



Sustaining Progress, Powered by Community

Annual Impact Report 2024/25



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Cover Photo (Top Left): Colombo PRIDE, EQUAL GROUND, Sri Lanka
Cover Photo (Top Right): African Pride Accelerated, WHER, Nigeria
Cover Photo (Middle): Soweto Pride, PFSAQ, South Africa
Cover Photo (Bottom Left): KyivPride, Ukraine
Cover Photo (Bottom Right): © Rachita Sai Barak, The Queer Muslim Project, South Asia

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Welcome from GiveOut's Team and Board

On behalf of GiveOut's team and Board, we are pleased to share our Annual Impact Report for 2024–25. This has been a year in which LGBTQI organisations around the world continued to defend human rights and protect their communities despite intensifying global challenges – from sudden cuts to international aid to escalating anti-LGBTQI rhetoric, legislation, and violence. In this context, our community and allies in the UK and Germany came together to ensure that frontline activists could continue their vital work.

Across five pillars of activism, our grant partners made meaningful progress. Through the law and courts, they worked to challenge discriminatory legislation, assert equal rights, and advance recognition and protection for LGBTQI people. By building supportive communities and safe spaces, partners strengthened local networks, expanded psychosocial support, and created environments where queer and trans people can gather, organise, and access essential services. In providing evidence to advocate for change, organisations generated research, documentation, and data that informed public debate, strengthened advocacy strategies, and supported efforts to shift policy. Through culture, storytelling, and public education, partners challenged misinformation, fostered understanding, and opened new spaces for dialogue and acceptance. And when crises hit – whether political, economic, or climate-driven – emergency support helped partners respond quickly to keep their communities safe.

This period also marked an important transition for GiveOut. Following an extensive recruitment process, Jason Ball OAM, formerly GiveOut's Head of Grant-Making, stepped into the role of Executive Director in April 2025, bringing deep experience in campaigning, philanthropy and LGBTQI leadership. He succeeded GiveOut's founding Executive Director, Rupert Abbott, who remained through June to support a smooth handover. We extend our gratitude to Rupert for his leadership since GiveOut's launch in 2018.

This report reflects the power of GiveOut's community-foundation model: individual acts of generosity combining to resource movements in ways that are flexible, dependable, and aligned with the priorities of activists themselves. As we look ahead, we remain committed to growing this solidarity, and ensuring LGBTQI organisations everywhere have the support they need to thrive.



About GiveOut

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

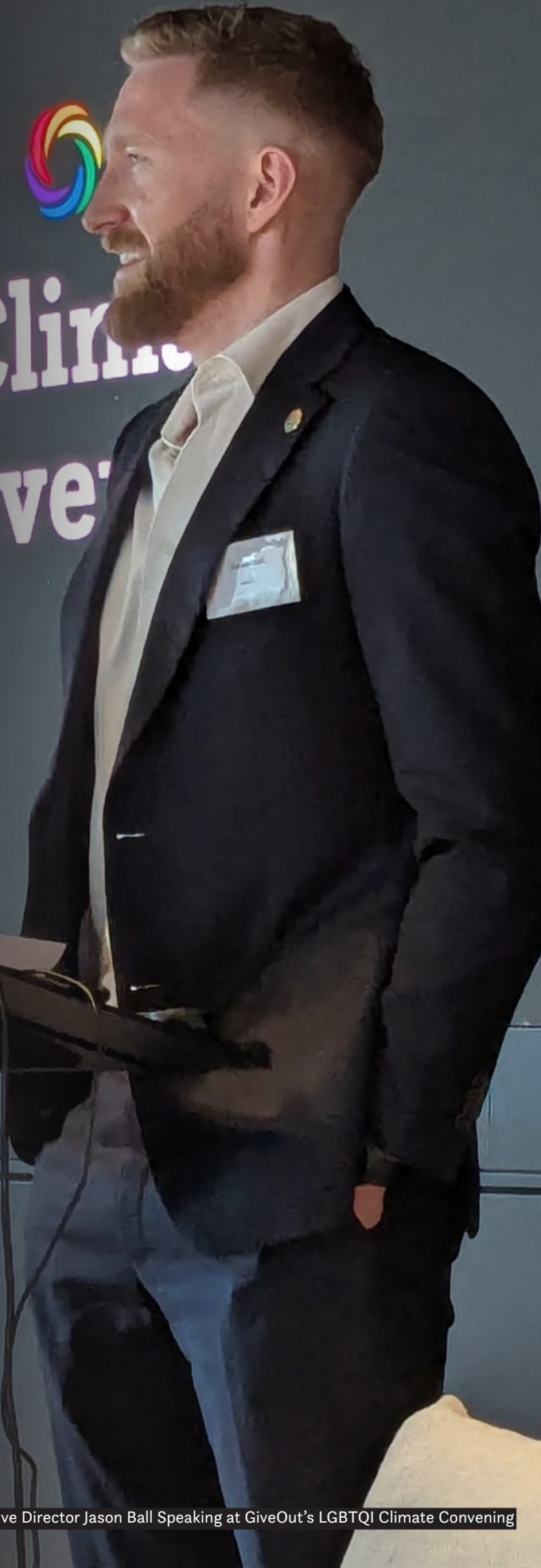
Around the world, LGBTQI people face discrimination, violence, and other serious human rights abuses simply for being who they are. Courageous activists are undertaking vital work to protect and improve LGBTQI lives, but they lack resources and funding is fragile, especially in the Global South. LGBTQI groups receive a tiny fraction of international development aid – just 4p in every £100 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 providing a platform for our community and allies 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 Team, Trustees and Grant Partners at our 2025 Pride Celebration

GiveOut's Grant-Making

To create a world where LGBTQI people can live their lives freely and openly, 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 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, GiveOut is 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.

We identify pioneering groups to support through a rigorous process of consultation, due diligence, and vetting, guided by our Grant-making Advisory Panel and governed by our Board of Trustees.

Our Seventh Grant Cycle

In early 2025, LGBTQI movements around the world were confronted with an unprecedented funding crisis following the sudden withdrawal of US government support. In response, GiveOut launched the LGBTQI Urgent Response Fund, enabling our community and allies to come together and provide immediate, flexible support to organisations most affected. The Fund played a central role in stabilising our grant partners, allowing many to retain staff, maintain core services, and navigate rapidly shifting conditions.

Given the severity of global funding cuts, the escalation of anti-LGBTQI backlash, and the growing impacts of the climate crisis, our 2025 grant-making departed from our usual practice. This year, we prioritised support for existing grant partners, growing the size of grants across our portfolio of 50 organisations, increasing grant levels and directing resources to those most affected by funding losses.

While the increased grants could not fully replace the resources lost, they provided a critical bridge, affording grant partners time to strategise, re-budget, and pursue new fundraising opportunities while sustaining vital services and advocacy.

While our Grant-Making Advisory Panel's formal advisory function regarding new grants was not activated this year, its strategic guidance remained invaluable in identifying longer-term movement needs, shaping future directions for GiveOut's portfolio, and informing the revision of our Grant-Making Policy to ensure it continues to reflect movement priorities and best practice grant-making.

Beyond strengthening our portfolio, GiveOut has played a convening role around emerging issues, particularly the intersection of LGBTQI rights and climate change. In March, we brought together LGBTQI activists to create connections, share learnings, and identify new funding sources through GiveOut's LGBTQI Climate Fund. Following this world-first convening, we published *Bridging the Gap: Resourcing LGBTQI Climate Action*, offering practical recommendations for funders and LGBTQI organisations alike.

We also launched the Hurricane Melissa LGBTQI Appeal to support grant partners across the Caribbean in their response to this humanitarian crisis, providing emergency cash assistance, safe accommodation, and essential support to LGBTQI people facing barriers to mainstream relief.

A Note from GiveOut's Grant-Making Advisory Panel

by Rima Athar and Ryan Silverio
on behalf of the GiveOut Grant-Making Advisory Panel



As members of GiveOut's Grant-Making Advisory Panel (GMAP), we have had the privilege this year of accompanying the organisation through one of the most challenging periods for global LGBTQI movements in recent memory. The sharp contraction in international funding has placed enormous pressure on community-based organisations across every region.

In this context, GiveOut's decision to focus its 2025 grant-making on stabilising and strengthening existing grant partners, rather than expanding to new ones, was both strategic and principled. It reflected a shared belief, echoed throughout our discussions, that in times of crisis, continuity is key. Sustained, flexible, and unrestricted funding enables organisations to weather shocks, retain staff, and protect communities when they are most at risk.

This year, GMAP's contribution centred on strategic guidance and the revision of GiveOut's Grant-Making Policy. We helped sharpen its focus on equity, flexibility, and safety, ensuring it remains grounded in movement realities. The updated policy places greater emphasis on marginalised communities, with specific reference to trans, intersex, LBQ, and refugee-led organisations; recognises that in some regions activists cannot register as NGOs and must organise under different structures; and encourages greater openness to supporting new and emerging groups that demonstrate strong leadership and community trust. We also welcomed new commitments to learning, collaboration, and digital security, essential for safeguarding grant partners' wellbeing in an increasingly volatile world.

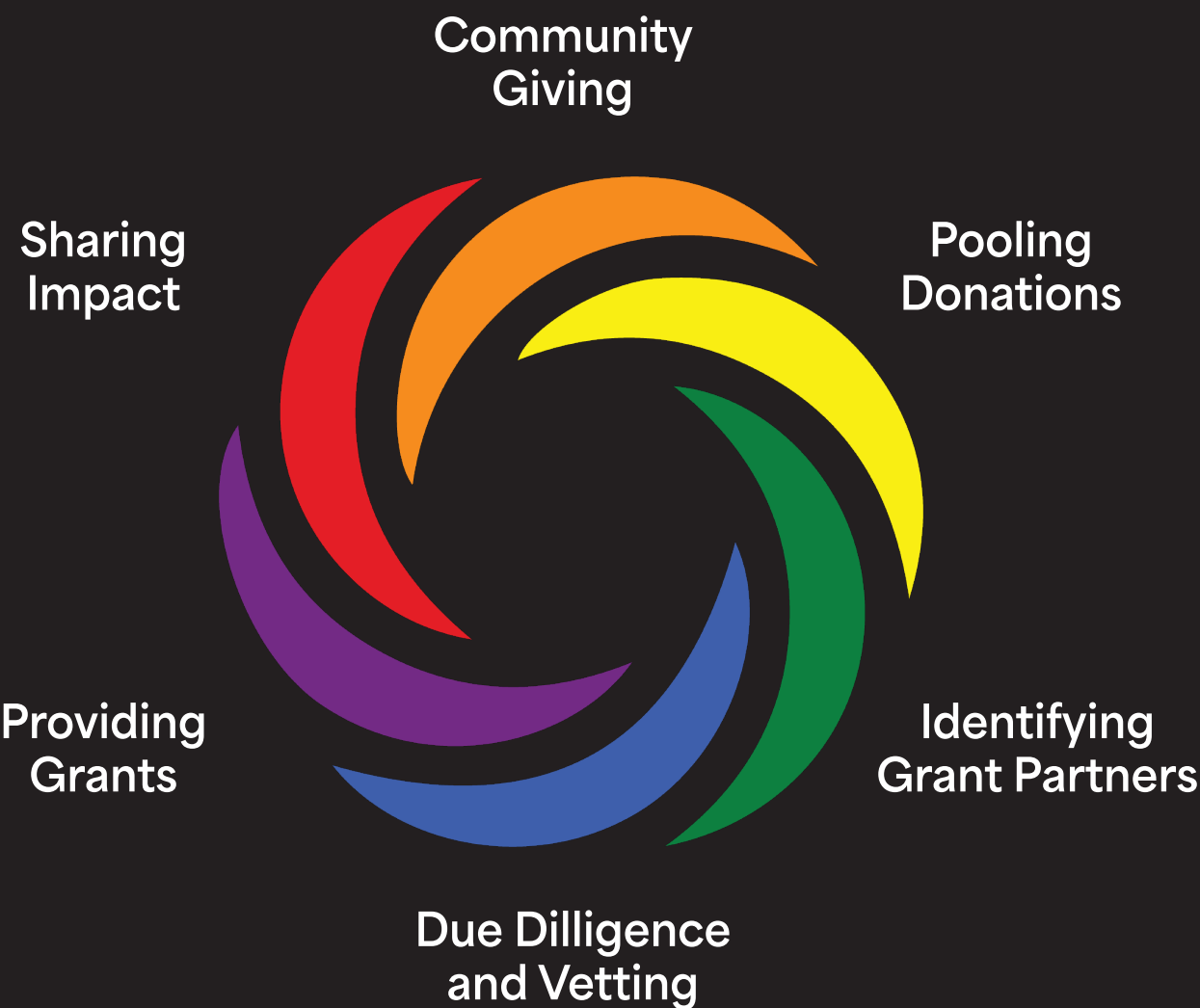
Looking ahead, we are excited for the next phase of GiveOut's growth and the planned expansion of GMAP in 2026. We look forward to continuing to work alongside GiveOut as the panel evolves, deepening its collective expertise and strengthening its connection to the movements we serve.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Neish McLean, who stepped down from GMAP in late 2025 after four years of generous service. Neish's insight, compassion, and deep movement experience, particularly his expertise in trans organising and LGBTQI advocacy across the Caribbean, have greatly enriched our collective thinking. We are deeply grateful for the wisdom he shared in helping to shape GiveOut's approach to grant-making and for introducing us to new and impactful groups within the global LGBTQI movement.

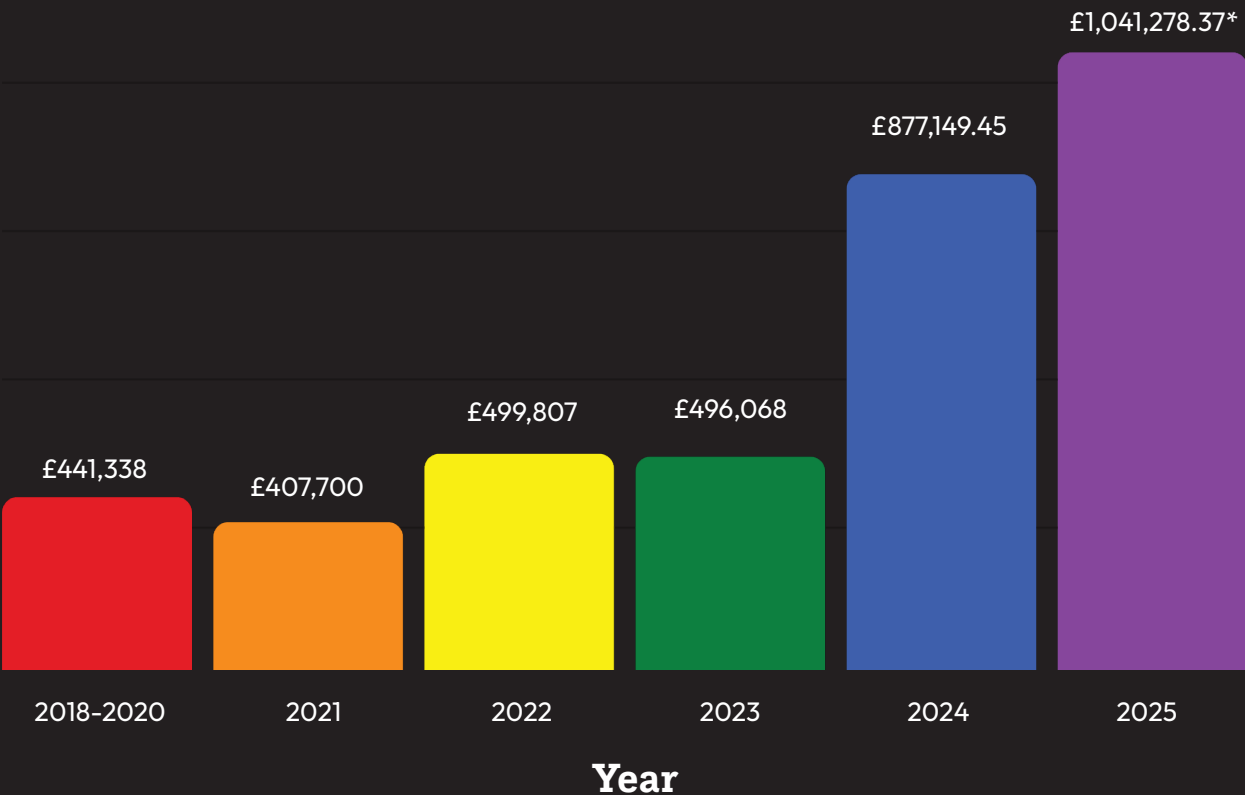
We remain inspired by the resilience of LGBTQI activists worldwide and by GiveOut's steadfast commitment to stand beside them with trust, care, and solidarity.

