Pillars of Activism

Through GiveOut's fourth round of grants, our community of supporters funded 37 LGBTQI organisations across the globe.

As the world tried to live with COVID-19, Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine killed thousands and forced many more to flee, contributing to a massive increase in refugees and forcibly displaced people.

The war led to crises for both global food and energy supplies, with surging inflation and a cost-of-living crisis affecting millions around the world. At the same time, the fatal impacts of climate change have been felt globally - from heatwaves in Europe to flooding in Pakistan.

Already vulnerable, LGBTQI people are disproportionately affected in crises, and we continue to face criminalisation, violence and other serious human rights abuses simply for being who we are.

In this global context, over the last year GiveOut's grant partners undertook vital work and won impact and progress for LGBTQI communities across five key pillars of activism, which we will explore in detail throughout this report.

Five Pillars of Activism



Using the Law and Courts to Advance Equality

Over the last year, our grant partners have used the law and courts to decriminalise homosexuality in Mauritius, Barbados, Saint Kitts & Nevis and Antigua & Barbuda, and secured a commitment from Sri Lanka to follow; overturned draconian anti-trans laws in India; won the right to associate through the Supreme Court in Kenya; expanded protections for LGBTQI victims of sexual assault in Tonga; and provided legal aid to LGBTQI people facing police raids in Malaysia.



Building Supportive Communities and Safe Spaces

Thanks to your support, our grant partners have brought together LGBTQI people and their families in Lebanon; re-built an LGBTQI community centre destroyed by fire in Jamaica; supported LGBTQI youth in Armenia; provided safety and solidarity to LGBTQI people at risk of violence in Iraq; and organised movement building convenings in Asia, the Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa.



Providing the Evidence to Advocate for Change

In the past year, our grant partners have undertaken world-first research into conversion practices in South Africa; measured public attitudes regarding LGBTQI issues in the Western Balkans; examined the impacts of climate change on LGBTQI people across Asia; documented human rights abuses against trans communities in Jamaica; and analysed the anti-rights movements in East Africa.



Promoting Public Understanding and Acceptance

Our grant partners have run a grassroots campaign to foster public support for marriage equality in Cambodia; built understanding towards LGBTQI refugees in South Africa; broken down stigma and challenged harmful stereotypes against LGBTQI Muslims in South Asia; trained journalists to create more positive media representation for the queer community in Nigeria; and raised awareness to end the forced sterilisation of trans people in the Czech Republic.



Delivering Emergency Support in Times of Crisis

Through our LGBTQI Emergency Fund, GiveOut channels funding to support our partners' disaster response work, including targeted relief to evacuate LGBTQI people at risk and help rebuild communities. We were there when our grant partners needed us most, including in Tonga, supporting the LGBTQI community in the aftermath of a volcanic eruption and tsunami; in Ukraine, where humanitarian relief was delivered to the LGBTQI community following Russia's full scale invasion; and in East Africa, where life-saving protection was needed after the Ugandan government introduced some of the world's worst anti-LGBTQI laws.

Our Fifth Grant Cycle 2023

- Addressing Gaps

Through GiveOut's fifth round of grants, our supporters will now be supporting a total of 41 LGBTQI organisations. This is a combination of 28 grant renewals, alongside continuing support for eight other organisations, and five new grant partners.

The portfolio of grant partners continues to reflect the diversity and complexity of the global LGBTQI movement in terms of geographic impact; organisation type (international, regional, diaspora, national and grassroots); focus area (all our communities); and approach (from advocacy to grassroots capacity building and organising).

Year-on-year, GiveOut is committed to supporting the whole movement and aims to represent the diversity of the LGBTQI community. In previous cycles, some gaps had been identified, such as underrepresented members within the LGBTQI community, geographical regions, as well as issues and approaches. In our fifth portfolio, we continue to strive to address these gaps, cross-cutting across the five pillars of activism outlined above.

Trans-led Organising

Around the world, trans people suffer widespread human rights violations, from discrimination and a lack of legal recognition to violence and killings. Within the LGBTQI movement, trans organisations remain disproportionately under-resourced, while we are seeing well resourced anti-trans movements gaining traction.

In this fifth cycle, we are pleased to welcome two new partners working to support the trans community: Iranti, an LBT-led media advocacy organisation based in South Africa; and Consortium, who support LGBTQI organising in the United Kingdom.

LGBTQI Refugees

LGBTQI refugees are some of the world's most vulnerable people. Not only have they been forced to flee their home countries to avoid persecution or death, sometimes as a direct result of their sexuality or gender identity, but the journeys they undertake are gruelling and fraught with risk, and while in transit countries or even at their final destinations they are often met with suspicion, cruelty and violence.

In our fifth portfolio we welcome two new partners working with this vulnerable population: ORAM (Organisation for Refugee, Asylum and Migration), which protects and empowers LGBTQI asylum seekers and refugees in transit countries, providing legal assistance and economic empowerment programmes; and ILGA Asia, who are working with their networks in Afghanistan to provide safe passage and resettlement for LGBTQI asylum seekers escaping violence since the Taliban takeover.

Climate Justice

GiveOut's world-first LGBTQI Climate Fund supports LGBTQI activists working around the world to help tackle and respond to the climate crisis.

In this portfolio, we welcome a new partner in Fundaciòn Amal Argentina, who are advocating for the implementation of a programme to increase the number of LGBTQI people resettled in Argentina because of climate related disasters. We are also pleased to be supporting more of our existing partners under this fund, such as the United Caribbean Trans Network who are conducting baseline, first of its kind research on the impact of climate change on the transgender community in the Caribbean, and ASEAN SOGIE Caucus who are supporting grassroots activists to engage with regional and international human rights mechanisms to speak about the intersection of LGBTQI rights and climate change on the world stage.

GRANT PARTNERS 2023





KEY

- New Grant
- Regrant

Europe
as*parent

Helem ● PINK Armenia

Qorras ●

IraQueer ● ILGA Asia

The Queer Muslim Project ●

CLPR ●

SAATHII ●

EQUAL GROUND ●

NGLHRC ●

UHAI-EASHRI ●

The Other Foundation ●

Access Chapter 2 ●

PASSOP ●

Mongolia LGBT Centre ●

Equal AF ●

Rainbow Community Kampuchea ●

ASEAN SOGIE Caucus ●

Legal Dignity ●

CSBR ●

Tonga Leitis Assocation ●

USING THE LAW AND COURTS TO ADVANCE EQUALITY



The Challenge

Private, consensual, same-sex sexual activity between adults is still illegal in 65 jurisdictions, with punishments ranging from arrest and imprisonment to whipping and, in 12 countries, the death penalty.

Around the world, public order and vagrancy laws are used to harass, arrest and prosecute trans people, while gender expression and identity is criminalised in 14 jurisdictions through “crossdressing”, “impersonation” and “disguise” laws.

Even in many countries that do not criminalise LGBTQI identities, members of the community face additional legal barriers and a disturbing lack of legal protections against discrimination. Socially and economically excluded, LGBTQI people also struggle to access the support they need if they are being harassed or persecuted through the legal system.

“If you need legal support, who are you going to go to? You don’t know lawyers, lawyers are probably not familiar with [LGBTQI] issues, they are probably going to be very judgmental and discriminatory themselves. And you don’t have money to pay for legal advice.”