GiveOut's Funding

Our Model

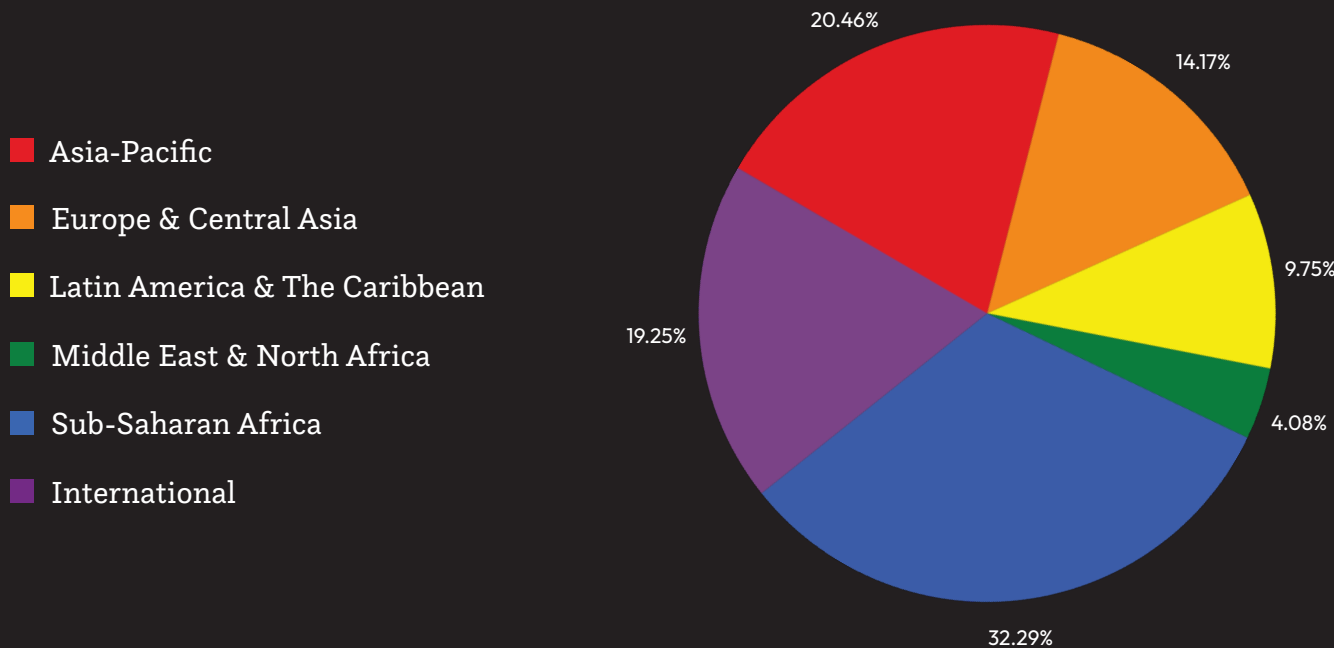


Total Grants by Year



*This excludes a large estate gift of £591,250 restricted to one of our UK Partner Funds. Read more about our UK Partner Funds on page 85.

Grants by Region 2025



GiveOut's Grant Partners

2024/25



- International Trans Fund
- Intersex Human Rights Fund
- ORAM
- Outright International
- Rainbow Railroad
- The Commonwealth Equality Network

When Aid Is Cut, We Show Up: Protecting LGBTQI Progress

by Jason Ball, Executive Director, GiveOut

Resilience is in the LGBTQI community's DNA. We are a movement built on the resolve of people who have continually risen above oppression in the fight for a more just future.

The ability to find courage and community in times of darkness has always been our strength. In 2025, we drew on that strength as our movement faced a crisis of survival.

Sudden Cuts, Lasting Damage: The Impact of the Aid Freeze

In January, the US government abruptly froze nearly all foreign aid, with LGBTQI organisations among the hardest hit. The consequences were immediate and devastating – cancelled grants, stop-work orders, and even demands that some groups return funds they had already received.

It was connected to a broader push to wind back diversity, equity, and inclusion programmes, and launch an all-out assault on the queer community, particularly trans and gender diverse people.

We surveyed our grant partners and found two-thirds had been impacted by the freeze, with estimated losses exceeding \$2 million. Many already operated on shoe-string budgets, and without immediate action would be forced to suspend operations, cut staff, or close entirely.

In their *Defunding Freedom* report, Outright International revealed the cuts had forced the suspension of 120 grants across 42 countries, jeopardising advocacy, legal aid, and emergency shelter for some of the most marginalised LGBTQI communities. As one of our grant partners put it, 'It's an existential crisis. We do not have the funds to continue operating after July this year.'

Meeting the Moment: A Global Backlash Demanded Global Solidarity

These were challenging times for our movement. But we have always believed in the power of hope as a vehicle for change. That is why GiveOut launched the LGBTQI Urgent Response Fund, bringing together our community and allies to support our grant partners affected by the aid freeze. The fund helped organisations navigate this period of upheaval by providing vital resources when they were needed most.

Emergency grants allowed organisations across Asia, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean, including in some of the toughest places in the world to live as a queer person, to retain staff, legal aid services, and crisis helplines.

According to the Global Philanthropy Project (GPP), 27% of donor government funding to LGBTQI movements in the Global South was at risk, and more than half of all embassy grants.

The timing of this financial precarity could not have been worse. As the US vacated the field on human rights leadership, anti-LGBTQI forces were emboldened. From Kenya to Iraq, we saw a resurgence of violence and regressive legislation, often justified by the US retreat.

Power to the Frontlines: Funding the Future of Our Movement

As a community foundation, GiveOut was uniquely placed to give power back to the people most affected. We pooled donations from individuals and businesses and channelled them directly to activist-led organisations worldwide, who know their communities intimately and can allocate funds to areas of greatest need.

Our grants were flexible and unrestricted, giving grassroots groups the breathing room they needed to stabilise operations, respond to emerging threats, and chart a path forward. This support wasn't just about survival – it was about resilience. It allowed organisations to hold the line, protect their teams and communities, and seek alternative longer-term funding in a moment when US aid may take years to return if at all.

Thanks to a generous match commitment, every pound up to £250,000 donated to our LGBTQI Urgent Response Fund was doubled, offering a lifeline to many grassroots groups.

There is strength in community. With collective action, we supported vital organisations through a moment of crisis.

Vince & Nate – Running for Global LGBTQI Rights (and Getting Engaged Along the Way!)

In 2025, long-time partners and dedicated runners Vince Hamel and Nate Roundy took on one of Europe's most challenging trail events, the TransAlpine Run's 'Run2', a two-day ultramarathon crossing the Austrian Alps. Covering an astonishing 72 kilometres over steep alpine terrain, the pair pushed through heat, exhaustion, and punishing elevation. What carried them through the toughest stretches was their commitment to fundraising for GiveOut and their belief that running could be a way to show solidarity with LGBTQI communities around the world.

For Vince and Nate, choosing GiveOut was instinctive. 'LGBTQI rights are hard won, and unfortunately increasingly under attack,' they explained. 'With recent cuts to USAID and other donors turning away from LGBTQI advocacy, GiveOut's work to channel funding to activist-led organisations globally is more essential

than ever. By raising money, we felt more empowered than powerless, like we could help queer people, even in a small way.'

Their motivation stayed with them across every uphill climb. 'Knowing that our efforts were supporting positive change for queer people inspired us to push through the moments when our legs and feet hurt,' they said. 'So many LGBTQI people around the world bravely live their lives despite challenges and violence. Supporting their bravery gave us the motivation we needed to keep going.'

The race became even more unforgettable when, somewhere on the mountain trails, Vince and Nate decided to get engaged, turning an already extraordinary challenge into a celebration of love, resilience, and community. By the time they crossed the finish line, they had

raised more than £4,100 (including match funding and Gift Aid), with support from friends, family and Nate's employer, Canvas8.

Vince and Nate's fundraising journey highlights the creativity and commitment of supporters who choose to stand in solidarity with LGBTQI communities worldwide. Their efforts, and the joy and determination they brought to the challenge, continue to inspire.

Congratulations to Vince and Nate on both their achievement and their engagement, and thank you for helping to power LGBTQI activism around the world.

If you're feeling inspired to take on your own fundraising challenge in support of LGBTQI rights globally, explore [GiveOut's Fundraising Toolkit](#) - packed with ideas, tips, and resources to help you get started.

'With recent cuts to USAID and other donors turning away from LGBTQI advocacy, GiveOut's work to channel funding to activist-led organisations globally is more essential than ever. By raising money, we felt more empowered than powerless, like we could help queer people, even in a small way.'

Vince & Nate





Using the Law and Courts to Advance Equality

GiveOut's grant partners used the law and courts to challenge criminalisation, advance protections, and defend LGBTQI people against unfair treatment. In many countries, LGBTQI people continue to be made criminals simply for being who they are. They face punishments ranging from arrest and imprisonment, to death, with many lacking any legal protections that recognise or address violence and discrimination against LGBTQI people.

In a year of progress and setbacks, our grant partners navigated complex legal landscapes, rising to challenges with proactive litigation and advocacy. Landmark victories, such as the overturning of colonial-era discriminatory laws in Saint Lucia, demonstrated the power of strategic legal work. On the other hand, the reversal of the decriminalisation ruling in Trinidad and Tobago, new laws criminalising LGBTQI expression in Burkina Faso, and proposals in Turkey to restrict gender transition revealed accelerating efforts to roll back LGBTQI rights.

Our grant partners also addressed violence, systemic inequities, and access barriers. In Kenya, the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC) leveraged litigation to establish accountability for anti-LGBTQI violence. In Malaysia, Legal Dignity supported Deaf LGBTQI communities, addressing intersecting barriers of ableism, homophobia, and transphobia. In Armenia, activists brought a landmark case before the European Court of Human Rights to challenge hate speech.

GiveOut supported these efforts through the LGBTQI Legal Aid Fund and pro bono partnerships, connecting global law firms with grassroots organisations to strengthen strategies, ensuring activists can fully defend their communities and advance rights in challenging contexts.



Building Blocks of Freedom: ECADE's Fight to Decriminalise Same-Sex Intimacy in Saint Lucia

In 2025, Saint Lucia's High Court struck down the country's colonial-era laws, decriminalising same-sex intimacy. Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE), a network of LGBTQI organisations in the Caribbean, led the efforts behind this legal case and won on every ground. Of seven Caribbean countries that once criminalised same-sex intimacy, five reversed these laws, with four of these due to ECADE's efforts. In addition to this, one case is currently before an appeals court with another case pending. This victory was the culmination of a decade-long campaign, but its roots went back much further.

For Kenita Placide, founder and executive director of ECADE, the fight was deeply personal. Between 2005 and 2007, she buried three friends murdered because of their sexual orientation. 'The brutality of the murder is one of the things that got me,' she explained. 'The hatred comes out in the murders because it's overkill, the torture these guys went through.'

LGBTQI people across the region faced compounding challenges such as laws criminalising their intimate lives and religious attitudes condemning their existence. 'We had two whips at us from each direction,' Kenita reflected. Without decriminalisation, comprehensive protections remained impossible, so challenging these laws became paramount to the pursuit of LGBTQI rights.

Strategic Efforts

In 2015, ECADE convened activists, lawyers and funders in Grenada. 'We unpacked all the angles,' Kenita recalled. Organisations across seven Caribbean countries came together with a clear mission: coordinate strategic litigation to dismantle laws criminalising same-sex intimacy and secure legal protection. They identified that Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis offered the highest chance of success due to constitutional

protections. Rather than rushing cases simultaneously, they staggered filings. 'If something went wrong in the first case, we had enough time to adjust before filing the next.'

The strategy proved crucial. ECADE kept cases out of the media until decisions were reached. 'We had no churches as interested parties because we didn't make it public,' said Kenita. 'We just went to the courts and got it done.' Where cases were public, 'tonnes of churches' signed up as interested parties, complicating proceedings.

ECADE secured pro bono legal support but recognised costs extended beyond legal fees. They fundraised for case management and comprehensive litigant support, counselling, security, and emergency funds for people whose personal stories of abuse and violence became part of court records. 'Most people don't think about litigant support because they volunteered their time. But there's heavy lifting that still has to happen,' said Kenita.

'One of the things I give praise and gratitude for is having had time to see and experience this change. Many activists start a process and pass away before change actually comes.'

Domino Effect

The work spanned a decade. Antigua and Barbuda struck down their law criminalising same-sex intimacy in July 2022, followed by Saint Kitts and Nevis in August, and Barbados in December. Then in 2025, Saint Lucia's High Court delivered its comprehensive ruling.

'One of the things I give praise and gratitude for is having had time to see and experience this change,' Kenita reflected. 'Many activists start a process and pass away before change actually comes.'

The significance extends beyond Saint Lucia. 'This decision is a turning point for a lot of the region, this particular Caribbean region and where we are heading and where we need to see the protections of our people,' Kenita explained. Whilst Saint Lucia has progressive labour law protections and a recently passed act covering sexual orientation and gender identity, much work remains.

A Work in Progress

'It's not the cherry on top of the cake yet. This is foundational work and there's a lot to build on,' said Kenita. The next steps involve constitutional amendments to enshrine protections across all areas of law. But legal change alone isn't enough. 'If you live in a hostile atmosphere, changing the law does not matter.' Public education, cultural change through campaigns and the arts, and continued community building must happen alongside legal victories.

Her vision remained grounded: 'I'm hoping we'll be in a place where the same freedoms I come to Germany and enjoy, we can enjoy back at home.'

The legal victories ECADE secured are vital building blocks to creating an inclusive region. Their successful challenges to these laws demonstrate how legal strategies can be used to challenge pre-existing laws. These efforts created the foundation upon which full equality, safety, and belonging can eventually be built for LGBTQI people across the Eastern Caribbean by striking down legislation that targets and marginalises the community.



ECADE Team and Members



‘It’s an immense privilege’: A&O Shearman on Supporting LGBTQI Organisations Worldwide

At GiveOut, we are proud to partner with organisations that are deeply committed to advancing LGBTQI human rights worldwide. A&O Shearman is one such partner, supporting LGBTQI organisations through GiveOut since 2022.

We spoke with two of the A&O Shearman LGBTQ+ Committee co-chairs for London and a senior pro bono lawyer about their commitment to supporting LGBTQI organisations, the critical role of law in advancing equality, and their insights for other firms looking to make a meaningful impact on LGBTQI causes.

‘Support for the wider LGBTQI community has been instrumental in bringing together people from across teams with shared values who might otherwise not meet.’

Could you start by introducing yourselves?

We’re Alastair Livesey, counsel in A&O Shearman’s International Arbitration team, Josh Little, senior associate in our M&A practice and Aditi Kapoor, senior associate in the Pro Bono team.

What inspires you to support the LGBTQI community, both within A&O Shearman and more broadly?

Josh: The astounding resilience of the LGBTQI community – both within the firm and outside. In any firm of this scale, it can be a challenge to create communities around shared identity and values. Support for the wider LGBTQI community has been instrumental in bringing together people from across teams with shared values who might otherwise not meet.

Alastair: Completely. I am really proud of how functional the network has been at adapting and reacting to change and challenges. The benefits of having strategic pillars focusing on wellbeing, pro bono and community investment, and engagement (amongst others) mean that people can focus their energies where their skills add most value. Creating a network for the internal community means we’ve been able to be there for our people and are also able to empower them to engage in work which makes them hopeful for change beyond our walls.

‘Either way it’s an immense privilege to be able to do this work alongside the expert organisations who are making concrete change happen.’

As one of the law firms supporting the LGBTQI Legal Aid Fund, why do you think it’s important to support LGBTQI organisations using the law and courts to advance equality?

Aditi: We have a dedicated LGBTQI rights-focused arm within our pro bono practice, which draws on the energy and enthusiasm of our lawyers. This includes those lawyers from within the LGBTQI community who are doubly invested in being part of legal and cultural change in this space. We might be supporting NGOs bringing strategic cases in international courts, or an individual LGBTQI refugee claim for humanitarian protection, whose flight from persecution might be layered with additional trauma. Either way it’s an immense privilege to be able to do this work alongside the expert organisations who are making concrete change happen. It has also been great to see our team develop extensive skills and knowledge in this area.

What advice would you give to other law firms looking to support LGBTQI causes?

Alastair: Always start by listening – partner with credible organisations and let them set priorities. Commit for the long term, and combine funding with targeted pro bono where your skills add distinct value.

Aditi: Don’t underestimate or gloss over the diversity of experience and intersectionality within the LGBTQI community – especially in different cultural contexts. Work towards sustainable partnerships and think critically about whether pro bono is the right fit.

Josh: Resource it properly and measure outcomes. Empower your network, ensure senior sponsorship, and build in safeguards for staff working on sensitive matters, especially across challenging jurisdictions. Wherever possible try to provide flexible but predictable multi-year support.

What are your hopes for the future of LGBTQI philanthropy and funding?

Josh: More unrestricted, multi-year funding so organisations can plan, retain talent, and respond quickly to threats and opportunities.

Alastair: Greater support for Global South and trans-led groups, including security, digital resilience, and rapid-response mechanisms. And more collaboration among funders and law firms to share learning, reduce duplication, and scale what works.



Prapulladevi K.N.

Denied for Being Trans, Empowered Through the Law: CLPR Helps Secure Justice for Prapulladevi

When Prapulladevi K.N. received news that she had been selected for a public service role in Mysuru, it marked a hard-won achievement. But when every other selected candidate received their appointment order and she did not, the reason was painfully clear: her identity as a transgender woman. With legal support from the Centre for Law and Policy Research (CLPR), Prapulladevi fought back, and won.

As one of 45 successful candidates selected on merit, Prapulladevi completed all required formalities, including document verification, medical examination, and every criterion for appointment. But when over 30 other candidates from the same selection list received their appointment orders and began work, Prapulladevi received nothing. 'I felt deeply distressed,' she recalled. 'It seemed to me as though I had been deprived of my right to live with dignity.'

A legal challenge before the Karnataka High Court had issued a temporary order preventing further appointments. Yet this order was being selectively applied, blocking Prapulladevi's appointment whilst allowing others to proceed. It appeared that this was because she is a trans woman.

CLPR's Allyship

Through her connections with the transgender community, Prapulladevi learned about CLPR and Executive Director Jayna Kothari's work on transgender rights. 'Since Ms Kothari has been a close ally of our community, I got to know about her work on transgender rights,' she explained. CLPR asked the court to intervene in the ongoing case, requesting clarification to ensure the

temporary order would not be selectively used to deny her appointment. Throughout the process, CLPR provided comprehensive support. 'The CLPR team patiently created awareness regarding legal issues and instilled confidence by providing strong assurance,' Prapulladevi noted.

The intervention focused on a fundamental principle of equal treatment under the law. Prapulladevi had met every criterion and been selected on merit. The only barrier was discriminatory application of a court order that did not prevent others from taking up their positions.

The Karnataka High Court ruled in Prapulladevi's favour, clarifying that the order should not be used to block her appointment. The Office of the Principal District and Sessions Judge in Mysuru issued Prapulladevi's appointment order, and she was formally inducted. 'I take pride in being a transgender woman,' she stated simply. Now she can take equal pride in her work.

But Prapulladevi knows there's a lot more that needs to be done. 'For the welfare of the community, the legal framework must be further strengthened, and awareness should be created across all departments,' she emphasised. Her message was clear: 'It must be understood that all human beings are equal and that everyone has the right to live with equality and dignity.'

Through persistence and legal support, Prapulladevi secured not just a job, but affirmation of a fundamental principle: transgender individuals have the same right to public employment as anyone else, and barriers cannot be selectively applied to deny them that right.



Pink Armenia Win a Landmark Case on Hate Speech in European Court of Human Rights

In January 2025, LGBTQI activists in Armenia achieved a major legal breakthrough when the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the Armenian government had failed to protect them from hate speech and discrimination. Led by Pink Armenia, the case, *Minasyan and Others v. Armenia*, set an important precedent for holding states accountable when they allow hate speech to go unchecked and fail to safeguard the rights and dignity of LGBTQI communities.

The case arose from a 2014 article published in the Armenian newspaper *Iravunk* titled 'They Serve the Interests of the International Homosexual Lobby: The Blacklist of Enemies of the Nation and the State.' The article targeted LGBTQI activists and supporters by labelling them 'internal enemies', and explicitly inciting the public to ostracise them. The publication included personal Facebook profiles of the activists and called for widespread discrimination, including refusing to hire them and excluding them from public and professional life.

Subsequent articles by the same editor reinforced this rhetoric, using discriminatory language and perpetuating harmful stereotypes. The sustained attacks created a hostile environment for activists, undermining their dignity and safety.

'Thanks to the efforts of the 14 applicants and Pink Armenia, the state is now required to put in place effective mechanisms to protect individuals from hate speech.'

Seeking Justice

Fourteen Armenian nationals decided to bring a case to the Armenian courts. They included prominent LGBTQI activists, human rights defenders, and researchers, directly targeted for their advocacy. The case was supported by Pink Armenia, Armenia's leading LGBTQI organisation.

Having failed to find effective legal remedies in Armenian courts, the 14 applicants appealed to the European Court of Human Rights.

The Court found that the Armenian government violated Articles 8 (respect for private life) and 14 (non-discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court ruled that Armenia lacked effective legal safeguards against hate speech targeting individuals based on their sexual orientation or activism.

Whilst the hate speech was perpetrated by the editor of *Iravunk*, the government's inaction and failure to provide effective legal and institutional safeguards were found to breach its obligations under the Convention. The Court emphasised Armenia's obligation to ensure protection and combat discriminatory hate speech effectively.

Thanks to the efforts of the 14 applicants and Pink Armenia, the state is now required to put in place effective mechanisms to protect individuals from hate speech, including incitement to discrimination. Pink Armenia will be monitoring the implementation of this judgment.

This victory demonstrates the important role of LGBTQI civil society organisations in using the law and courts to create meaningful change.





Impact Updates

Strengthening Access to Justice for Deaf LGBTQI Communities in Malaysia

In Malaysia, Legal Dignity took a critical first step in addressing the barriers that prevent deaf LGBTQI people from accessing legal justice equitably. These obstacles, rooted in ableism, homophobia, and transphobia, are deeply entrenched within legal and institutional systems. Through participatory legal education and co-learning with 43 Deaf LGBTQI community members, sign language interpreters, and allies, Legal Dignity created a safe space to build understanding, confidence, and practical knowledge of legal procedures. They embedded Deaf LGBTQI people to help design legal education materials, and train interpreters and community leaders. This strengthened community awareness of their rights, and improved communication pathways with justice institutions. As a foundation for future work linking community members with rights-affirming lawyers, Legal Dignity co-created Deaf- and LGBTQI-friendly legal resource packs to address communication barriers, clarify legal protections, and prepare both communities and advocates for effective engagement with authorities.



Building Inclusive Laws to Tackle Hate Crimes

In Lesotho, the Other Foundation supported country-level partners to work alongside policymakers and other stakeholders to develop legislation that protects LGBTQI people. A draft hate crimes bill is in progress, proposing explicit protections for LGBTQI people, gender equality, women, and other groups. Local partners worked hard behind the scenes to ensure the rights of LGBTQI people were recognised within the bill. While it hasn't yet reached formal status, a draft is being developed that will be followed closely. This approach demonstrates how strategic engagement can use targeted laws to challenge violence and address hate as a distinct social harm.



Supreme Court Victory for Trans Equality in India

In India, the Centre for Law and Policy Research (CLPR) continues to advance transgender rights through the courts. In October 2025, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of Jane Kaushik, a qualified teacher and transgender woman denied employment at two private schools because of her gender identity. One school forced her to resign after eight days when students learnt she was trans. Another withdrew her job offer before she could even start. In a landmark judgement, the Court affirmed that employment discrimination against trans people violates both constitutional equality and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. For the first time, the ruling held the government accountable for failing to enforce its obligations under the Act. The judgement sets a national precedent requiring employers to make reasonable accommodations for trans employees. The Court created an Advisory Committee to draft a national equal opportunity policy, appointing CLPR's Executive Director Jayna Kothari as legal adviser and Nithya Rajshekhar as a Committee member. The Committee has until April to develop recommendations that can strengthen trans rights across India.



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RESEARCH

NGLHRC Secures Justice for Murdered Fashion Designer

In Kenya, the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC) has been at the forefront of defending equitable justice for LGBTQI people within the Kenyan court system. Through sustained effort and expertise, NGLHRC achieved a landmark victory this year in the case of Edwin Chiloba, a queer fashion designer brutally murdered in 2023. NGLHRC provided direct legal representation throughout the trial, documenting evidence, supporting witnesses, and ensuring the case received the attention it deserved. The High Court's 50-year sentencing of his killer sent a powerful message that LGBTQI lives matter, and that the rule of law must protect all citizens equally. Delivering his sentence, the Hon. Justice Nyakundi remarked 'it is clear that there has been no remorse shown by the accused.' The vital work NGLHRC did to support this ruling stands as a beacon of hope in a region where impunity for anti-LGBTQI violence remains pervasive across political and social spheres.



NGLHRC
NATIONAL
GAY & LESBIAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION



Building Supportive Communities and Safe Spaces

GiveOut's grant partners remained deeply embedded in their local contexts and uniquely positioned to respond to the diverse needs of their communities. Around the world, discriminatory laws and socio-cultural norms continued to exclude LGBTQI people from education, healthcare, housing, employment, and other essential services, undermining not only safety and wellbeing but also long-term economic security. These structural barriers heighten exposure to violence and discrimination, restrict access to livelihoods, and weaken the safety nets many rely on. For countless LGBTQI people, being visible or coming out can mean losing family support, housing, employment, or the basic means to make a living.

In this context, our grant partners' work to build supportive communities, create safe spaces, and expand economic empowerment became even more critical. In wartime Ukraine, KyivPride organised Pride marches and educational events, offering connection and solidarity under extraordinary risk. In Guyana, Guyana Trans United coupled legal education with community kitchens and livelihood initiatives, meeting immediate needs while strengthening resilience. In Tonga, the Tonga Leitis Association delivered skills-building workshops that supported economic independence and community cohesion. Together, these efforts demonstrate how safe spaces, mutual aid, and community-led economic empowerment enable LGBTQI people to live with dignity, security, and the opportunity to thrive.



KyivPride's Yuliia Shypitko on Pride in Wartime Ukraine

Against the backdrop of war, Kyiv held its 2025 Pride march, an act of visibility witnessed by over 1,500 people. Diplomats walked alongside uniformed LGBTQI military personnel, as communities from across Ukraine united in the capital. The march lasted over an hour and stood as a powerful act of defiance in a country under continued attack.

'We can't postpone Pride until after the war because we don't know when the war will end. It might be years, even decades, unfortunately,' explained Yuliia Shypitko, programme manager at KyivPride, Ukraine's largest LGBTQI event.

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, Ukraine's already vulnerable LGBTQI community faced immediate danger from the conflict and the looming spectre of Russian occupation, which would bring systematic persecution of the community.

'The context in our region is unfortunately dominated by war as Russian aggression continues,' Yuliia reflected. 'Almost every day we face missile shellings and air alarms, and this affects the LGBTQI movement and our rights.'

Pride March Numbers Decline due to Safety Concerns

Before the invasion, KyivPride marches drew approximately 8,000 people. Now Pride manages 1,500 attendees, constrained by security and safety logistics. 'Managing shelter arrangements for 8,000 people would be nearly impossible,' Yuliia explained.

Planning Pride under these conditions required calculations unimaginable elsewhere. 'When we plan Pride events, we must consider that there might be an air alert at any time,' Yuliia explained. 'During our festival or march, participants might need to immediately seek shelter.'

KyivPride held its charity educational event on 7 June and the Pride march on 14 June. The educational event featured political and educational discussions addressing serious topics. 'We do have parties or enjoyable activities, but for us, Pride is very political,' Yuliia noted. 'We discuss our movement and LGBTQI people as part of human rights and Ukraine's European integration.'

The Pride march featured several columns, including one for LGBTQI military personnel, and a diplomatic column with representatives from the European Union and various embassies. Communities from Kharkiv Pride and Ukraine Pride also joined from across the country. This year's message of 'unity in diversity' (the main slogan of the European Union) reflected Ukraine's broader aspirations whilst affirming LGBTQI people's place in Ukrainian society.



KyivPride 2025



KyivPride 2025

'Today, even with all the security risks, we must organise Pride and show that LGBTQI people in Ukraine are also part of society.'

Resisting Police Pressure to Cancel

Holding these events required far more than logistical planning. Police pressured KyivPride to cancel the march, citing the difficult security situation and potential shelling. 'They said, "You should cancel it, you should ban it";' Yuliia recalled. The educational charity event faced similar resistance. Just two days before the scheduled date, police pressured the venue, and partners wanted to cancel.

Yet KyivPride refused to back down. Through tough negotiations with police and unwavering commitment to visibility, they held both events despite the pressure. 'Although we ultimately held the event, we felt a lot of emotional pressure and stress,' said Yuliia.