- Jayna Kothari, Executive Director, Centre for Law and Policy Research (CLPR), India

The Response

GiveOut’s grant partners are using the law and courts to challenge laws criminalising same-sex sexual activity and trans identities, advance legal protections against discrimination, defend LGBTQI people against unfair treatment, and advance marriage equality.

To support this vital work, GiveOut has established the LGBTQI Legal Aid Fund, to channel funding to our grant partners and facilitate pro bono legal support from some of the world’s leading law firms.

“It is important to me that we are supporting the LGBTQI Legal Aid Fund because, particularly now, the timing couldn’t be more opportune to ensure we do what we can to safeguard fundamental human rights globally. And this is one of the best ways to do that in a demand led way, working with organisations who are driving this work forward in the courts and through individual representation”

- Aditi Kapoor, Pro Bono Manager, Allen & Overy



Jayna Kothari, CLPR, India



Draconian Anti-Trans Laws Overturned in India

Following a five-year long legal battle, the Centre for Law and Policy Research (CLPR) won their High Court Challenge which found that the Telangana Eunuchs Act, which criminalised and stigmatised the transgender community, was unconstitutional and violated the right to privacy and the right to dignity for transgender people in the state of Telangana, which has a population of over 38 million.



A Commitment by Sri Lanka to Decriminalise Same-sex Relations

The Sri Lankan government has made a commitment to decriminalise same-sex relationships, thanks partly to advocacy and lobbying by EQUAL GROUND. This included securing a landmark decision from the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which ruled that criminalising same-sex relations between women violated a number of provisions in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.



Legal Aid for the LGBTQI Community Following Raids by Police in Malaysia

In Malaysia, a queer event was raided by religious police authorities, with LGBTQI community members taken into custody and interrogated. Our grant partner Legal Dignity provided legal support and helped bail out those arrested.



Winning Protections for LGBTQI People in Tonga

In Tonga, the Tonga Leitis Association (TLA) were pivotal in the Tongan government's decision to expand the definition of rape to better protect LGBTQI victims of sexual assault. Along with direct engagement with government officials TLA also leveraged international human rights mechanisms such as Tonga's 3rd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the United Nations Human Rights Council to advocate for the law to be reformed.



TCEN Board Members and Secretariat



Securing the Right to Associate in Kenya

Our partner in Kenya, the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC), won the right to register as an NGO with the words ‘gay’ and ‘lesbian’ in their title, ending a 10-year legal battle that went all the way to the Supreme Court.



Legal Advancements in Southern Africa

The Other Foundation is active in the southern African region providing grants to organisations advancing equality and freedom for LGBTQI communities. Notable legal victories from the past year in this region include the Eswatini Supreme Court compelling the Eswatini government to reconsider its decision not to grant LGBTQI organisations the right to associate; in Namibia, a Supreme Court ruling granting recognition of same-sex unions contracted abroad; and the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Mauritius by a Supreme Court ruling.



Decriminalising Homosexuality Through the Courts of the Caribbean

The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN) supports and connects LGBTQI activists from across the Commonwealth to raise their voices against the damaging impact of British colonial laws, especially the criminalisation of same-sex relations, and to advocate for reform in Commonwealth meetings including Heads of Government meetings.

The Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Gender and Equality (ECADE) are one of TCEN’s 66 member organisations. ECADE are a consortium of attorneys, civil society groups and human rights trusts tasked with taking aim at discriminatory laws in the Eastern Caribbean. Thanks to their vital work and support, over the past twelve months we saw colonial-era laws criminalising same-sex activity struck down in Barbados, Saint Kitts & Nevis and Antigua & Barbuda.

The Reality of Being LGBTQI in Malaysia

In Malaysia, engaging in same-sex relations or identifying as a different gender to the sex assigned at birth can be punished with fines, caning and even imprisonment for up to 20 years. The police regularly enforce the laws that persecute LGBTQI people, creating a climate of fear, attempting to catch them in acts that could lead to punishment.

In October 2022, the Federal Territories Islamic Religious Department (JAWI) raided a Halloween party attended by LGBTQI people in Malaysia. Over 20 LGBTQI people were taken in for investigation. One of the attendees told GiveOut: “Despite being non-binary, I felt like the most vulnerable woman. I was a Muslim person with exposed clothes and tattoos, I was one of the perfect candidates to be caught.”

Our grant partner in Malaysia, Legal Dignity, mobilised lawyers to arrive on site to provide legal support to those that needed it. After the raid, they helped the people taken in for investigation with bail. As the members of the community were arrested under Sharia law, only Muslims living in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur are permitted to post bail, which Legal Dignity were able to facilitate.

Since the raid, Legal Dignity surveyed over 300 LGBTQI people, finding that the majority do not know their basic rights. With this information, they are now providing resources to the community to ensure that they know their rights and can access legal representation if they are being persecuted for being LGBTQI.



CLPR, India

When Sanjay and Rina Needed Support, CLPR Were There

When Sanjay, a trans man, met Rina, they knew they wanted to build a life together. However, Rina’s family harassed Sanjay for being trans, and tried to stop them getting married. Sanjay and Rina eloped when her family made it clear they would not accept their marriage. Rina’s family maliciously filed a missing person report to the police, accusing Sanjay of kidnapping their daughter, intending to have him arrested.

With poor societal acceptance of trans people, Sanjay was worried about getting a fair hearing and facing abuse in jail. What’s more, Rina would be sent back to her family.

Jayna is a lawyer who leads India’s Centre for Law and Policy Research (CLPR), which back in 2018 represented the trans community in the proceedings that led to the country’s Supreme Court decriminalising same-sex relations. She was able to get the complaint against Sanjay thrown out of court, and supported the couple to obtain a marriage certificate. Now Rina and Sanjay are happily married, with a home and jobs in a city far away from Rina’s abusive family, and have started a new life. Together.



LGBTQI People Arrested in Malaysia, October 2022

EQUAL GROUND'S Rosanna Flamer-Caldera on Decriminalising Same-Sex Relationships in Sri Lanka

Homosexuality is currently a criminal offence in 65 jurisdictions, including Sri Lanka where it carries a penalty of up to 10 years' imprisonment. Following many years of advocacy by EQUAL GROUND, in February 2023 the Sri Lankan government announced at a United Nations human rights review of Sri Lanka that it will decriminalise homosexuality.

"You cannot be free to be who you are in a country where homosexuality is criminalised," explains Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, the Executive Director of EQUAL GROUND, when asked how laws that criminalise homosexuality impact the lives of LGBTQI people.

She goes on to explain: "You have a lot of shame and stigma within yourself, so mental health issues are rife. In all parts of society, you are discriminated against, whether that's at work, at school - you're bullied and picked on, the police harass and intimidate you, in every sphere you are harassed and pushed into a corner."

This decision to decriminalise, if it in fact happens, is a huge win for the LGBTQI community in Sri Lanka, and is the result of years of advocacy and campaigning. In 2022, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) made a ground-breaking decision which found that the criminalisation of consensual, same-sex intimacy between women was a human rights violation. The case, the first of its kind, was brought forward by Rosanna and supported by the Human Dignity Trust.

"There are two key cases that have led to this moment," Rosanna explains. "One is the CEDAW case and the other is the case against the Police that we filed in the Court of Appeal in Sri Lanka in response to a police trainer who was using homophobic rhetoric to say that all homosexuals are paedophiles."