For Yuliia, the importance of Pride extends beyond visibility to fundamental questions of dignity and identity. 'For me, Pride is about having personal dignity. It means I don't have to hide my identity or choose between my different identities. I'm bisexual, I'm a woman, and I'm Ukrainian, three different identities that are all part of me. I don't have to choose to be only Ukrainian today and only bisexual tomorrow.'

Building Ukraine's Present and Future

The insistence on holding Pride despite the risks affirmed that LGBTQI Ukrainians are integral to their nation's present and future. 'Today, even with all the security risks, we must organise Pride and show that LGBTQI people in Ukraine are also part of society,' Yuliia emphasised. 'We go to the battlefield too. LGBTQI people can also be soldiers – and they are soldiers. LGBTQI people fundraise for our army. We are united together. Even homophobic people and LGBTQI people are united in being Ukrainian. We must show up.'

The presence of LGBTQI military personnel marching in uniform made this point powerfully visible. These were people defending their country whilst fighting for recognition within it.

'I believe for all LGBTQI Ukrainians, it's about the right to live and love freely in our country,' Yuliia observed. 'We shouldn't have to hide our identities, and we must not face discrimination because of them.'

Waiting for better circumstances isn't an option. 'We can't just say, "It's not time for our rights, we should postpone them."' Rights postponed are rights denied. Even under bombardment – especially under bombardment – LGBTQI Ukrainians refused to wait. They showed up, insisted on being counted, and claimed their place.



None of Us Are Free Until All of Us Are Free: The Steinberg-Graff Fund for International LGBTQI Rights

Jon Steinberg and Josh Graff are the generous sponsors of the Steinberg-Graff Fund for International LGBTQI Rights, which supports LGBTQI organisations campaigning for legal reform and human rights protections in some of the hardest places to be LGBTQI.

Jon joined Google in 2012 and is now director of policy campaigns, leading advocacy efforts on technology regulation. Previously, he worked in public affairs at Portland and served as deputy communications director for US Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, with experience on high-profile political campaigns, including those of John Kerry and Hillary Clinton.

Josh joined LinkedIn in 2011 and worked there for 14 years, most recently as vice president and managing director for EMEA and LATAM, where he oversaw member growth, strategic partnerships, and the global enterprise sales team for LinkedIn's advertising business. A passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion, he was recognised as a leading LGBTQI champion and served as executive sponsor for LinkedIn's LGBT+ Employee Resource Group, among other advocacy roles.

As part of the generation who saw LGBTQI rights transformed over the past 25 years – from the end of Section 28 to marriage equality – Jon and Josh said: 'We are committed to supporting groups that are working to bring that kind of transformational change to their own local communities.'

Their passion for global LGBTQI equality deepened as they learned about the funding landscape. 'The more we learned about the immense funding coming from

the West to support those who campaign against our community's core rights and freedoms, the more we felt a responsibility to support those who stand up for our rights everywhere,' they explained.

Resourcing LGBTQI Rights

This sense of responsibility led them to establish the Steinberg-Graff Fund for International LGBTQI Rights. They wanted to support LGBTQI causes outside the UK, particularly in countries with repressive policies and practices, but struggled to find a single charity that enabled individuals to give in one place to support this type of worldwide activism. Then they were introduced to GiveOut through Suki Sandhu. 'We were inspired by their work, by their support of grassroots initiatives, and by the stories of the brave activists defending their communities and campaigning for equality,' they said. 'It's human nature to want to help others and to support your community, and it's certainly gratifying that GiveOut makes this possible.'

Since establishing their Fund, Jon and Josh have actively grown support for the LGBTQI movement. 'We've educated friends and family about the important work that GiveOut supports, and leveraged our social platforms and workplace communities to drive awareness and encourage contributions to our Fund,' they explained.

For them, mobilising the community and allies in the UK to support LGBTQI rights around the world comes down to a fundamental principle. 'As has often been said,' they concluded, 'none of us are free until all of us are free.'

'The more we learned about the immense funding coming from the West to support those who campaign against our community's core rights and freedoms, the more we felt a responsibility to support those who stand up for our rights everywhere.'



Transforming Lives Through Community Support in Guyana

Every day, Guyana Trans United's (GTU) community kitchen serves hot meals to trans and non-binary people who might otherwise go hungry. But GTU's work goes far beyond meeting immediate needs; they're building the foundations for their community to thrive.

GTU protects and empowers Guyana's trans community through advocacy, building respect and acceptance whilst providing essential support and services. This work is vital in a context where trans and non-binary people face significant barriers to basic services, jobs, and legal protections whilst navigating daily discrimination and exclusion from society.

With support from GiveOut, GTU was able to strengthen their work and expand their impact. The funding enabled GTU to finally complete their land payments, securing ownership and giving them a permanent base for their work. This freed them to invest directly in supporting people rather than servicing outstanding payments.

Workshops and Training

GTU trained 15 trans people across four regions through legal literacy workshops. Participants learnt about Section 149 of Guyana's Constitution on equality, criminalisation laws affecting LGBTQI people, and HIV notification laws – information that was new to most attendees. Those who completed the training are now more confident to stand up for their rights independently.

Thirty trans and non-binary people completed skills training courses of their choice, including business management, cake decoration, interior decoration, nail art, cosmetology, pastry making, and graphic design. Each person received a seed grant to start their own small business, creating business plans and registering their enterprises. All 30 became business owners for the first time, running ventures they planned

and developed themselves, from small shops to service-based businesses.

Throughout this work, GTU continued running their community kitchen, providing hot meals every day, and helped with transport costs so people could access their training and other opportunities.

Fifty-five trans and non-binary people directly benefited from the programme. As Candacy McEwan, executive director of GTU explained: 'With the knowledge gained, our members can stand up for their rights. Others are now small business owners; for the first time they have ownership. Even though it is small, it was developed by them through a business plan created by them.'

By meeting people's immediate needs whilst building their confidence and skills, GTU has strengthened and enriched the lives of trans and non-binary people across Guyana's communities.

'With the knowledge gained, our members can stand up for their rights. Others are now small business owners; for the first time they have ownership. Even though it is small, it was developed by them through a business plan created by them.'



Finding Faith and Identity: Building Safe Spaces for LGBTQI People of Faith

The Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights (CSBR) is an international solidarity network that supports sexual and bodily rights in Muslim contexts across Asia through feminist knowledge building, strategic convenings, and strengthening activists' capacities and resources.

In Muslim-majority regions, LGBTQI people often face a particular challenge when trying to navigate faith and identity. LGBTQI identities are frequently portrayed as 'Western' or incompatible with local traditions, leaving individuals feeling torn between their spiritual beliefs and their sense of self. Ahmad* (not his real name), a gay Muslim man from a conservative SWANA (Southwest Asia and North Africa) country, found himself in this position, excluded from his religious community because of his sexuality whilst also feeling unwelcome in LGBTQI spaces that sometimes viewed religion as oppressive.

CSBR recognised the need to create environments where LGBTQI people could explore how their faith and identity might coexist. The organisation wanted to challenge the assumption that faith and LGBTQI identities are fundamentally incompatible, instead showing that inclusive faith practices could offer a path forward. CSBR organised a regional workshop that brought

Resourcing LGBTQI Rights

together LGBTQI activists, religious scholars, and community leaders from South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the SWANA region. The workshop was designed to address the specific challenges LGBTQI people face when trying to reconcile their identities with religious contexts. Rather than dismissing cultural and religious concerns, CSBR took a culturally sensitive approach that connected human rights principles with local traditions and beliefs.

For Ahmad, the workshop was transformative. He connected with a supportive network of LGBTQI Muslims and allies who shared similar experiences. As Rahman, a coordinator at CSBR, noted: 'For many LGBTQI people of faith, reclaiming their faith is an act of healing.' Ahmad gained access to resources that helped him reinterpret his faith in ways that embraced rather than rejected his identity, along with practical strategies for navigating both aspects of himself.

The change in Ahmad's life went beyond his own experience. Drawing on what he had learnt at the workshop, he began running small discussion groups in his local community, creating spaces where LGBTQI people of faith could share their experiences and support each other.

Ahmad's story showed the wide-reaching impact of CSBR's work. His journey from feeling isolated to becoming someone who could help others navigate similar challenges demonstrates how targeted support can spark ongoing change in local communities.

*Name changed for privacy

'For many LGBTQI people of faith, reclaiming their faith is an act of healing.'





Soummya (far right) with her students, SAATHII, India



Impact Updates

Nine Trans Students Achieve Educational Milestone Through SAATHII Fellowship

Solidarity and Action Against the HIV Infection in India (SAATHII)'s fellowship programme provides LGBTQI activists with resources to dedicate themselves full-time to advocacy, focusing on healthcare access, legal aid, and challenging discrimination. In Bhadrak district, Odisha, nine transgender individuals saw their education cut short due to bullying, lack of family support, and systemic discrimination. Then they met Soummya Das, a trans woman and SAATHII Fellow supported by GiveOut. Soummya worked within India's open schooling system to enrol all nine students and secured educational scholarships. Throughout the year, she tutored and mentored them. The result? All nine successfully graduated Grade X. Building on this success, Soummya enrolled three additional trans women and secured scholarships for their studies. She also graduated with a Bachelor's degree herself. In total, Soummya helped 12 individuals overcome barriers that prevent transgender people from accessing education.



Advocacy with Police in Jamaica for Safer Communities

In Jamaica, partner Equality For All Foundation (EFAF) conducted targeted advocacy with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) to strengthen understanding of the JCF's Diversity Policy and promote safer interactions with LGBTQI people, fostering a safer, more equitable environment for the community when seeking justice. In spring 2025, they delivered five sensitisation sessions with a dedicated space to voice concerns and communicate with the police. Overall, the efforts were exceptionally positive, with a stand out session in Montego Bay that was hosted by a supportive police officer. She facilitated these sessions well by listening openly to experiences without defending past harms by the police, and encouraging participants to step up, be heard, and hold law enforcement accountable. Community members were able to express frustrations and trauma from previous interactions, while learning practical steps for reporting incidents and escalating concerns. This collaborative approach demonstrates that police advocacy is most effective when combining dialogue with capacity-building, while amplifying the power of communities.



Building Skills and Empowering Leitis in Tonga

The Tonga Leitis Association (TLA) provided essential economic skills to third-gender/leiti community members, a group frequently excluded from mainstream economies. These efforts enabled them to build livelihoods and confidence, and focused on improving greater participation in Tongan community life. Across 15 locations in Tonga, with an estimated 442 participants, community members gained practical expertise in floral design, event planning, and handicrafts, as well as skills that can be used and monetised within the local economy to support small, culturally resonant profit-making endeavours. These hands-on, practical workshops built and fostered marketable skills for the community, and also fostered collaboration, entrepreneurship, and community networks. Participants expressed overwhelming appreciation for the programmes, calling for their continuation and expansion, demonstrating the transformative impact of TLA's work on both personal and community levels in the pursuit of economic equity.



TLA Lifeskills Programme, Tonga



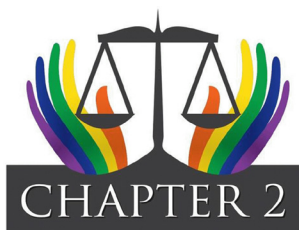
Building a Circle of Support for Parents of Trans Youth in Czechia

In Czechia, Trans*parent's peer support network helped a mother of a trans daughter living in a region still marked by transphobia to find affirmation, knowledge, and community. Drawing on this experience, she went on to establish a local peer support group for parents of trans children, creating a safe and empowering space for families navigating similar journeys. What began as individual support has grown into an autonomous, community-led network offering holistic care for trans youth and their families. By equipping parents with understanding and confidence, the group has strengthened local communities, creating vital safety nets that allow trans children to thrive. Evidence shows that family acceptance is key to positive mental health outcomes for trans youth, making this model of parent-led peer support especially powerful. Linked to Trans*parent's wider peer network across the EU, the initiative now stands as a regional model for family-focused, community-driven inclusion.



Saving Essential LGBTQI Services in South Africa, From Closure to Reopening

With support from GiveOut's donor community through our LGBTQI Urgent Response Fund, Access Chapter 2 was able to reopen its doors and restore essential services for LGBTQI people in South Africa. In January 2025, the organisation had been forced to close when US funding cuts left them unable to pay rent. 'Our landlord arrived with chains. There were chains and a sign from the outside, stating that we won't be able to provide direct services,' shared Executive Director Keneilwe Zulu. The closure left 72 staff members without jobs overnight and cut off more than 100 survivors of violence, people living with HIV, and vulnerable queer individuals from legal advice, health services, psychosocial support, and safe spaces. 'People are coming into our offices every day, seeking our services. It's even a safe space to a point where you find a queer learner coming to read a book at AC2 and connect to our Wi-Fi. We could not provide that anymore,' Keneilwe added. 'But with the support of funders like GiveOut, we managed to find our feet. We reopened our offices. We are slowly beginning to provide services again. We are rebuilding what has been lost.'



ITF Hosts Trans-Led Convening to Build Global Solidarity and Connection

In June, the International Trans Fund (ITF) brought together 35 trans activists from around the world, from Ireland to Guatemala to Kenya, for a rare convening in Bangkok. Almost entirely trans-led, ITF's grantmaking model centers trans communities, particularly those from the Global Majority. At the meeting, the exclusively trans panel worked collaboratively to democratically decide how to allocate funds to the community. Beyond funding decisions, the convening offered activists a vital space for solidarity and connection, where they could share resources, exchange strategies, and be themselves, an especially crucial support as trans communities continue to face rising vitriol, discrimination, and violence worldwide. The convening also included the board and staff to co-develop a 10-year strategic framework, incorporating input from funders, stakeholders, and movement leaders. In a time of rising attacks on trans rights, this convening empowered trans activists who don't often get their own specific space to collaborate within, and reinforced the importance of trans-led decision-making in supporting communities under pressure.



2025 ITF Board and GMP Meeting (Credit Lukas Berredo)



Providing the Evidence to Advocate for Change

Across the world, GiveOut's grant partners continued to use research as a powerful tool to drive inclusion and demand greater respect for LGBTQI rights. They know that a lack of reliable data on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics has left LGBTQI people vulnerable to harm, and that this has created major barriers for policymakers and service providers seeking to improve rights, health, and well-being. By generating credible, community-rooted evidence, our grant partners continued to expose discrimination and inequalities and equipped activists with the tools they need to advocate for lasting change.

This year, our grant partners used data not only to document lived realities but to influence policy and shape decision-making in national, regional, and international forums. Their research informed engagements with governments on law reform and strengthened submissions to UN treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review, and regional human rights mechanisms, ensuring LGBTQI experiences were represented where decisions carry the greatest impact.

From highlighting the crisis of the USAID funding cuts, to documenting the healthcare needs of intersex communities in Sri Lanka, to equipping religious leaders in Nigeria with evidence to better understand and support LGBTQI rights, our grant partners helped break silence and stigma. Their work demonstrated that when grounded in community realities, data can power transformative advocacy by informing strategy, shaping policy, and driving progress toward a more just and inclusive world.



Asia Feminist LBQ Network Workshop

Why LBQ Research Matters: We All Suffer, But We Suffer Differently

Around the world, GiveOut's grant partners conducted research that shines a light on the invisible realities LBQ* women face. Two comprehensive studies, one from LGBTI Equal Rights Association (ERA) in the Western Balkans and Turkey, and another from Asia Feminist LBQ Network (AFLN) across Asia, documented struggles that have long been dismissed or ignored.