Thanks to EQUAL GROUND bringing this case forward, the Police have issued a comprehensive guidance circulated to every Police Station in Sri Lanka protecting the rights of the LGBTQI community by prohibiting arbitrary arrests, all discriminatory actions, and harassment including intrusive examinations. While there is still much work to be done to ensure the protection of LGBTQI people from discrimination by Police in Sri Lanka, this circular is being viewed as a massive first step forward. EQUAL GROUND have advised members of the LGBTQI community in Sri Lanka to carry copies of the circular for protections against confrontations with police that most often ends with harassment, arrest and bribery etc.

Although Sri Lanka seems to be on the cusp of decriminalising same sex relations, there is still more work to be done to make the country a safe place for LGBTQI persons. "It's going to take a lot more sensitising and education, but at least now we will have the law on our side" explains Rosanna. "It will take so much to change the mindsets of the education system, the health system, the social services system, housing, so many things that have to change, because ultimately, it's not about the law, it's about people's perceptions, and there are a lot of homophobic people still in Sri Lanka."

Colombo Pride, Sri Lanka



BUILDING SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES AND SAFE SPACES



The Challenge

In many countries, discriminatory laws and socio-cultural norms marginalise and exclude LGBTQI people from education, healthcare, housing, employment, and other sectors.

This environment of exclusion leads to further discrimination, violence, and other serious human rights abuses against LGBTQI people, taking a terrible toll on their wellbeing and mental health. Coming out and being visible risks removing the remaining safety nets that others take for granted, such as a family support network.

The Response

Throughout history, our community has survived and thrived by coming together for each other, providing both safety and the support network that we often lack. We try to protect one another, share stories, experiences and resources to help us feel confident and supported in being our true selves.

Safe houses, community spaces, gatherings and activities are a vital lifeline to many LGBTQI people, and activities like Pride marches help challenge the status quo and ensure local LGBTQI communities are visible, where this is possible. Through community, LGBTQI people can access services, such as legal aid or health services, and also come together to support one another.

GiveOut's grant partners are embedded in their local contexts and cultures and know what support LGBTQI people need. They are building supportive communities and safe spaces, including in many of the most challenging environments.

“When you live in a society where you have to hide yourself, it’s very important to be able to meet other people like you, to learn about different things, and to be yourself.”

- Pink Armenia Service User

“RCM would like to thank IraQueer for being there for your community on the ground and for our community globally. We are very moved by this.”

- Christos Nifadopoulos, Group General Counsel, Rokos Capital Management





Building Community Throughout Armenia

In socially conservative Armenia, Pink Armenia have expanded their services at their regional community centres in Shirak and Lori, where homophobia and transphobia are particularly entrenched. For young LGBTQI people still living with their families, these safe spaces have provided vital support and opportunities to gain skills and knowledge to improve their lives, and meet other people like them. In 2022 alone, through their community centres Pink Armenia delivered over 1,000 psychological counselling sessions, and provided more than 250 legal advice sessions.



Rebuilding Rainbow House in Jamaica

In Jamaica, J-FLAG reopened Rainbow House, a community centre that was destroyed in a fire of “unknown origin” at the end of 2018. The House now provides office space for staff from J-FLAG, TransWave and Equality Youth Jamaica as well as a drop in centre and safe space for the Jamaican LGBTQI community, playing host to social gatherings as well as education and information sessions.



Reopening of Rainbow House in Jamaica



Community Centre in Armenia, Pink Armenia



Bringing Together LGBTQI People and Their Families in Lebanon

In Lebanon, over the last 12 months over 500 members of the LGBTQI community visited Helem’s community centre, and they have securely reached over 2,500 individuals through LGBTQI WhatsApp groups to share information and advice. Inside the centre, they ran a family support programme whereby LGBTQI people and their families were able to come together to share their experiences, speak about their feelings and concerns and resolve familial differences.

Providing Safety and Solidarity to LGBTQI People in Iraq

In Iraq, IraQueer has continued to operate almost exclusively underground, providing safe houses for LGBTQI people who have been disowned by their families, or fled for their own safety. Over the past 12 months, IraQueer have also engaged community leaders in sensitisation training on gender and sexuality to create allies and build more queer friendly spaces, as well as disseminating life-saving and affirming advice through the production of a biweekly radio show in Arabic. The radio show evades state-sanctioned media and reaches over 75,000 listeners, sharing stories and information about the different aspects of what it means to be LGBTQI in Iraq to reduce the isolation and loneliness many in the country experience.



Building the LGBTQI Movement in East Africa

In Botswana, UHAI EASHRI - East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative (UHAI), facilitated the annual convening of Changing Faces, Changing Spaces, Africa’s largest activist-determined convening, fostering peer-to-peer exchanges, safe spaces, and strategising on how to move human rights work forward in responding to shrinking civic space contexts across East Africa.



How IraQueer Are Saving Lives in Iraq

LGBTQI Iraqis face compounding difficulties, including but not limited to a lack of legal protections, human rights violations and abuses, domestic violence, and honour killings, with LGBTQI people being killed by their own families simply for being who they are. Just last year, both the parliaments in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan called for the criminalisation and persecution of LGBTQI community members and the activists who support them.

Despite the odds, IraQueer, Iraq's first and leading LGBTQI organisation, has been providing vital support to the LGBTQI community in Iraq. They have been building the capacity of LGBTQI activists in the region, working with activists from around the country to empower them and train them to be their own agents of change.

IraQueer also provides safe housing and protection services for the community, a service which is vital for those facing discrimination and escaping violence.

One trans woman, Zahra (not her real name), was subject to two kidnappings and three attempted murders, and was a victim of domestic violence. IraQueer were there to provide her with safe housing, as well as ensuring she had the right documents to seek asylum in France.

Now, Zahra has relocated to France and is studying her favourite topic, literature. She told IraQueer "You did not only save my life, but you actually started to help me look after my well-being and aspirations."



SAATHII, India

Connecting and Supporting Transmasculine Persons in Regional India

In India, our grant partner Solidarity and Action Against the HIV Infection in India (SAATHII) have established a fellowship to support LGBTQI activists to advocate for social and policy change through individual projects. Last year, the fellowship supported Bana, a trans man from Odisha, to expand his community mobilisation for other transmasculine persons and support them in changing their legal gender, accessing healthcare, securing employment and crisis response. Throughout the fellowship, Bana assisted a total of 67 individuals with healthcare referrals, 30 individuals were supported to access legal support and five individuals were supported in seeking employment.

The Fellowship also enabled activist Vihaan Vee to produce a podcast series featuring interviews with transmasculine persons in India across a diversity of geography, caste, sexual orientation and relationship status. These conversations deal with important aspects of what it means to assert a transmasculine identity in a cultural context filled with narrow and often toxic expectations of masculinity.

Building Community Throughout Armenia

Armenia is one of the most difficult places to be LGBTQI in Europe. The country was the third lowest ranked European country in ILGA Europe's Rainbow Map Index; LGBTQI people there face violence, arbitrary arrest and abuse. The situation is particularly challenging in areas outside of the capital Yerevan, where conservative attitudes and prejudices contribute to harsh conditions for local LGBTQI communities. Many LGBTQI people living in the regions of Armenia choose to move to Yerevan, but this is not an option for everyone. Young people, who are still living with their families, are particularly vulnerable.

To respond to these challenges, Pink Armenia is supporting LGBTQI people living in the northern regions of Shirak and Lori. They organise events like movie screenings, seminars, art workshops, discussions, film and art exhibitions to bring together the LGBTQI community and allies, fostering a sense of unity and empowerment.

Pink Armenia also provides safe spaces for the community, the location of which is not disclosed publicly for security reasons. These spaces are simply known by community members as "Taniq". These safe spaces offer shelter, respite and support to the community, who face discrimination and violence for being LGBTQI.

One of the community members using the space explained: "Before visiting Taniq, I didn't know if there were other people like me in Armenia." After learning about Taniq, they found an entire community of people who were just like them, saying: "When you live in a society where you have to hide yourself, it's very important to be able to meet other people like you, to learn about different things, and to be yourself."

The organisation facilitates regular support group meetings where individuals can share their experiences, offer mutual support, and learn from each other. One member said: "I found a supportive community through Pink Armenia. These sessions helped me navigate my identity. I feel understood and less isolated, especially in my village, since no one knows about me, but they still pressure and mock me for my gender expression by forcing me to think about getting married which I don't want."

Pink Armenia provides confidential support for LGBTQI individuals and their families, addressing mental health challenges and offering guidance. One parent told Pink Armenia: "When my child came out, I was unsure how to respond. When my son was attacked years ago after he came out to me, I felt such a deep worry that something may happen to him. I think that influenced my change of views. Now we have a bond with each other. Pink helped me meet other parents such as myself. We have established an NGO which is called 'Parents for Equality'. Pink has provided us with lots of support and has even given us sub-grants to map and travel to meet other parents in different regions."



Pink Armenia, Armenia

PROVIDING THE EVIDENCE NEEDED FOR CHANGE



The Challenge

A lack of quality data and research on sexual orientation and gender identity opens up our community to harm, as a result of the substantial roadblock created for policymakers, service providers, and others seeking to improve the rights, health and wellbeing of LGBTQI people.

Research provides the evidence to highlight the challenges, discrimination, and inequalities faced by our communities across the globe. This evidence is crucial for advancing LGBTQI human rights, providing a solid foundation for advocacy efforts demanding policy change and legal reform.

Producing data and research lends crucial legitimacy and credibility to LGBTQI activism. When LGBTQI organisations produce evidence to support their claims and arguments, it becomes harder for opponents, policymakers, governments and international bodies to dismiss their concerns.

“I really believe without research, without data, we are working in the dark, we are assuming something should be done in a certain way. When we have data, we know the exact situation on the ground and data is helping us plan our actions and activities in the best possible way.”

- Danijel Kalezic, Executive Co-Director, LGBTI ERA, Western Balkans and Turkey

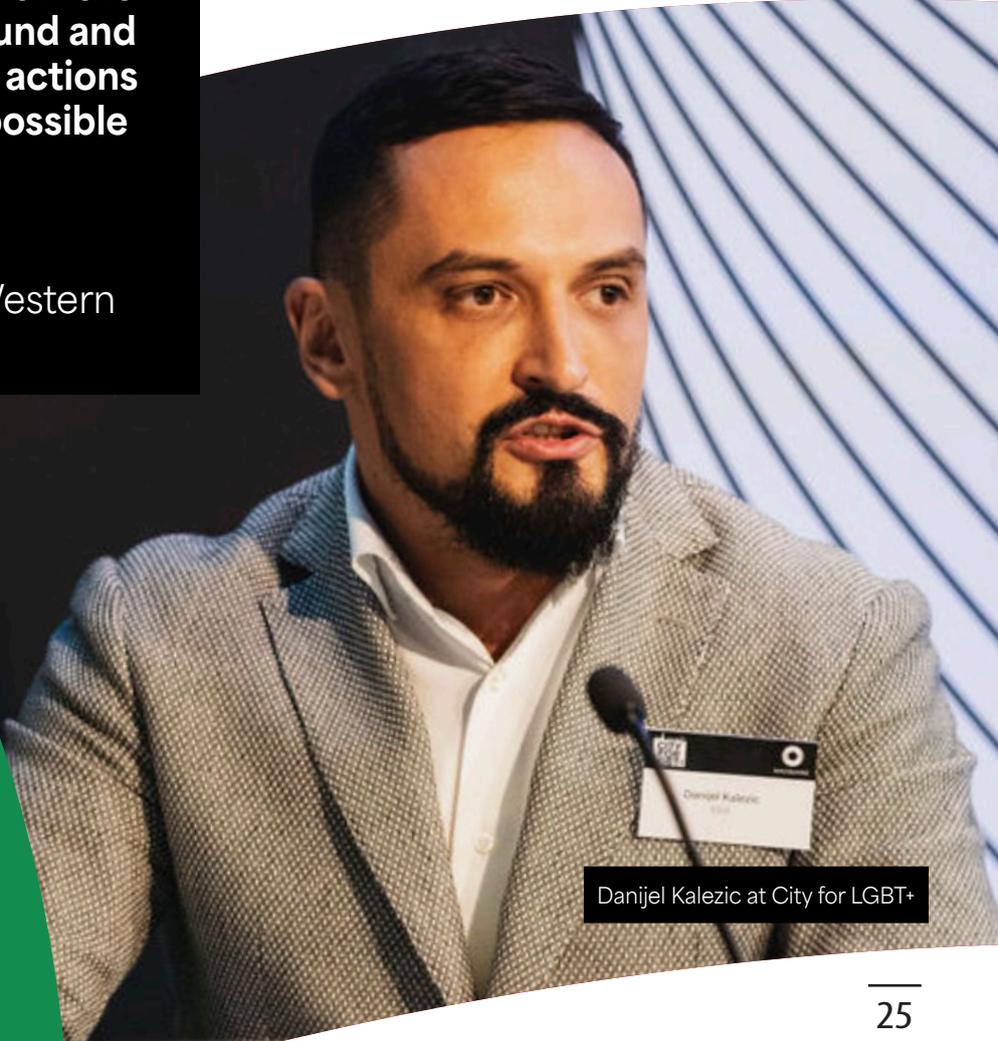
The Response

Around the world, GiveOut’s partners are using research to develop evidence-based campaigns and advocacy to demand greater respect for LGBTQI human rights and drive inclusion.

GiveOut’s partners are documenting harms and human rights abuses against LGBTQI people; providing accurate information and evidence-based arguments to challenge harmful stereotypes, biases, and misinformation against LGBTQI people; and breaking new ground in researching previously uncharted areas, such as the intersection between LGBTQI rights and climate change.

“Without data, people often feel that when you say something, it’s not real or it can’t be validated.”

- Aisha Shaibu-Lenoir, Trustee, GiveOut



Danijel Kalezic at City for LGBT+



Examining the Impacts of Climate Change on LGBTQI people

Equal Asia Foundation undertook a research and advocacy project to gather problem insights, understand priorities and identify entry points for action to ensure that the foundation's climate justice work is guided by the priority needs and opportunities of the LGBTQI community. The project developed an understanding of how climate change is contributing to the marginalisation of LGBTQI communities and identified what resources and information need to be made available and what existing programmes exist that can be adapted or scaled up to make progress at the intersection of climate change and LGBTQI human rights.

Understanding Attitudes in the Western Balkans



In order to shift attitudes, there is a need to measure public opinion, and examine what works and what doesn't. That's exactly what LGBTI ERA did, by conducting an opinion poll on attitudes to LGBTQI rights across the Western Balkans. The research was critical in assessing the impact of the LGBTQI movement's work in the region and enabling LGBTQI organisations to conduct effective evidence-based advocacy, capacity building, and campaign work.