The findings were stark. In the Western Balkans and Turkey, LBQ women who were fleeing domestic violence experienced discrimination and harm from the very safe houses meant to protect them. Across Asia, many LBQ women struggled to access healthcare.

These realities have existed for years, known intimately by LBQ communities but impossible to prove. Now, this research has transformed lived experience into documented evidence – and that evidence is changing what happens next.

Exposing Violence and Institutional Failures Across the Western Balkans

ERA's research across Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia revealed systemic failures. In Albania, 52.9% of adult women had experienced violence in their lifetime. For LBQ women, the violence took specific forms: corrective rape by male family members, forced marriages, financial blackmail threatening education funding, and confinement in psychiatric hospitals. Lesbian and trans women were often locked up in their homes for months after their families discovered their identities.

In all four countries, same-sex intimate partner violence remained invisible in legal definitions. When LBQ women sought help, 40% struggled to access healthcare, 36% faced discrimination from medical staff, and

32% avoided care out of fear. In Kosovo, only 5% of survivors of gender-based violence reported it to police.

Critically, no country systematically collected data disaggregated by sexual orientation or gender identity. LBQ women remained statistically invisible.

'The report shows us something we all talk about, but we didn't have a paper based on science to prove it,' explained Danijel Kalezic, ERA's executive co-director.

**'The report shows us
something we all talk about,
but we didn't have a paper
based on science to prove it.'**

Danijel Kalezic, ERA's executive co-director.

Uncovering Barriers to Healthcare for LBQ People Across Asia

AFLN's research across Asia revealed healthcare systems built on assumptions that patients are cisgender and heterosexual. Many LBQ individuals withheld their identities from providers out of fear of discrimination.

In the Philippines, abortion has been criminalised since 1930. In Malaysia, women seeking contraception at public healthcare facilities faced stigma and discrimination based on marital status, despite official policies against it. Across the region, assisted reproductive technology was restricted to legally married couples, explicitly excluding LBQ people.

LBQ individuals seeking healthcare after sexual violence were told to 'repent' and denied abortion services. Healthcare providers asked invasive questions unrelated to care. In Malaysia, 55.9% of queer participants experienced increased stress due to anti-LGBT narratives, with 38.6% contemplating migration or asylum as a result.

Comprehensive sexuality education excluded LBQ experiences across Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore, leaving individuals vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies, and sexual abuse. In some settings, school teachings actively pathologised LGBTQI identities. 'One common mistake we always make is to assume the

entire LGBTQI spectrum suffers the same,' explained Jean Chong, founder and executive director of AFLN. 'We all suffer, but we suffer differently.'

How Evidence Creates Change

Communities have always known these realities. But knowing and proving them are different. 'The motivation is to be data driven,' Jean explained. 'Research and data helps us design programmes and our advocacy approach.'

The research has been used strategically, with effects already visible. 'Now we have a guide for where we should base our actions and what our priorities should be,' said Danijel. They've ensured safe spaces for survivors of violence and built advocacy strategies for legal reforms grounded in evidence. The report was designed as both an advocacy tool and practical resource for policymakers.

AFLN has seen tangible shifts. The research provided 'LBQ groups different language to explain what is happening to them,' Jean noted. Civil society organisations have become more aware of LBQ concerns. Funders have been paying closer attention.

AFLN redistributed funding to grassroots groups who previously couldn't access resources. Through their fellowship programme, they've been building organisational capacity. They've convened LBQ leaders across vast distances. They've run self-care workshops responding to research findings. Other organisations have cited the research and used the evidence to make their own cases for support and policy change.

When ERA documents that 40% of LBQ individuals struggle to access healthcare, service providers must respond. When AFLN shows healthcare systems exclude LBQ experiences, movements must address what they're missing.

Both organisations demonstrated that LBQ-specific research proves 'we all suffer differently' isn't just a claim; it's a documented reality requiring different responses. That proof is changing how funders, policymakers, service providers, and civil society engage with LBQ communities.

**LBQ women is a term inclusive of lesbian, bisexual and queer women, including cisgender, trans and intersex women, and all non-binary or genderqueer people on the gender spectrum who relate to an LBQ identity.*



Simon Ruddick

‘Money is important, money is incredibly important, but visibility and support can matter even more. That’s when the real magic happens.’

Simon Ruddick: An Ally’s Journey Supporting Trans Communities

Long before anyone in his family had a personal connection to the LGBTQI community, Simon Ruddick, who supports the Antonia and Andrea Belcher Trans Fund, was already a vocal supporter of LGBTQI rights. ‘I’ve always been a big supporter,’ he says. When his daughter came out as trans, she had already grown up watching him support the community. ‘I hope at least that made it a little easier for her to know that I was someone who supported LGBTQI rights,’ Simon reflects.

With her blessing, he shared the news with his colleagues at work. The response was overwhelming – messages of love and support flooded in. His daughter printed every single one and kept them in what she calls her Treasure Box. ‘Is that how you would want your daughter to feel?’ Simon asks.

At events, in front of colleagues and contacts from around the world, he’s openly supportive. ‘I’m very proud of my daughter and I tell everyone. I couldn’t be more proud of her.’ It’s not always comfortable, but Simon sees it as essential. ‘Money is important, money is incredibly important, but visibility and support can matter even more. That’s when the real magic happens.’

‘Transgender is a complicated issue unless you’re a parent,’ Simon says. ‘Then it is very simple.’ That clarity has driven his approach to philanthropy. In May 2024, Simon organised and hosted the Sister Act Charity Gala in support of the Kind Queer Heart Initiative, buying all 2,000 tickets for the show. While planning the event six months prior, he was introduced to Antonia Belcher OBE, founder of the Antonia and Andrea Belcher Trans Fund. Simon wanted to gift some of the tickets to transgender charities so he asked Antonia to help distribute them – either for charities to sell as a fundraising opportunity, or to give to their supporters and staff. ‘I wanted people from the LGBTQI community to feel the

love in the room,’ he explains.

Through supporting the Antonia and Andrea Belcher Trans Fund, Simon gained a sobering perspective on how the landscape has shifted. ‘The UK has gone from being the light at the end of the tunnel to leading the race to the bottom of the mineshaft,’ he says.

Simon has supported GiveOut’s LGBTQI Solidarity Fund, and the power of matched funding resonates deeply with him. ‘Finding funds for LGBTQI causes is so tragically difficult,’ he says. The ability to see donations doubled means impact can multiply at precisely the moment communities need it most.

Simon sees supporting trans communities as both urgent and strategic. ‘The transgender community is tiny and disproportionately oppressed because it has found itself to be the political football of choice for the dark forces that relish polarisation,’ he says. Supporting trans rights delivers maximum impact precisely because the community faces such outsized opposition. Through the LGBTQI Solidarity Fund, ‘you get the biggest impact bang-for-your-buck; or two bucks when GiveOut is weaving its fundraising magic.’

Through GiveOut, Simon sees his support amplified and directed where it’s needed most, to grassroots organisations working in difficult contexts across the globe. But more than the mechanics of giving, he sees philanthropy as solidarity that creates space for others to lead. And he sees visible allyship as something that can change individual lives in ways you might never know. ‘You might just be making someone very important to you, very close to you, feel slightly better,’ Simon says. For him, that possibility makes the choice to show up simple.



Shining a Light: A Landmark Report on Trans Men in Indonesia

A new report from Transmen Indonesia, the country's first organisation led by and for trans men, shared the real-life experiences of trans men across the nation. Often excluded from national conversations and data, trans men have remained largely invisible; however, this report offered a detailed look at the challenges they face and the strength they show in response.

There is almost no public data about the lives and rights of trans men in Indonesia. This lack of visibility has serious consequences for the community and for those trying to improve laws, healthcare, and services for LGBTQI people. Research like this helps expose barriers and is essential for driving real change.

To close this gap, GiveOut's grant partner Transmen Indonesia published *Demanding Justice: A Situation Report on the Fulfilment of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Trans Men in Indonesia*.

The report is based on the experiences of 75 trans men from 12 provinces, gathered through community-led research. It examines whether trans men can access basic rights like ID cards, healthcare, education, jobs, housing, and social services.

Research Reveals Serious Challenges

The report revealed several critical challenges. While 98.7% of participants held national ID cards (KTP), many still experienced deadnaming, misgendering, or denial of services because their documents didn't reflect their gender identity. Access to healthcare was severely limited, as only a third had accessed reproductive

healthcare, with more than half of those reporting discrimination or exclusion. Economically, the community faces huge hurdles: over 75% experienced job discrimination, which forces most into informal, low-paid work without security. Consequently, more than 40% lived in poverty, including one in five experiencing extreme poverty. Finally, over half the participants reported restrictions on gender expression in school, including enforced dress codes.

Even with these challenges, the report shares stories of strength and community support. Participants highlighted the importance of peer networks, trans-led groups, and inclusive service providers in building safe spaces.

The First of its Kind in Indonesia

This is the first report in Indonesia to focus entirely on trans men's experiences, and to be designed and led by trans men themselves. It has given voice to a community that is often ignored, showing why their stories must be part of conversations about rights and justice.

The findings will push for better laws and services, including legal gender recognition, anti-discrimination protections, and training for health, education, and government staff. It also helps allies and funders better understand the urgent need to include trans men in national and international human rights efforts.

At its heart, this report is a roadmap for change, calling for laws, policies, and services to truly reflect the dignity, needs, and voices of trans men in Indonesia.





Rapid Evidence, Rapid Response: Safeguarding LGBTQI Communities

In early 2025, the abrupt suspension of USAID funding sent shockwaves through LGBTQI organisations worldwide. Groups that had previously relied on stable support through this funding suddenly faced existential threats, with service closures, job losses, and disrupted programmes compounding the daily discrimination and violence already faced by their communities. The cuts were not just financially devastating, they undermined trust between communities and service providers, threatened the continuity of advocacy and healthcare programmes, and created an urgent need for immediate action on multiple fronts. In order to properly respond to this crisis, evidence was urgently needed, both to advocate directly to multiple stakeholders, including funders and policymakers, and to share knowledge within the wider movement about the new reality facing LGBTQI communities.

The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN), a coalition of more than 80 LGBTQI organisations in Commonwealth countries, acted immediately. Working alongside Kaleidoscope Trust, which hosts the Network's secretariat, member organisations mobilised to gather real-time evidence on the impacts of the cuts. TCEN found that more than a third of members had been affected by the cuts, with those impacted losing, on average, half their income. They found that sudden funding gaps triggered layoffs, service closures, and cutbacks to vital programmes, deepening community vulnerability and exposing the fragility of short-term donor funding models. By systematically documenting closures, financial shortfalls, and programme disruptions, TCEN created a robust evidence base that was used by members to successfully advocate for

continued support and draw attention from other funders. This work ensured that the human cost of the funding freeze was clear, helping the broader international community understand the immediate consequences for LGBTQI communities and the potential long-term erosion of critical services.

The Impact of US Funding Cuts in Southeast Asia

Similarly, in Southeast Asia, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus conducted a regional study detailing the effect of the US foreign aid freeze. Their report highlighted the scale of the crisis, documenting funding losses ranging from \$15,000 to \$200,000 per organisation and illustrating how these cuts deepened vulnerabilities for LGBTQI communities already facing discrimination, unemployment, and restricted access to essential services. The evidence emphasised that these communities were simultaneously in the spotlight due to rising anti-LGBTQI rhetoric, making the advocacy for immediate support even more urgent.

The rapid collection and dissemination of this evidence allowed networks and partners to coordinate an informed, urgent response. By translating data into advocacy tools, these networks have enabled other funders, governments, and international actors to understand the severity of the crisis and take appropriate action. Beyond the immediate response, these efforts also strengthened the networks themselves, creating mechanisms for evidence-based advocacy and crisis management that can be activated in future funding shocks.





Impact Updates

Mapping Barriers for Trans Communities in Lebanon

In Lebanon, Qorras produced three interlinked research papers that collectively map the complex barriers faced by trans individuals in accessing legal recognition, healthcare, and mental health support. The comprehensive research has provided a foundation to identify and address the wide-ranging barriers affecting trans individuals, enabling targeted advocacy and support across multiple areas of their lives. By centring the lived experience of community members, the research provided a comprehensive picture of the social, medical, and legal obstacles shaping daily life for transgender people. Harassment from security forces, systemic discrimination, and barriers to employment and healthcare, were all intensified and compounded in the context of Lebanon's economic and conflict crises. This comprehensive body of evidence now equips advocates with the data needed to engage institutions responsible for upholding rights, offering a clear roadmap for the policy and systems change required to protect and support trans communities in Lebanon.



Putting Elders at the Centre of Data-driven Approaches to Inclusion in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the Women's Health and Equal Rights Initiative (WHER) is currently conducting research with older LGBTQI community members to develop targeted programming based on their lived experiences. The research focuses on health, education, economic status, equality, self-identification, family and community support, pensions, social care, and access to healthcare. The goal is to translate these insights directly into programming, creating a clear pipeline from understanding to action. While it has been challenging to reach wider community members, the information gathered so far is helping shape the planning process, and programming based on this research will be developed as the work continues.



Shining a Light on Trans Masculine Health in Latin America

In South America, REDCAHT+ conducted the first survey specifically on trans men's health across Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, generating critical data on healthcare needs and experiences of violence. The project *Mi salud trans masculina importante* (My Trans Masculine Health Matters) produced research written in Spanish and Portuguese led and presented by trans-led organisations from across the region. GiveOut's support was key to the completion of this research and ensuring it could be shared publicly at a regional presentation in Bogotá on 27–29 March 2025. At the same time, REDCAHT+ contributed to a coalition of organisations supporting Panama with information and research for the UN's periodic review process – the mechanism through which states are held accountable for their human rights obligations. This submission addressed not only LGBTQI issues, but also women's rights and sexual and reproductive health in Panama, underscoring the interconnected nature of the challenges LGBTQI communities face.



**AFRICAN
Pride Accelerated
2025**

African Pride Accelerated, WHER



Colombo PRIDE, Sri Lanka

Equal Asia Foundation Highlights LGBTQI Vulnerability in UN Climate Report



GiveOut partner Equal Asia Foundation (Equal AF) contributed vital evidence to a landmark UN report exposing how LGBTQI communities face displacement not only through persecution, but increasingly through climate crisis. The report, authored by UN Independent Expert Graeme Reid and launched in Geneva in June 2025, highlighted how LGBTQI people are pushed into cycles of vulnerability and exclusion. Their submissions documented how informal employment leaves LGBTQI people vulnerable to climate impacts and trafficking, how modern slavery intersects with environmental crises, and how LGBTQI communities are scapegoated during crises. Their research also examined climate anxiety's mental health impacts and the vulnerability of disabled LGBTQI people – populations often invisible in both queer and environmental discourse. Through strategic engagement and capacity building across Asia, Equal AF is demonstrating how LGBTQI movements can lead inclusive, innovative climate responses from the margins.

Elevating Intersex Voices and Needs in Sri Lanka

EQU L GROUND

Building on their longstanding commitment to evidence-based advocacy, EQUAL GROUND produced Sri Lanka's first in-depth study on the experiences and needs of intersex people. Until now, intersex communities in Sri Lanka had never been able to participate in research of this depth, scope, or analytical rigour. The study provided critical insights into the lived experiences and needs of individuals and their caregivers, both within healthcare settings and in everyday life, filling a significant gap in national data and understanding. Working closely with healthcare professionals, including doctors, endocrinologists, paediatricians, and psychiatrists, EQUAL GROUND delivered training and awareness sessions that fostered stronger relationships between the medical sector and intersex communities. These efforts are helping to shift attitudes, build accountability, and create pathways for more inclusive and rights-affirming healthcare. Through this work, EQUAL GROUND has laid essential groundwork for long-term change, ensuring that historically marginalised intersex populations are recognised, supported, and increasingly included within the LGBTQI movement and Sri Lankan society more broadly.