Documenting Human Rights Abuses in Jamaica



TransWave published their 2022 Human Rights Violations Report, which provides an overview of the human rights situation in Jamaica and charts various violations experienced by the trans community. The report drew links between the discrimination faced by the trans community and the lack of national gender identity legislation to recognise and protect transgender and gender non-conforming people, with recommendations for government, policy makers and other civil society organisations to better protect the economic, social and cultural rights of all citizens.



Jamaica Pride 2023



Exposing the Harm of Conversion Practices in South Africa

Our grant partners Access Chapter 2 and Outright International conducted world-first research to document the existence and harmfulness of ‘conversion practices’ across South Africa. The study found that conversion practices have become commonplace in South Africa and demonstrated how they dehumanise and pathologise sexuality at the expense of respect for human rights, self-affirmation and the right to exist for LGBTQI people.



Analysing Anti-Rights Movements in East Africa

UHAI have kicked off an Africa-wide research project to understand the impact of anti-rights movements on LGBTQI communities. The research will be used to produce recommendations and develop strategies in response, to promote and protect the rights of LGBTQI people.

Documenting Attitudes Towards LGBTQI Persons in the Western Balkans and Turkey

In order to shift public attitudes, first you need to measure public opinion, and examine what works and what doesn't. That's exactly what ERA LGBT Equal Rights Association of Western Balkans and Turkey did, by conducting an opinion poll on attitudes to LGBTQI rights across Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. This followed a similar poll they conducted in 2015, allowing them to track changes over time and help them understand and analyse reasons for changes.

This research was critical to assess the impact of the LGBTQI movement's work in the region over the past seven years and enable the ERA network and LGBTQI organisations across the Western Balkans to conduct effective evidence-based advocacy, capacity building, and campaign work. ERA also used this data to produce an analytical report and policy paper, released in June this year to serve as a guideline for how a responsible state can improve the legal and socio-economic framework for respecting the human rights of LGBTQI citizens.



ERA, Western Balkans & Turkey

Access Chapter 2 and Outright International Evidencing the Need for Reform Across Africa

In South Africa, leading LGBTQI organisation Access Chapter 2 partnered with Outright International to undertake a research project into the harms of so-called "conversion therapy" - the first research project into conversion practices across the African continent. This research looked at conversion practices across a variety of cultures, identified perpetrators, including religious groups, and evidenced the terrible impact on survivors.

Through this research, Access Chapter 2 and Outright produced recommendations for governments, civil society organisations, religious organisations and medical and mental health associations to end these harmful practices.

The research is now being used to advocate for an end to so-called "conversion therapy" across Sub-Saharan Africa.



Access Chapter 2, South Africa

Linking Climate Change and Legal Gender Recognition in the Caribbean

Little research exists that shows the impact of climate change on trans people. The United Caribbean Trans Network (UCTRANS), a network of trans organisations across the Caribbean, are undertaking research that will, for the first time, examine the linkages between legal gender recognition and the impacts of climate change in the Caribbean. They shared with us the story of Millie Milton, a fifty-seven-year-old Guyanese trans activist and community leader who lives on the Essequibo Coast of Guyana.

In July 2021, Guyana experienced a prolonged period of heavy rainfall. This prolonged rainfall, combined with the spring tide, led to flooding. Millie's yard was underwater. "As an unemployed trans woman, it affected me because I am not prepared for the impact of a disaster like the floods," Millie told UCTRANS.

She said that in order to support herself, she planted a kitchen garden and sold the produce to her neighbours. "The small kitchen garden was an income generator. I could have sold the bananas to my neighbours and used the money to buy fish or chicken."



Millie Milton

However, most of her plants died in the flood. She tried to replant, but in September of that year there was another flood, and everything died again.

Millie noted that the country's Civil Defence Commission distributed food hampers in some communities. There was an initiative by the National Agriculture and Research Institute to encourage affected people to register for assistance. She registered, but when it came time to distribute the cash grants, because her appearance did not match her ID she was told that her name was not on the list. The bureaucratic process to rectify this took some time, and it took months to access seedlings and fertiliser. "There is no compensation for the labour or if I want to pay someone to help me cultivate the garden," she said.

The flooding was a "rude awakening" for Millie because it showed what climate change can do to vulnerable people, especially those who have no savings and rely on government assistance. "I have no reserves... no savings... so it really hit me hard. Even though some people might just see it as a flood, it affected me."

Stories like Millie's show that the effects of climate change on trans communities can be particularly severe. As Alexis D'Marco, the Executive Director of UCTRANS states, "Climate justice and environmental work, led by trans organisations - who are already under-resourced, under capacity and challenged to get any of their needs met - are rare."

This is why UCTRANS launched their ground breaking research project. This will form the foundation of UCTRANS' ongoing climate justice engagement and strategies. Talking about this research, Alexis said: "This is our second research project, and we found out that in most of the responses, persons who are already disenfranchised, it exacerbates the situation when a natural disaster happens."

PROMOTING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE



The Challenge

In the long term, inclusion of LGBTQI people and respect for our rights relies on better public understanding and acceptance. This requires education, campaigning, awareness raising efforts to promote positive media representation, and collaboration with and support from allies.

Better understanding and acceptance of LGBTQI people and issues can help pave the way for legal reform to protect human rights, reduce stigma, and empower LGBTQI communities to be more visible, ensuring our community can access the services, information and support they need.

The Response

Around the world, GiveOut's partners are working to turn the tide of public opinion and entrench respect for LGBTQI rights, training journalists to use inclusive language and improve the representation of LGBTQI lives in the media, sharing stories of LGBTQI people to dispel common myths and misconceptions about our community, educating the public about LGBTQI people and campaigning for change. Our partners are also working directly with families, faith-based groups and potential allies to change hearts and minds, from one-to-one conversations to national education and awareness campaigns.

“As part of the generation who saw our rights transformed over the past 25 years, from the end of Section 28 to marriage equality, we are committed to supporting groups that are working to bring that kind of transformational change to their own communities.”

- Josh Graff and Jon Steinberg, sponsors of the Steinberg-Graff Fund for International LGBTQI Human Rights with GiveOut

“It is either the media portraying us as demonic or portraying us as people who should not be reckoned with in society, but the ability of the community to tell our own stories has allowed us to reduce negative narratives around LGBTQI persons.”

- Remi Makinde, Executive Director, TIERs, Nigeria



Trans*parent, Czech Republic

IMPACT UPDATES



Promoting Public Support for Marriage Equality in Cambodia

Over the past 12 months, Rainbow Community Kampuchea (RoCK) have continued using social and other media to increase public understanding, acceptance, and support for marriage equality in Cambodia, by sharing real life stories of LGBTQI couples and supportive parents through their 'I Accept' campaign. RoCK have also continued to regularly engage with journalists and media, to ensure respectful media coverage of the issue. This resulted in 17 media articles covering the importance of marriage equality for LGBTQI people in 2023 alone.

Breaking Down Stigma Against LGBTQI Muslims

Working across South Asia in a context that is fraught with Islamophobia, gender based violence and authoritarianism, The Queer Muslim Project have continued to work with LGBTQI activists to challenge fear, stigma and violence through their intersectional storytelling. In 2023 this included designing a queer writers' room to publish stories in an anthology and bring queer Muslim voices into book and poetry festivals around the world.