Documenting Human Rights Abuses in Armenia

In the first half of 2025, Pink Human Rights NGO systematically documented 17 cases of human rights violations against LGBTQI people in Armenia, exposing vital evidence of patterns authorities continue to ignore. Their documentation shows a wide spectrum of violations, including domestic violence against minors subjected to dangerous psychiatric 'conversion' practices, physical attacks on trans individuals, police abuse of power, and widespread extortion, revealing not isolated incidents but a broader climate of hostility and impunity. This meticulous case recording, carried out only with the consent of victims, captured everyday realities that official statistics completely overlook, as deep distrust in institutions prevents many LGBTQI people from reporting abuse. By maintaining comprehensive records alongside their 655 consultations, Pink created an evidence base challenging state inaction. Their annual reports, built from documented data, provide irrefutable proof demanding policy change and institutional accountability where silence once prevailed.



Using Evidence to Engage Religious Leaders in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the Bisi Alimi Foundation developed and delivered a research-based project titled *Pathways of Inclusion: Equipping Religious Leaders to Embrace LGBTQI Diversity in Nigeria* to understand and identify strategic entry points for advocacy and dialogue with these influential leaders. The project was important in the context of increased attacks on LGBTQI people, fuelled by widespread disinformation about the community after Nigeria signed the Samoa Agreement. This research became crucial to responding to heightened threats against LGBTQI organisations and communities. It provided evidence-based insights, enabling constructive dialogue with influential religious leaders, alliance building, and the development of targeted strategies to protect and advance LGBTQI rights, particularly in religious contexts. Drawing on the experiences of over 1,200 LGBTQI Nigerians and the perspectives of 12 faith leaders, the initiative produced a research report, a toolkit for engaging faith leaders, and a five-year recommendation plan, which focused on creating actionable pathways for sustained interventions and fostering relationships between faith leaders and the LGBTQI community.





Promoting Public Understanding and Acceptance

Changing laws matter, but changing hearts and minds matter just as much. Around the world, GiveOut's grant partners recognise that culture, storytelling, and public education are essential tools in the struggle for LGBTQI equality. When narratives about queer and trans people are shaped by misinformation or prejudice, public opinion hardens, policy reforms stall, and anti-rights actors gain ground. But when communities encounter LGBTQI stories rooted in humanity, dignity, and shared experience, empathy grows, and acceptance follows.

In a year marked by intensifying hostility, our grant partners worked to reshape public narratives and foster deeper understanding. The Queer Muslim Project challenged the idea that faith and queerness are incompatible, using poetry, film, and literature to build belonging and transform biased perceptions. In rural South Africa, PFSAQ opened dialogue with traditional leaders and families, shifting attitudes through honest conversation and lived experience. Across Southeast Asia, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus' Queer Cultural Festival showcased 51 works from queer artists that reclaimed visibility and countered political erasure. In Nigeria, TIERs reframed African culture and values through an anti-colonial lens, while SASOD Guyana's nationwide storytelling campaign mobilised families and allies around equality.

Together, these cultural and educational strategies show how narrative change strengthens the foundations of inclusion. When people understand queer and trans lives not as abstractions but as part of their own families, histories, and communities, attitudes shift, prejudice recedes, and the path to equality becomes wider. Public acceptance is not a by-product of progress – it is central to achieving it.



The Queer Muslim Project, Language is a Queer Thing

FOUR YEARS
EIGHTEEN POETS
ONE SHARED LANGUAGE

The Art of Belonging: How The Queer Muslim Project is Rewriting the Narrative

Challenging the notion that faith and identity are mutually exclusive, The Queer Muslim Project (TQMP) stands at a vital intersection. For millions, being both queer and Muslim is a lived reality, though often condemned or erased by mainstream narratives. Asia's leading cultural platform, TQMP, is confronting this erasure, using the power of storytelling to create spaces of belonging, affirm identity, and fundamentally shift public perception.

Founded in 2017 by Rafiul Alom Rahman, TQMP began with a profound mission: to create a space where queer Muslims could be their 'whole selves.' Rafi, TQMP's founder and director, explained the project's necessity: 'So often you are told that you have to be either this or that. For me it was very important that we have a space where people can just come together and be themselves.'

Reaching Hearts and Changing Minds

TQMP recognised that systemic change requires a strategy that operates on an emotional, human level. Rafi reflected that in an environment fuelled by negative stereotypes, 'Human beings fundamentally connect

through stories. Our shared humanity is shaped by pain, love, loss, anger, and joy. But how do we know that someone else feels the same things we do? Even if another person comes from a completely different culture, they still experience loss, or the joy of first love, in ways that resonate with our own. Stories are what allow us to recognise and feel that connection.'

This strategic focus on culture is TQMP's core principle. They work closely with storytellers – writers, poets, filmmakers, and artists – to develop narratives that resonate with diverse audiences. Their goal is to ensure these stories travel through mainstream cultural pathways, disrupting negative rhetoric and building bridges of understanding.

The impact is often immediate. At a literary festival showcase in Mumbai, TQMP's poets performed to a sold-out crowd. Afterwards, a young man approached the team and confessed he hadn't held positive views of the queer community. Rafi recounted the moving exchange, noting that the man said 'he was so moved and he was so guilty . . . it made him reflect and it made him feel that he needs to be a better person.' TQMP's approach has proved that one performance or one shared poem can transform deep-seated biases more effectively than rhetoric alone.

'Human beings fundamentally connect through stories. Our shared humanity is shaped by pain, love, loss, anger, and joy. But how do we know that someone else feels the same things we do? Even if another person comes from a completely different culture, they still experience loss, or the joy of first love, in ways that resonate with our own. Stories are what allow us to recognise and feel that connection.'

Platforming New Voices and Building Industry Access

To ensure these stories find global platforms, TQMP has developed programmes and strategic industry partnerships. Their work focuses on writing for the page, stage, and screen.

For the screen, the QueerFrames Screenwriting Lab, piloted with Netflix, has developed the work of queer and trans writer-directors from across South Asia, creating clear pathways to the film industry. For the stage, the international spoken word programme, Language is a Queer Thing, has partnered with the British Council. Poets perform at major literary events and this year were featured as part of Bradford City of Culture 2025. For the page, The Queer Writers' Room culminated in an anthology of new queer writing *On the Brink of Belief*, published in partnership with Penguin Random House India in June 2025.

These programmes are critical because they create the professional networks and industry connections necessary for queer Muslim and other marginalised artists to achieve visibility and build sustainable careers. This is vital for a community that faces a 'double whammy' of homophobia and Islamophobia, complicating access to traditional funding and platforms.

Resilience in the Face of Disruption

The strategic importance of flexible funding became acutely clear in the face of widespread funding disruptions. As many organisations faced 'total chaos,' TQMP's work was protected by GiveOut's LGBTQI Urgent Response Fund.

Rafi described the early assurance TQMP received: 'I think you were one of the only partners that came out with clarity as early as in February.' This flexibility allowed TQMP to maintain momentum for key programmes, ensuring that cultural affirmation and movement building could continue without pause.

For Rafi, the future is grounded in the community's indomitable spirit. 'I feel like queer people have a lot of resilience. Queer people are dreamers. Queer people are magicians,' he affirmed. He believes creativity is an unstoppable force, concluding: 'The barriers you create, we are going to make a song out of it or a movie out of it or a poem out of it, but we are going to be here and we're going to continue.'

TQMP's work is a testament to the fact that cultural change is foundational to liberation, crafting a future where every individual is free to fully inhabit their faith, their identity, and their dreams.



‘Everyone Needs an Extra Hug’: Esther Healer on LGBTQI Allyship and the Urgent Response Fund

Across the globe, LGBTQI organisations have faced seismic shifts in the funding landscape, putting their survival – and the continuation of their vital work – increasingly at risk. In this climate of uncertainty, allyship has become more vital than ever.

‘Everyone needs an extra hug right now,’ said Esther Healer, a dual US-UK citizen and supporter of GiveOut’s Urgent Response Fund. ‘Everyone needs reminding that whilst it may feel like the world is burning, there are still incredible people in it.’

The Urgent Response Fund provides vital resources to help LGBTQI organisations navigate this upheaval, allowing them to retain staff and maintain legal aid services and crisis helplines. We sat down with Esther to talk about her support for the fund and the crucial roles allyship plays.

As an ally to the community, what inspired you to support LGBTQI organisations through GiveOut’s Urgent Response Fund?

LGBTQI rights are human rights. For me, it means there were always people from that community who were present in the wider fabric of my life and were kind. My drama teacher gave me a safe space when I was an awkward little preteen getting bullied; I simply knew he was kind. To answer that kindness with cruelty, what’s wrong with us? It’s fundamentally weird. And it’s wrong. So, when things come along like this Fund with a matching opportunity, why wouldn’t I try to amplify my ability to help? A big shout out to FCDO for providing the match, because that allows a small, individual person like me to magnify my gift if I time it strategically.

‘On the emotional side, everybody needs an extra hug right now. Everyone needs reminding that whilst it may feel like the world is burning, there are still incredible people in it. We have to remind each other of that.’

‘A big shout out to FCDO for providing the match, because that allows a small, individual person like me to magnify my gift if I time it strategically.’

How do you view the broader role of allyship in supporting LGBTQI organisations?

What should any ally do? Figure out where you can be impactful. I can be helpful by listening, trying to empathise, and providing support when I can. If I see something wrong and it’s safe to speak up, I’ll try. Going head-on at somebody who hasn’t understood lessons about compassion is counterproductive. You’ve got to try to find a way to engage with them respectfully, and see if you can find common ground.

And finally, what message would you share with the organisations you’ve supported?

First, thank you for your courage. Thank you for standing up for what’s right, for our fellow human beings. If we look back 50, 100, 200 years ago, there has been so much progress made towards greater equality. God willing, that will continue, as long as people are willing to put in the time, effort, and heart, and to focus on engaging respectfully. We have to find ways to communicate. I feel very honoured and privileged to call myself an ally.

What’s your advice for others wanting to be better allies, especially given current challenges?

On the emotional side, everybody needs an extra hug right now. Everyone needs reminding that whilst it may feel like the world is burning, there are still incredible people in it. We have to remind each other of that. We have to remain resilient, conserve our emotional energy so we aren’t exhausted by the volatility of the news, and be ready to build something positive when opportunities arise. Monetarily, if anybody can give a little extra when they can, especially if there’s a matching opportunity, that’s great too.

Esther Healer



Building Bridges in eMgundweni: When Traditional Leadership Embraces Change

In the scattered villages of eMgundweni, where it takes two hours to reach the nearest bus stop and tradition runs deep, Parents, Families & Friends of South African Queers (PFSAQ) arrived with considerable anxiety. They were coming to discuss LGBTQI inclusion in a remote corner of KwaZulu-Natal, territory where South Africa's progressive constitution often feels worlds away and violence against LGBTQI people remains tragically common.

What happened next demonstrated the transformative power of PFSAQ's rural outreach work.

Before Chief Mabaso could even speak, the mothers in the room, some serving as headwomen in their communities, began leaning forward with urgency. They recognised the stories PFSAQ was telling. They had witnessed the silence, the fear, the young people struggling alone. 'We need this,' they said. 'We need this.'

This is precisely the impact PFSAQ creates by bringing vital LGBTQI education to communities that mainstream advocacy never reaches. While laws protecting LGBTQI rights exist in South Africa's major cities, geographic isolation has meant rural communities lack access to information that could save lives. PFSAQ bridges this critical gap, venturing into areas where no one has previously brought conversations about sexual orientation, gender identity, and human rights.


Through patient engagement beginning in March 2025, PFSAQ's parent sessions in Utrecht and eMgundweni have opened dialogue on interconnected challenges:

substance abuse, crime, and the hidden suffering of LGBTQI community members living in fear. By creating safe spaces for honest conversation, PFSAQ has helped families understand that LGBTQI people aren't abstract concepts, they're their own children, siblings, and neighbours who deserve protection.

The results speak to PFSAQ's skilful approach. Chief Mabaso, a traditional leader whose endorsement carries enormous community weight, didn't just accept PFSAQ's message – he embraced it. 'What you are bringing to my community is information that no one ever thinks to bring to us because of how far we live,' he acknowledged. He committed to ensuring 'my nation is informed, because we don't want a situation where our children are killed and our children don't live happily ever after.'

Most remarkably, Chief Mabaso specifically requested that LGBTQI people themselves attend July's community dialogue: 'We want to talk about something that we can see.' This visibility, facilitated by PFSAQ's groundwork, represents profound progress in communities where LGBTQI individuals have lived in enforced silence.

By systematically reaching rural traditional leaders and demonstrating that protecting LGBTQI community members aligns with – rather than contradicts – cultural values of care and responsibility, PFSAQ is changing hearts, minds and, ultimately, lives where it matters most.



**'What you are
bringing to my
community is
information that no
one ever thinks to
bring to us because
of how far we live,'**



Artwork by Kamez Nguyen titled Breaking Through for SEAQCF

Imagining New Futures: How Southeast Asia's Queer Cultural Festival Is Changing the Story

Across Southeast Asia, LGBTQI communities continue to face shrinking civic space, disinformation, and growing hostility. Queer people are often portrayed as outsiders, accused of importing 'foreign' values or undermining faith and tradition. In this environment, artists and cultural workers are increasingly turning to *artivism* – the use of artistic and cultural approaches to drive social change – as a powerful form of resistance, creating alternative worlds where LGBTQI people can exist, belong, and imagine their futures on their own terms.

At the heart of this movement is the Southeast Asia Queer Cultural Festival (SEAQCF), a regional arts initiative led by the ASEAN SOGIE Caucus (ASC). Between late 2024 and early 2025, SEAQCF returned for its second edition, bringing together more than 60 queer artists from 11 ASEAN countries. Across film, literature, performance, music, and visual art, the festival showcased 51 works that revealed the depth, care, and imagination of queer communities. Supported by GiveOut, SEAQCF 2.0 reinforced that art is not peripheral to activism, it is a core strategy for changing narratives and building regional solidarity.

Artivism as a Tool for Cultural Change

SEAQCF directly confronted political narratives that paint LGBTQI identities as incompatible with Southeast Asian cultures. Under the theme *ImagiNATIONS*, the festival invited communities to imagine societies where queer dignity is recognised and protected. Through a hybrid format, SEAQCF reached audiences across the region: an online exhibition hosted on an ASC platform made all works accessible, while in-person events in Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines brought queer art into cinemas, galleries, and community spaces.

'[Art] is a force that helps us turn hostility into joy, and hate into kindness.'

At the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum, SEAQCF stood out as one of the only dedicated arts spaces. This ensured LGBTQI issues were embedded within broader conversations on democracy, justice, and the region's future, rather than isolated in a single session.

Making the Invisible Visible

A defining strength of SEAQCF was its focus on everyday queer life – stories seldom seen in mainstream media. Artists highlighted trans elders tending gardens in Indonesia, queer youth navigating faith and family in Brunei, and handwritten notes of care placed in public spaces in the Philippines. These narratives challenge the idea that queer people are recent arrivals or distant from cultural life. Instead, they reveal communities deeply rooted in history, place, and relationships.