Leveraging Personal Stories to Change Laws and Protect Intersex Children in Greece

Intersex Greece, supported by our grant partner the Intersex Human Rights Fund, achieved an historic victory in 2022 when the Greek Parliament voted to ban unnecessary, non-consensual and abusive interventions on intersex children. Intersex Greece gave interviews to the media and built relations with political representatives, with powerful personal stories forming the centrepiece of their advocacy to achieve legislative change.





Changing Hearts and Minds to Win Reform for Trans People in the Czech Republic

After years of advocacy, campaigning and awareness raising, our grant partner Trans*Parent won a commitment from the Czech Republic’s Ministry of Justice to end the forced sterilisation of trans people and succeeded in getting the Ministry of the Interior to recognise gender neutral names.



Training Lawyers and Journalists on LGBTQI Issues in Nigeria

The Bisi Alimi Foundation has continued their Media Fellowship Programme, which brings together journalists and lawyers to train them on LGBTQI identities and issues, helping to build more positive representation of LGBTQI people in the media and empower lawyers to champion LGBTQI rights. Since the fellowship was launched, the lawyers taking part have provided over 100 pro-bono hours to support LGBTQI people, and over 50 articles have been written and published by journalists who joined the programme.



Building Understanding Towards LGBTQI Refugees in South Africa

In South Africa, to combat homophobia, transphobia and xenophobia experienced by LGBTQI refugees, People Against Suffering, Suppression, Oppression and Poverty (PASSOP) facilitated community-based dialogues between LGBTQI refugees and members of the local South African LGBTQI community which were also attended by church leaders, community members and street committee members to build connections and change attitudes.

Protecting Intersex Children in Greece

19 July 2022 was a historic day for the intersex community in Greece, as the country became the fifth in the world to ban genital mutilation on intersex children. Thanks to efforts from Intersex Greece, supported by GiveOut's partner's ILGA-Europe and the Intersex Human Rights Fund, intersex minors under the age of 15 are now protected from surgical operations and other invasive treatments aimed to align their sex characteristics to binary male or female categories.

One of the most powerful stories heard by the Greek Parliament in the lead-up to the landmark vote came from Irene Simeonidou, Secretary of Intersex Greece and mother of an intersex child:

“13 years ago, when I was five months pregnant, two obstetricians at the local hospital suggested, very insistently, that we must terminate the healthy and desirable baby I was carrying because it had an extra X on the sex chromosome.”

The ban in Greece is also unique, in that in addition to banning surgical interventions, it also bans hormonal interventions that target intersex children. This represents a key demand of intersex human rights organisations and is a shortcoming in some nationwide bans that include exceptions for certain conditions and do not provide universal protection.

GiveOut is proud to partner with the Intersex Human Rights Fund, who are dedicated to resourcing the intersex movement globally and championing the human rights of intersex people. They give flexible funding to enable intersex activists and organisations to promote the rights, agency, and autonomy of intersex people.



Intersex Human Rights Fund



Trans*parent, Czech Republic

Trans*parent: Ending the Forced Sterilisation of Trans People in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is one of the last remaining countries in Europe to require surgical treatment and forced sterilisation, before a trans person can change their legal gender identity. GiveOut's grant partner Trans*parent have been raising awareness of this outdated and barbaric practice with the authorities and the general public, and have been promoting better understanding of trans lives through the media.

After years of advocacy, campaigning and awareness raising by Trans*parent and others, the Czech Republic's Ministry of Justice, alongside their Human Rights Commissioner, have produced draft legislation which would end the forced sterilisation of trans people.

Viktor, the Chairman of Trans*Parent, said: “The current legislation is barbaric and does not treat trans people as having equal chances and conditions in life. The abolition of forced castrations would be a historical milestone and a great move for the Czech Republic, so we hope for the fastest possible legislative process and a change that finally recognises the value of every human being.”

The Queer Muslim Project is Amplifying LGBTQ+ Voices Globally

By Deenah Al-Aqsa for GAY TIMES



Artwork By Alafiya Hasan

With activism and community-centred storytelling at its heart, The Queer Muslim Project (TQMP) has a global presence working with LGBTQI Muslim youth, helping to challenge stigmas and misconceptions through digital art and faith-based dialogue.

Starting as a Facebook page in 2017, the collective has helped establish opportunities for self-representation and leadership for underserved artists, creators and activists. Since then, TQMP has made huge inroads in media – with the support of the LGBTQI community foundation GiveOut – working with Netflix, Instagram, the British Council and the BBC to uplift queer artists in South Asia and around the world.

Elsewhere, TQMP has partnered with the British Council to curate films for its LGBTQI film festival, Five Films for Freedom – these moments are integral in cultivating spaces of belonging and inclusivity. Amassing a community of over 35,000 people, TQMP remains a vital resource for online tools and creating safe offline community spaces for queer Muslims.

We spoke with Rafiul Alom Rahman, TQMP's founder, and Maniza Khalid, Programmes and Innovations Officer, to find out more about their work.

Storytelling and inclusivity seem pivotal to TQMP. How do you use these skills to support LGBTQI Muslim youth?

Rafi: We've realised the power of cross-cultural collaboration. So many of our poets' backgrounds are rooted in local contexts, with several strong

diaspora voices. We have Language is a Queer Thing, an India-UK poetry exchange programme. Last year's cohort of poets performed at the BBC Contains Strong Language Festival in Birmingham. This year, our second cohort will be performing for the same festival, this time in Leeds for the Year of Culture programme.

Another programme we've recently launched in partnership with Netflix is called the QueerFrames Screenwriting Lab. We're looking to select 10 queer screenwriters from across India, from diverse communities, who can create new frames of reference for us to see queer stories on the screen.

How has TQMP been received by different communities?

Rafi: What keeps us going is the messages from young queer Muslims around the world who share that they feel seen and heard.

There are a lot of non-Muslim allies too, who reach out to us, love our work and support us. It's been slow and steady for us, and I think that's where we want to be. The community is important because we are a community-driven initiative.

As for the future of TQMP, what do you have planned next?

Rafi: Faith cuts through all of our work, and we have a lot of nuanced conversations on faith and identity. We are also looking at possibilities of empowering artists and creating pathways for them in the creative industry. We hope that in doing so, we can really enable them to find that kind of leadership and space and voice.

**DELIVERING
EMERGENCY
SUPPORT IN
TIMES OF CRISIS**



The Challenge

The COVID-19 pandemic showed on a global scale that LGBTQI people are disproportionately affected in crises, a reality that is set to continue in the face of the climate emergency. Forced to the fringes and already vulnerable, it is little surprise that when an emergency strikes, LGBTQI people are among the most at risk.

As well as being at increased risk during emergencies, LGBTQI people are often excluded from humanitarian relief efforts and post-disaster recovery programmes, and are therefore more likely to struggle to access food, medicine or shelter. Even during a disaster, prejudice still exists - in some contexts, LGBTQI people cannot use emergency shelters because of the discrimination they will face.

Sometimes our community is disproportionately impacted by crises affecting everyone; and sometimes LGBTQI people are in the eye of the storm - we are directly targeted. Extremist individuals and groups target us with hate and violence, attacking our LGBTQI spaces; and in the worst cases, anti-LGBTQI forces take control and subject LGBTQI people to arrest, reprisals and even execution, as in the case of Afghanistan.

The Response

GiveOut established the LGBTQI Emergency Fund to ensure that in times of crisis, we and our supporters can be there when our community needs us most.

We pool donations to the Emergency Fund, putting aside funds to provide support when it is most needed. When one of our grant partners alerts us to an emergency and the need for support, we are in a better position to provide an emergency grant from the Fund, alongside the long-term support we already provide. We may also complement this grant with a fundraising appeal as we did for Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Through this Fund, when an emergency hits, we are well-placed to ensure that the resources that are desperately needed are immediately in the hands of well-networked groups, embedded in their local LGBTQI communities. We have responded to emergencies across five continents in the last two years alone. Whether that has been our support for LGBTQI communities through COVID, the emergency response and rebuilding of LGBTQI spaces after a volcanic eruption in Tonga, or the emergency support and evacuation provided to LGBTQI people in Ukraine and Afghanistan, our Emergency Fund has supported our partners to protect LGBTQI people and save lives.

“We now know that there is no place for LGBTQI people in the big humanitarian response. We built this response ourselves with the support of the international community.”

- Lenny Emson, President, EuroPride



Lenny Emson, Kyiv Pride and Morten Siggard, Cinven with the GiveOut team

Standing in Solidarity with East Africa’s LGBTQI Community

In March 2023, Ugandan lawmakers passed some of the world’s worst anti-LGBTQI legislation. This was signed by the President and became law on 30 May 2023. Members of the community face up to 10 years in prison for merely identifying as LGBTQI, while the bill introduces the death penalty for “aggravated homosexuality.” Even allies aren’t safe: they face penalties ranging from fines to five years’ jail time for promoting equality, supporting LGBTQI groups, providing shelter to someone who identifies as LGBTQI, or even knowing an LGBTQI person without reporting them to the police.

Anti-LGBTQI sentiment is spreading across East Africa, fuelled by the religious right, including Western groups. In Kenya, the government unsuccessfully challenged the court decision allowing LGBTQI groups the right to exist, and some MPs are planning legislation of their own to introduce a life sentence for same-sex relations. In Burundi, the President said LGBTQI people must be “banished”, and in March 2023, 24 workers at an NGO combating AIDS were jailed for two years for alleged “homosexual acts”.

In response to this crisis in East Africa, GiveOut launched an emergency appeal to support the LGBTQI community in Uganda and surrounding countries. We provided emergency grants to LGBTQI organisations in East Africa who are providing shelter for people who have either fled or been forced from their homes, challenging the draconian laws through strategic litigation, defending and protecting LGBTQI people and allies, supporting refugees to settle safely in neighbouring countries, and building a progressive movement to halt and reverse these attacks on LGBTQI rights. For security reasons, we are not naming the organisations involved.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a beige sweater, is focused on packing aid boxes in a warehouse. She is holding a large, multi-colored package of baby wipes. The warehouse is filled with cardboard boxes and various supplies, with shelves in the background. The lighting is bright and even.

Volunteers of the feminist LGBTQI organisation Insight pack aid boxes in Kyiv on December 7, 2022.

(Photo by J. Lester Feder for Outright International.)



Protecting LGBTQI Tongans in the Face of a Devastating Natural Disaster

In January 2022, Tonga was hit by the largest volcanic eruption since Krakatoa in 1883, triggering a tsunami and covering the islands in ash. Many LGBTQI people sheltered in the homes of members of the Tonga Leitis Association (TLA), an organisation supported by GiveOut.

With over 600 buildings destroyed, huge swathes of the population were left without food, water or shelter. Although humanitarian support was given, LGBTQI people were at risk of being left out. Joey, the founder of TLA explains, “we weren’t included in the national cluster, so we had to find ways to support those who lived in the centre, and we had to divide them in all our homes.”

GiveOut responded by providing an emergency grant to TLA. With this support, TLA were able to clean away the volcanic ash so LGBTQI people could return to their homes, source and distribute food and water to community members, and purchase a vehicle to reach LGBTQI people in remote areas to provide them with humanitarian support.



Providing Humanitarian Support To Ukraine’s LGBTQI Community

Through our partnership with Outright International, GiveOut’s Ukraine appeal helped fund humanitarian relief to support the LGBTQI community in Ukraine following Russia’s full-scale invasion. Launched a day after the Russian invasion, the fund has distributed USD \$2.8 million to 40 LGBTQI organisations in Ukraine and surrounding countries that are providing relief to queer people on the frontlines of the war, including safe shelter, food, medical care, transportation for those who are fleeing, and other types of humanitarian support.

Talking about the personal impact of the support received, Lenny Emson, Executive Director of KyivPride said: “We started getting these messages from all over the world, messages of support, messages of love ... we’re here with you, we’re here to support you, we’re here to give you hope, and we’re here to give you very practical resources, to collect money, to help the community, to help your people to escape your country, to help your people who are staying in the country with the resources to survive.”

Olena Shevchenko on Providing Humanitarian Support to the LGBTQI Community in Ukraine

My name is Olena Shevchenko and I'm a chairperson of Insight which is based in Ukraine and has been working since 2008. Before the war we mainly did human rights work to advance LGBTQI equality, including strategic litigation cases, legal support and also provided psychological support.

I remember the first day of the full scale invasion thinking, is this the last day of our lives? So what can we do with that? I knew LGBTQI people needed us, needed our support.

During the first eight or nine months of the war, we supported 7,899 LGBTQI people with relocation. This was important for those who tried to escape during the first year, because they were mostly

lesbians or bisexual women, or couples with children because they tried to save those children from the war. We have three shelters which we built from nothing in the first week, so it's already been a year since they started to operate.

One family had a very long journey, escaping from the Luhansk district together with their three year-old child. They came to our shelter and we then helped them to get to the border with Poland. They stayed there with a family we found, hoping to relocate to Germany, but unfortunately this failed. We supported them during their stay in Poland until they received visas to the UK.

They sent me photos of themselves in the UK, where they have found a house. They are happy, and safe. But they want to return to Ukraine when the war is over and have their family recognised at home here too.

Another huge part of our work is humanitarian support. We cover everything, meals, baby food, blankets, clothes for different people, including warm clothes for kids and adults. We also support elderly people and people with disabilities because our community is pretty diverse. We usually send 250 packages each day, so we are covering around 250 households.

Sometimes the needs of our community are different. Look at hormone replacement medication, for example. They're still the main challenge because from the start of the invasion, it was not possible to get them. We quickly started to receive thousands of requests for hormones from trans people. Nobody from the huge humanitarian missions provided a solution for how we could support them.

People in different countries from our community helped us much more than all those huge humanitarian missions. People just collected from everywhere in Europe and they brought it to the border with Ukraine and we managed to find a solution to get it from the Polish side of the border. We are still supporting people in this way, especially for those still in Ukraine because, unfortunately for many trans people, especially those who are assigned as male in their documents, it is still not possible to cross the border.



Olena Shevchenko, Executive Director of Insight

(Photo by J. Lester Feder for Outright International.)