For ASC, this work is inseparable from human rights. When queer people are erased from history books, censored from public culture, or excluded from education systems, governments find it easier to justify discriminatory laws. Storytelling and creative expression counter that erasure by asserting that LGBTQI people exist, contribute, and belong.

As ASC's Executive Director Ryan Silverio notes, art 'helps people feel before they agree to think differently,' creating room for empathy and curiosity that formal reports alone cannot achieve.

Changing Attitudes, One Story at a Time

For many participants, SEAQCF marked the first time they had seen their own language, culture, and identity reflected through queer artivism. It sparked new collaborations, community initiatives, and conversations with teachers, families, and local leaders. Artists described the festival as a rare affirmation, proof that their stories matter, even in environments where public space is increasingly hostile.

As Ryan reflected, art is 'a force that helps us turn hostility into joy, and hate into kindness.' Through SEAQCF, queer Southeast Asians are not only resisting erasure – they are reshaping the cultural and political futures of the region.



RoCK, Cambodia

Impact Updates

Building Acceptance, One Family at a Time in Cambodia

In Cambodia, RoCK has brought together families, local authorities, senior government officials, MPS, local artists, parents, and the LGBTQI community to explore what love means within Khmer culture, fostering advocates from within families and sparking long-term social change. At the Solidarity of Love event, dialogues about love, respect, and family connection helped participants see that inclusion begins at home. For Tit Heng, an older sister from Takeo Province, hearing stories from other families and artists transformed her perspective on her transmasculine brother. Initially unsure and resistant, she realised that love, not judgement, sustains family bonds. Moved by the courage of speakers and encouraged by her daughter, Heng embraced her brother fully and pledged to share her story, inspiring other families to do the same. Heng's journey from reluctant sibling to passionate advocate illustrated how empathy and dialogue can transform family members into champions for equality, creating a foundation for lasting acceptance and social cohesion in Cambodian communities.



Reclaiming Inclusive African Family, Culture, and Values in Nigeria and Beyond

In Nigeria, GiveOut partner The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERS) hosted a day-long anti-colonial conference on Reclaiming African Family, Culture, and Values. The conference challenged the rise in anti-LGBTQI rights conferences that have been emerging across the continent, and reclaimed queerness within traditional African values. The day-long event brought together local academics and community leaders, with activists from across the continent to critically examine how colonial legacies continue to distort African understandings of kinship, gender, and belonging. By reclaiming African queerness and correctly framing gender and sexual diversity as a part of pre-colonial communal identities and values, TIERS and the attendees of the conference were not only restoring erased histories but actively resisting the growing wave of well-funded, anti-rights movements that distort 'traditional African values' to justify exclusion, marginalisation, and violence in the name of 'family values'. Significantly they managed to get positive news articles printed on the conference, amplifying the inclusive anti-colonial message to a wider audience.



Reclaiming Public Space at the Beyond the Blue Sky Film Festival in Mongolia

For 11 years, Mongolia LGBT Centre has held the Beyond the Blue Sky Film Festival in a mainstream 450-seat cinema, creating a vital public space where young LGBTQI people can see themselves on screen, surrounded by community. The festival has now screened over 80 films, with narratives evolving from simple visibility statements to complex multigenerational family stories. 'When you watch it with 200 or 300 or 400 people together, people like you on a big screen in the mainstream theatre, it does something to you,' Enkhmaa Enkhbold, the executive director of Mongolia LGBT Centre reflected. Young attendees grew comfortable in their skin, and after screenings, discussions continued in the city's queer pubs. Despite facing organised threats requiring careful security planning, the festival has continued to create space for connection, dialogue, and normalising queerness in public life.





Fathers Become Advocates to Promote LGBTQI Acceptance in South Africa and Eswatini

In South Africa and Eswatini, The Other Foundation funded work by PFSAQ and the Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW) through the Bring Your Father to Pride campaign at this year's Soweto Pride. This initiative turns fathers, uncles, and brothers into visible advocates for LGBTQI wellbeing, encouraging them to stand beside their children not just privately but publicly. Because these men had access to previously inaccessible spaces, they were able to strategically promote acceptance and support with leaders and decision-makers previously out of reach. Their presence at Pride events, like the Soweto Pride March, sent a powerful message that love starts at home and inspires stronger, more inclusive families and communities.

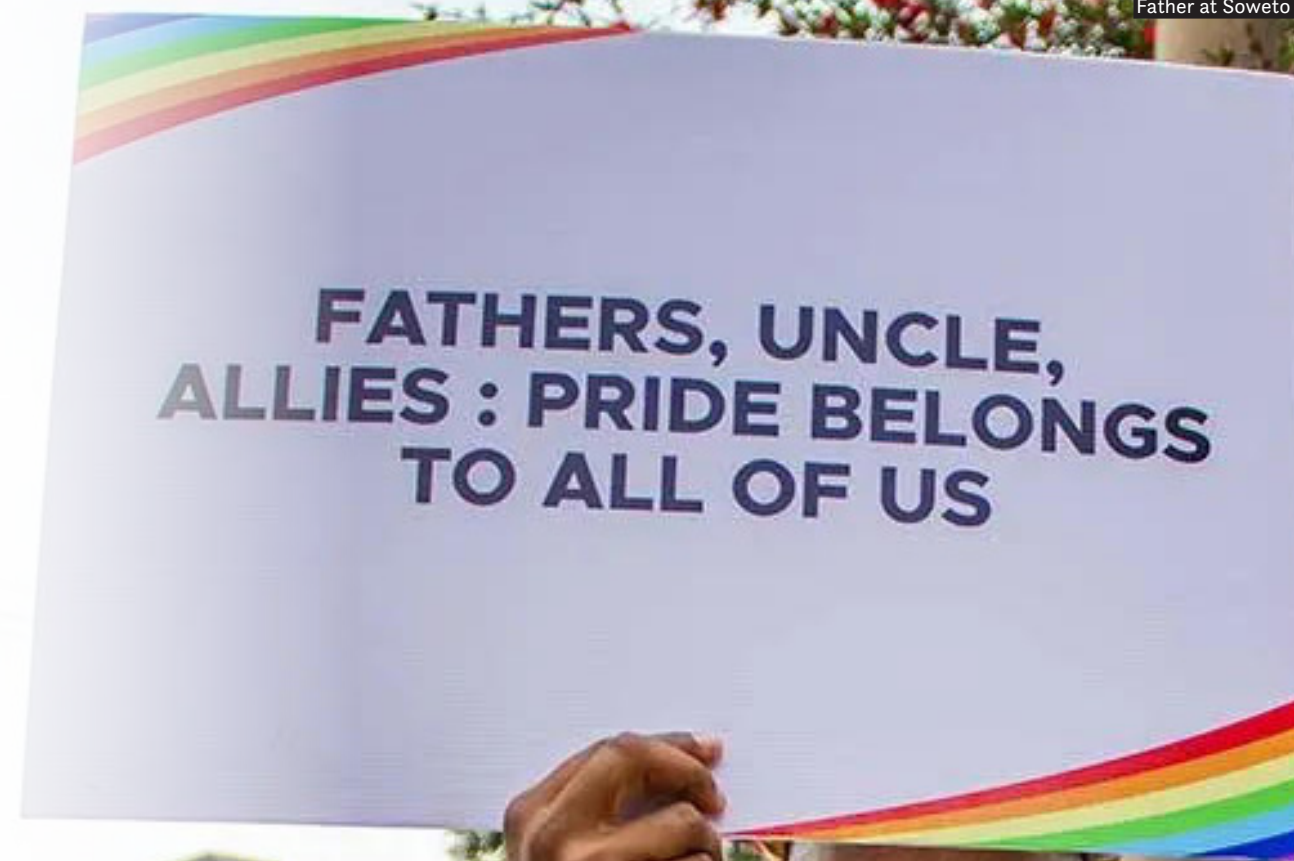
SASOD's Campaign for LGBTQI Rights in Guyana

Grant partner SASOD Guyana led the Guyana Together campaign to decriminalise same-sex intimacy, centring LGBTQI rights through social media, storytelling, and public engagement. The campaign produced videos featuring LGBTQI voices alongside parents, grandparents, and civil society allies, highlighting the harmful social effects of criminalisation while promoting solidarity and collective responsibility. A dedicated website and strategic social media amplification ensured these stories reached a nationwide audience. This advocacy reframed LGBTQI rights as a community-wide concern rather than a 'special interest' issue, building on years of movement efforts to cultivate allyship and social acceptance. By connecting families, allies, and civil society, SASOD Guyana strengthened public support for equality while challenging prejudiced legislation. The campaign demonstrated the power of coordinated advocacy in reshaping public attitudes, with a long-term plan to foster social cohesion, whilst promoting the visibility and rights of LGBTQI people.

Reclaiming Nepal's Matriarchal Heritage Through Film

In Nepal, a new documentary by filmmaker and LGBTQI activist Sunil Babu Pant, executive director of Mayako Pahichan, unearths Nepal's long, often-erased history of gender diversity and expression. *Ajima and the Six Genders* traces Kathmandu's matriarchal past through the figure of the Ajima goddesses and the Tantric traditions that recognised six genders, a heritage overshadowed by later patriarchal and colonial reinterpretations. By restoring these narratives and celebrating Nepal's inclusive spiritual heritage, the documentary offers a powerful counter to rising anti-LGBTQI sentiment. Before its premiere, Mayako Pahichan convened discussions with activists, human rights advocates, and members of the Constituent Assembly, grounding the film in dialogue with Nepal's political and social leaders. The documentary has since been screened across Nepal, from Kathmandu to Lalitpur, Kaski, Makwanpur, Kailali and beyond, as well as at the 12th International Human Rights Film Festival in Brussels. By restoring these narratives and celebrating Nepal's inclusive spiritual heritage, the film offers a powerful counter to rising anti-LGBTQI sentiment. Rights advocates and public figures have praised its potential to shift public attitudes, inspire younger generations, and strengthen understanding of gender diversity.

Father at Soweto Pride, South Africa





Delivering Emergency Support in Times of Crisis

In an increasingly unstable world, overlapping crises from war to climate breakdown, continue to expose the deep inequalities shaping LGBTQI lives. Across regions, state and non-state actors weaponise sexuality and gender identity to justify violence and persecution. Economic hardship and shrinking global aid further push LGBTQI people into precarity, while discrimination often excludes them from shelters, relief programmes, and humanitarian aid. Even in emergencies, prejudice persists – leaving LGBTQI organisations as the first and often only source of refuge.

In 2025, GiveOut mobilised rapid assistance through our Hurricane Melissa LGBTQI Appeal, supporting grant partners across the Caribbean to respond to the storm’s devastating impact providing emergency cash assistance, safe accommodation, and essential supplies to LGBTQI people facing barriers to mainstream relief.

Through community-led action and sustained solidarity, GiveOut and our grant partners have demonstrated that inclusive humanitarian response is not only possible, it is essential. When crises hit, LGBTQI people deserve to be seen, protected and supported. Our collective actions help ensure that safety, dignity, and resilience are never out of reach.



LGBTQI Communities on the Climate Frontline

In times of global crisis, it's often those already pushed to society's margins who bear the heaviest burden.

As the world grapples with accelerating climate breakdown, LGBTQI communities are among the most vulnerable. Yet, amid the endless drumbeat of extreme weather events and natural disasters, the link between climate change and LGBTQI rights is rarely heard.

For queer people, particularly in the Global South, climate change is not a distant threat but a lived reality, compounding exclusion and inequality.

This year, GiveOut brought together LGBTQI organisations, activists, climate funders and researchers from around the world to better understand this intersection and work with them on solutions.

We heard stories of strength, courage, and ingenuity, and were galvanised by the outstanding contributions so many have made in the fight for climate justice.

'We are not just vulnerable to climate change – we are vital to how our communities survive it.'

Understanding the Intersection

In March 2025, GiveOut hosted the world's first LGBTQI Climate Convening to explore why LGBTQI organisations struggle to access climate funding, and to identify practical ways to scale their work. The learnings from this groundbreaking event were distilled into our report, *Bridging the Gap: Resourcing LGBTQI Climate Action*, released in April 2025.

Activists on every continent told us about the systemic ways their communities are at greater climate risk: economic marginalisation, discrimination, a lack of documentation, social isolation, violence, and criminalisation were common experiences.

During climate events, LGBTQI people are often denied access to healthcare and humanitarian aid. Many are already forced to rely on precarious housing and insecure work – conditions that heighten vulnerability amid extreme weather events.

The Tonga Leitis Association shared how LGBTQI people have found it difficult to access emergency shelters, often run by religious groups hostile to the community.

In Kenya, when El Niño floods devastated parts of the coast in 2023, displacing hundreds of households, queer people who had relocated to coastal towns to escape persecution in urban centres faced growing hostility as economic pressures mounted.

These stories echo across the Caribbean, East Africa, Southeast Asia, and beyond. Yet despite the unique vulnerabilities, these communities are rarely acknowledged in environmental policy, disaster planning, or climate funding frameworks.



From the Margins to the Frontline

In the absence of tailored climate assistance, many LGBTQI organisations continued to do what they'd always done – mobilised, bringing their extensive expertise in navigating hostile environments and forging mutual aid networks to create systemic change.

Our grant partners ran emergency shelters, developed renewable energy infrastructure, and trained LGBTQI refugees in sustainable farming. They continued to educate their communities on the climate crisis and forge cross-movement alliances to ensure responses are inclusive and equitable.

Many of these efforts aren't labelled 'climate work' in traditional funding frameworks, but they are essential in creating resilience and lasting impact. As one activist from Southeast Asia put it during our convening, 'We are not just vulnerable to climate change – we are vital to how our communities survive it.'

Building Momentum

The convening sparked new understanding amongst climate funders. As one funder shared: 'I arrived unsure how LGBTQI rights fit within climate funding. I'm leaving not just convinced, but committed. This work expands what climate justice really means.'

GiveOut's LGBTQI Climate Fund provides flexible, core funding to activist-led organisations in the Global South to scale and sustain their climate work. We plan to grow the fund to £1 million over the next three years, strengthening climate movements, reaching underserved populations, and bolstering collective resilience.

LGBTQI people are not an afterthought in the climate fight – they are central to it.



ClimateWorks Foundation: Strengthening the Climate Movement Through Philanthropy

Kendra Edwards brings a unique perspective to climate philanthropy. As Associate Director of the Justice and Equity team at ClimateWorks Foundation, their background in community-based social work spans youth programming, mental health, violence prevention, employment, and housing. This experience shapes how they approach climate justice.

‘I come to this work with that same systems-level social work perspective,’ Kendra explained. ‘Thinking about how we can redesign systems so that everyone’s safe and everyone’s needs are being met.’

ClimateWorks Foundation acts as a catalyst for climate progress, working with philanthropy to identify and scale transformative solutions globally. With collaborations spanning over 80 funders and partners in more than 50 countries, their work is grounded in the belief that the most effective and durable climate solutions are those that bring real benefits to the people and communities they’re intended to serve.

‘LGBT organisations are not only working to ensure the resilience of our communities, but they’re also contributing meaningfully to climate movements across mitigation and adaptation and just transition initiatives.’