GRANT PARTNER INDEX BY REGION

KEY



Using the Law and Courts to Advance Equality



Building Supportive Communities and Safe Spaces



Providing the Evidence to Advocate for Change



Promoting Public Understanding and Acceptance



Delivering Emergency Support in Times of Crisis

ASIA PACIFIC

**ASEAN SOGIE Caucus (ASC),
Southeast Asia**
*Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund
Climate Fund*



**Centre for Law and Policy Research
(CLPR), India**
*Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund
Legal Aid Fund*



**EQUAL GROUND,
Sri Lanka**
Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund



**Equal Asia Foundation (Equal AF),
Asia**
Climate Fund



**ILGA Asia,
Asia**



**Legal Dignity,
Malaysia**
Legal Aid Fund



**Rainbow Community Kampuchea
Organisation (RoCK),
Cambodia**
Steinberg-Graff Fund



**Solidarity and Action Against the
HIV Infection in India (SAATHII),
India**



**Tonga Leitis Association (TLA),
Kingdom of Tonga**
Climate Fund



**The Queer Muslim Project (TQMP),
South Asia**
GAY TIMES Amplifund



EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

**Consortium,
United Kingdom**
Global Butterflies Fund



**LGBTI Equal Rights Association,
Western Balkans & Turkey**



**ILGA Europe
Europe**



**Mongolia LGBT Centre,
Mongolia**



**Pink Armenia,
Armenia**
GAY TIMES Amplifund



**Trans*parent,
Czech Republic**
Steinberg-Graff Fund



LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**Fundación Amal Argentina,
Argentina**
Climate Fund



**Guyana Trans United,
Guyana**
Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund



**Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-
Sexuals & Gays (J-FLAG),
Jamaica**
Climate Fund



**La Red Centroamericana del Caribe
de Hombres Trans+ (REDCAHT+),
Central America**
Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund



**Society Against Sexual Orientation
Discrimination (SASOD),
Guyana**



**TransWave Jamaica,
Jamaica**
Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund



**United Caribbean Trans Network
(UCTRANS), Caribbean**
Climate Fund



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**Coalition for Sexual & Bodily Rights
(CSBR), Middle East & North Africa,
Southeast & Central Asia**



**Helem,
Lebanon**



**IraqQueer,
Iraq**



**Qorras,
Lebanon**
Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**Access Chapter 2
South Africa**



**Bisi Alimi Foundation,
Nigeria / United Kingdom**
GAY TIMES Amplifund



**Iranti,
South Africa**



**People Against Suffering,
Oppression and Poverty (PASSOP),
South Africa**
Legal Aid Fund



**National Gay and Lesbian Human
Rights Commission (NGLHRC),
Kenya**



**The Other Foundation,
Southern Africa**
Steinberg-Graff Fund



**UHAI-EASHRI,
East Africa**
Women's Fund



INTERNATIONAL

International Trans Fund (ITF)
Global Butterflies Fund



Intersex Human Rights Fund (IHRF)



**The Commonwealth Equality
Network**



**Organisation for Refugee, Asylum
and Migration (ORAM)**



Outright International



Rainbow Railroad



THANK YOU SO MUCH

To our grant partners around the world, thank you so much for everything you do for our communities, and for allowing us to be by your side.

To our community of supporters, thank you for making this vital work possible.

Together, we have already provided £1.7 million in new funding to the LGBTQI movement, building a better, more equal world.

Thank you to our closest individual supporters: Adal, Alison, Antonia, Andrea, Charlie, Chris, Elliot, Hosh, Jon, Josh, Nicholas, Paolo, Radhika, Suki, and our 100 Circle of regular givers.

Thank you to our corporate allies, including: our founding sponsor Boston Consulting Group, Macquarie Bank, Levi Strauss & Co, Gay Times, Global Butterflies, Jones Day, Travers Smith, Latham & Watkins, Allen & Overy, Cinven, Northern Trust, Rokos Capital, Ernst & Young, S&P Global, Spotify, Google, LinkedIn and E.V. Energy.

And thank you to our trust and foundation funders, including Wellspring Philanthropic Fund and the Baring Foundation.

If you would like to join the incredible individuals, businesses and foundations supporting this vital work, GiveOut would be delighted to welcome your support for the global LGBTQI movement.

Individuals

There are so many ways that you can support LGBTQI activism worldwide with GiveOut. Whether that's setting up a regular donation, fundraising to get your friends, family and colleagues supporting this vital work, creating a giving circle or even setting up your own Philanthropist Advised Fund, getting involved and having an impact has never been easier. We'd be delighted to speak with you about how you can make a lasting impact on the lives of LGBTQI people around the world.

Businesses

We offer various options for businesses to support LGBTQI equality and inclusion, including sponsorship opportunities, in-kind support, Pride talks, employee engagement and payroll giving. From our LGBTQI Legal Aid Fund to supporting work at the intersection of LGBTQI rights and climate change, our pioneering partnerships are advancing equality around the world. We'd be delighted to discuss with you how we can get your business involved.

Trusts & Foundations

We work closely with trusts and foundations to invest in supporting the global LGBTQI movement and mainstreaming LGBTQI issues across funding priorities. Whether you would like to partner with us to support LGBTQI activism globally or to invest in growing LGBTQI philanthropy, GiveOut can help.

Visit giveout.org/donate or email give@giveout.org to get involved.

Legal Aid Fund Briefing Event at Latham & Watkins with Steve Letsike, Access Chapter 2



SPECIAL FOCUS FUNDS

You can choose to direct your giving through any of these funds with GiveOut. For gifts of £10,000+/year we can work with you to establish your own Philanthropist Advised Fund for yourself, your family or business.

PHILANTHROPIST ADVISED FUNDS



Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund

Sponsored by trans businesswoman Antonia Belcher OBE and her wife Andrea, the Fund supports organisations that improve the lives of trans people around the world.



Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund

Sponsored by talent, diversity and inclusion expert Suki Sandhu OBE, the Fund supports LGBTQI human rights activism in Asia.



GAY TIMES Amplifund

Sponsored by Gay Times, Amplifund supports LGBTQI activists around the world and amplifies their stories.



Steinberg-Graff Fund for International LGBTQI Human Rights

Sponsored by Jon Steinberg and Josh Graff, the Fund supports LGBTQI organisations campaigning for legal reform and human rights protections in some of the hardest places to be LGBTQI.



Global Butterflies Fund

Sponsored by Global Butterflies, a company that helps businesses become trans and non-binary inclusive, the Fund supports organisations working to advance human rights and protections for trans and non-binary communities in the UK and worldwide.

THEMATIC FUNDS



Climate Fund

Supports organisations working at the intersection of climate justice and LGBTQI human rights, recognising that our communities will be affected by this crisis in particular ways.



Emergency Fund

Provides urgent support to LGBTQI organisations and communities facing crisis situations.



Legal Aid Fund

Sponsored by law firms, the Fund supports legal work to advance LGBTQI equality.



Women's Fund

Supports organisations working to advance the human rights of lesbian, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer women around the world.

PARTNER FUNDS

GiveOut has established partner funds to enable UK-based supporters of other international LGBTQI organisations to give tax efficiently to support their chosen organisation's work.



Outright International UK Fund

Outright International is dedicated to working with partners around the globe to strengthen the capacity of the LGBTQI human rights movement.



Rainbow Railroad UK Fund

Rainbow Railroad is a global not-for-profit organisation that helps LGBTQI people facing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.



ILGA Europe UK Fund

ILGA-Europe are the European umbrella organisation for LGBTQI rights and equality, working in collaboration with and on behalf of over 700 member organisations across 54 countries in Europe and Central Asia.



GiveOut

www.giveout.org

GiveOut is a charity registered in the UK with the Charity Commission for England and Wales
(Charity Number: 1176434)

Third Floor, Thomas Ford House, 23-24 Smithfield Street, London EC1A 9LF