Recognising LGBTQI Leadership in Climate Action

Kendra attended GiveOut’s world-first LGBTQI Climate Convening in March, and the experience reinforced what many in the sector are beginning to understand. LGBTQI organisations are not simply vulnerable populations requiring assistance, but strategic actors leading climate solutions.

‘The convening really positioned LGBT organisations not just as recipients of aid but as strategic actors and leaders in the climate field,’ Kendra reflected. ‘LGBT organisations do have a strategic value add and unique assets. The community resilience, the mutual aid, the multi-generational and cross-movement connections that we’ve always made.’

The convening showcased vivid examples of how LGBTQI organisations across the globe have responded to climate impacts, from heat waves in Nigeria to flooding in Tonga. These organisations ran emergency shelters, led disaster preparedness initiatives, developed renewable energy projects, and advocated for more inclusive climate policy.

‘There were so many examples of how LGBT organisations are assets and are leaders,’ Kendra said. Systemic issues like legal identity barriers, healthcare access, and family relationships heighten LGBTQI communities’ exposure to climate threats. Yet these same communities bring invaluable expertise in navigating adversity and building resilience from the margins.



The Role of Climate Philanthropy

For Kendra, the convening also highlighted philanthropy’s crucial role in this work. Climate funding has grown significantly over the past decade, but there remains a clear need for more trust-based practices. Frontline organisations need flexible, unrestricted funding as they face tremendous need with limited resources.

‘Climate philanthropy holds a unique position because philanthropy can take some different risks to invest in more innovative solutions,’ Kendra noted. ‘Our role is really to drive action with insights and mobilise that funding to meet the needs of folks that are most impacted and unlock more transformative solutions.’

Collaborative spaces like the convening allow funders to hear directly from those leading and living the work ‘It’s an opportunity for us to have that shared learning,’ Kendra explained. ‘It grounds that abstract discussion of vulnerability and climate impacts in real lived experience and localised and historical social context as well, to really understand on the ground what are the different barriers and the different types of solutions that are going to be needed.’

Strengthening the Movement

When asked why it’s vital to increase funding at the intersection of LGBTQI rights and climate justice, Kendra’s response was clear: ‘LGBT organisations are not only working to ensure the resilience of our communities, but they’re also contributing meaningfully to climate movements across mitigation and adaptation and just transition initiatives. They’re already acting as drivers of change and their inclusion only strengthens climate outcomes and ensures that no one is left behind.’

LGBTQI organisations offer unique expertise in navigating adversity, building community resilience, and innovating from the margins. Supporting their work doesn’t just protect vulnerable communities but strengthens the entire climate movement.

As Kendra put it, ‘We’re really looking for who’s most impacted and who’s left out of current policies and funding and actions. LGBT organisations offer very unique expertise, and their inclusion only strengthens the whole movement.’



Life-Saving Support for LGBTQI People Excluded From Earthquake Relief

ILGA Asia's emergency grants provided life-saving support to LGBTQI individuals after a devastating earthquake in Central Asia, reaching people who faced violence, rejection, and fear when attempting to access traditional aid. A trans woman and mother of seven described the chaos: 'The earthquake destroyed everything. My son's leg was broken when a wall fell on him. I was terrified to take him to the hospital because I feared being targeted for being a trans woman.' She was stranded with her injured child and had nowhere safe to go as winter approached. Through the emergency grant, she was able to cover her son's medical expenses, buy food, and find temporary accommodation. The support gave her the safety and stability she could not find elsewhere. The grant gave her 'hope', and made her feel like she 'mattered', someone finally saw their 'pain'. Without this assistance, she and her children would have been left exposed to both the cold and the prejudice surrounding them.

Another trans woman shared the same struggle. After the earthquake destroyed her home, she and her children were forced to sleep beside a hill, and exposed to freezing nights. 'My children are afraid,' she said. 'They haven't slept well since the earthquake.' Each vibration around reminded them of the night they lost everything. 'My biggest worry is keeping them fed,' she explained. 'It's difficult because I'm a trans woman, I can't go out or find work safely.' The grant helped her buy food, blankets, and a temporary shelter, protecting her family from hunger and the winter. The support gave her 'strength'.

Similarly, another trans woman faced open hostility and verbal abuse when she tried to seek help from a local organisation. 'When I asked for assistance, I was attacked. People said my sins had caused the earthquake,' she recalled. The grant enabled her to relocate

temporarily to a safer area and feed her family for several days, away from daily threats. 'This was the first time I received support without fear or humiliation,' she said. 'It saved me from the streets and gave me the strength to start again.'

For another trans woman caring for her widowed sister's children, the aid meant survival itself. 'I lost everything. I had to beg for food and clothes to feed the children,' she said. With the grant, she was able to buy essentials and provide the children with food, clothing, and safety. 'The help came when we had nothing left.'

Impact and Value of the Aid

The emergency grant provided more than financial relief; it restored safety, dignity, and belonging to LGBTQI people excluded from traditional aid systems. Without it, many would have continued to face violence, homelessness, and hunger. This support filled the gap, ensuring that LGBTQI survivors were not forgotten. The aid gave them not only the means to survive but also the confidence to rebuild their lives.

'This was the first time I received support without fear or humiliation. It saved me from the streets and gave me the strength to start again.'

Emergency Response and Building Bridges in Lebanon

When violence erupted in Lebanon, Helem, an LGBTQI rights organisation, transformed overnight from an advocacy group into an emergency lifeline. Their helpline was inundated with over 800 calls from displaced queer individuals fleeing conflict zones, many forced into unsafe, overcrowded conditions with family members who rejected their identities.

Helem's response was swift and comprehensive. They established emergency response teams covering shelter, food, healthcare, and round-the-clock support. They provided safe accommodation and daily meals for 40 displaced LGBTQI individuals, creating spaces where people could simply exist without fear. The organisation continued operating their helpline throughout the crisis, offering direct support and referrals, whilst providing vital services including medication, food parcels, and legal aid during the war and economic collapse.

GiveOut's LGBTQI Emergency Fund provided essential resources during this period marked by war, economic crisis, and widespread funding cuts. The unrestricted grant allowed Helem to keep their community centre running, sustain their helpline services, and support vulnerable LGBTQI individuals when they needed it most.

Undoing Entrenched Prejudice

Perhaps the most profound impact came in unexpected ways. One young man from a conservative background arrived at Helem's shelter carrying deep-seated prejudices about LGBTQI people, particularly transgender individuals. Through daily interactions, shared meals, and open conversations with the community, his perspective shifted entirely.

'I came here thinking I knew who "they" were,' he reflected. 'I leave knowing that we are all just people, each carrying our own pain and strength. I've found

hope here – hope I didn't think I could feel during this war.'

His family also experienced this transformation, expressing profound gratitude for the care they received and recognising the humanity and resilience of the LGBTQI community they'd been taught to fear.

The funding not only allowed Helem to continue protecting LGBTQI people during war, but enabled them to sustain essential programmes such as the Family Solidarity Initiative, which promotes family acceptance through group sessions and advocacy videos. One mother who attended became an advocate for her queer child, sharing her journey in the organisation's community videos. One young trans person displaced during the war was housed safely and connected to longer-term protection services – a vital pathway from crisis to stability.

Even in the midst of conflict and displacement, Helem's work has demonstrated that LGBTQI organisations are not only providing survival support but creating the conditions for understanding, acceptance, and lasting change.

I came here thinking I knew who "they" were. I leave knowing that we are all just people, each carrying our own pain and strength. I've found hope here – hope I didn't think I could feel during this war.'



Emergency Support for LGBTQI Communities After Hurricane Melissa

When Hurricane Melissa tore through the Caribbean as a Category 5 storm, it left catastrophic destruction across the region. Jamaica endured the worst of the storm, facing the most powerful winds in its recorded history, widespread flooding, collapsed homes, and massive power outages. With hospitals, roads, and essential infrastructure heavily damaged, hundreds of thousands of people have been left without safe shelter, electricity, or access to critical services.

For LGBTQI people, the crisis has compounded pre-existing inequalities. Before the storm, one in three LGBTQI Jamaicans already faced homelessness or displacement, and many avoided government-run shelters due to the well-founded fear of discrimination or mistreatment. In the aftermath of a disaster, these barriers can become deadly.

Recognising the urgency of the moment, GiveOut activated its LGBTQI Emergency Fund and launched the Hurricane Melissa LGBTQI Appeal, allowing our community and allies to provide direct support to LGBTQI people who could not safely access mainstream relief. Two of our trusted grant partners, Equality for All Foundation (EFAF) and the United Caribbean Trans Network (UCTRANS), reached out swiftly, describing an escalating need among LGBTQI people who could not safely access mainstream relief. Both organisations have extensive networks in the region and are among the few organisations equipped to provide community-led humanitarian support.

With emergency grants now approved and released, EFAF is preparing to support LGBTQI community members in Jamaica who have lost homes or been displaced

by the storm. Their planned response includes helping people relocate to safe temporary accommodation, providing emergency supplies such as clothing and bedding, and supporting those whose homes have been damaged to begin stabilising their immediate situation. Their long-established presence within Jamaican LGBTQI communities means they will be able to reach individuals who would otherwise avoid or be excluded from state-run services.

At the same time, UCTRANS is preparing to deliver urgent assistance to trans people in Jamaica and The Bahamas, many of whom have lost their homes, income, or access to medication and food. Their immediate plans focus on distributing emergency grocery vouchers, essential supplies, and temporary shelter support to those facing the highest levels of vulnerability. As a

trans-led network, UCTRANS is uniquely positioned to reach trans women and gender-diverse people who often experience the most severe discrimination during disaster recovery efforts.

These emergency grants ensure that both EFAF and UCTRANS can begin delivering critical assistance in the days and weeks ahead. While the full impact of the hurricane is still unfolding, what is already clear is that LGBTQI people across the Caribbean will need sustained, community-centred support to survive the immediate aftermath and begin rebuilding their lives.

As recovery efforts continue, GiveOut will remain in close contact with grant partners on the ground to monitor emerging needs and ensure LGBTQI people are not left behind in the wider humanitarian response.



Impact Updates

Community Care Amid Criminalisation: IraQueer's Emergency Response

In Iraq, as the 2024 anti-LGBT+ law criminalising queer identities came into effect prompting increased violence against the community, IraQueer became a lifeline for trans and gender-diverse people facing persecution. Amid this escalating climate, IraQueer provided urgent support to over 50 LGBTQI individuals through case management, safe housing, and trauma counselling. This support was incredibly meaningful for the community; for example, a young trans woman at risk of homelessness after being outed was directly supported by IraQueer. She received temporary safe housing, trauma counselling, and guidance for safe relocation. This ensured her immediate safety, with the team connecting her to a wider network of peers and community solidarity. Her case was not unique; it represents dozens of stories IraQueer quietly supported in times of acute crisis.



Safeguarding Grants for Intersex Organisations and Promoting Economic Resilience

USAID grant changes caused massive funding cuts, leaving organisations and individuals without stable support. This affected a wide range of community members, organisations, and funds. The Intersex Human Rights Fund took two key actions in response. First, they safeguarded ongoing grants for all their grant partners, ensuring no pause in funding while working behind the scenes to maintain support. Second, they launched an economic empowerment micro-fund across 12 countries, building on existing grant partners' skills to promote localised economic self-sufficiency. As adaptive feminist funders, they consulted closely with communities, rising to the challenge. This dual approach forms part of a long-term strategy to create inclusive, sustainable funding models that reduce donor dependence and build localised skills around fundraising.



Creating Lifelines for Trans and Gender-Diverse Jamaicans

In Jamaica, TransWave provided a crucial safety net for trans and gender-diverse people during a period of heightened discrimination and urgent need. The organisation was able to deliver emergency financial assistance to community members who were facing eviction, unemployment, food insecurity, and barriers to life-saving healthcare. Their work with direct emergency aid prevented homelessness for some community members, sustained access to essential medication, and provided a holistic emergency response to the complex needs of people in crisis. Alongside this, they were able to host meet ups and events in their community space to provide ongoing mental health and social support for folks in crisis. In a context where LGBTQI people often face discrimination and social exclusion, safe houses, community gatherings, and Pride events remain a lifeline.



Providing Life-Saving Support After Myanmar Earthquake

On 28 March, Myanmar was struck by a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake, the strongest in the region in over a century. The quake caused widespread destruction, with thousands of lives lost. ASEAN SOGIE Caucus responded swiftly by providing grants to local LGBTQI groups who in turn delivered vital resources. These included inclusive shelters, psychosocial support, and sanitary products with gender-sensitive care. As ASEAN SOGIE Caucus emphasised: 'In this time of crisis, it is imperative that the specific concerns and vulnerabilities faced by LGBTQIAN+ individuals are recognised and addressed.' Through their rapid response, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus ensured that LGBTQI communities received life-saving support when they needed it most.



GiveOut Team with our Grant Partners at our LGBTQI Climate Convening



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 £4 million in new funding to the LGBTQI movement, building a better, more equal world.

Thank you to our closest individual supporters: Antonia, Andrea, Chris, Elliot, Hosh, Jon H, Jon S, Josh, Paolo, Pedro, Radhika, Simon, Suki, Sunny, the 100 Circle of regular givers, and our donor community in Germany.

Thank you to the estate of John Murrery for the legacy gift to Rainbow Railroad through the Rainbow Railroad UK Fund, managed by GiveOut.

Thank you to our corporate allies, including: our founding sponsor Boston Consulting Group, A&O Shearman, Addleshaw Goddard, Arm, BCLP, Deutsche Bank, Gay Times, Global Butterflies, Google, Jones Day, Latham & Watkins, Levi Strauss & Co, LinkedIn, Linklaters, London Stock Exchange Group, Macquarie Bank, Markel International, Mastercard, Milbank, Ogury, Paysafe, Playtech, Rokos Capital Management, Teradata, Tesco, The Capital Group, Travers Smith, Zappi, and Zhulke.

And thank you to our trust and foundation funders, including Climate Works, Dreilinden, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Equality Without Borders, MSN Fund, Oak Foundation, The Baring Foundation, The Global Fund for Community Foundations, The Spencer Charitable Trust, The Kreitman Foundation, and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

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.

Get Involved

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.

Corporates

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/get-involved or email give@giveout.org to learn more.



GiveOut Pride Celebration 2025

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



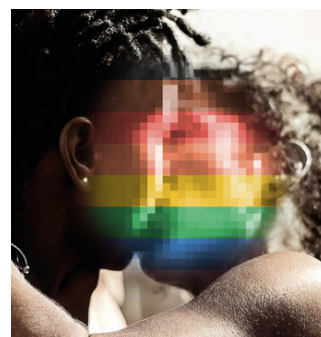
Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund

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.



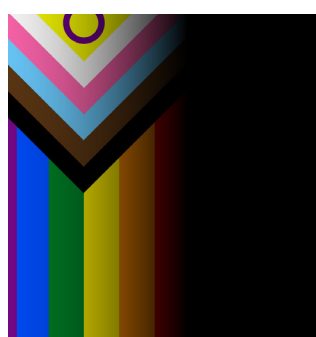
Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund

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, the Fund supports organisations working to advance human rights and protections for trans and non-binary communities in the UK and worldwide.



LGBTQI Solidarity Fund

The LGBTQI Solidarity Fund is an exciting initiative by GiveOut to mobilise the UK LGBTQI community and allies to come together to show our collective support for LGBTQI communities 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.



ORAM UK Fund

ORAM protects and empowers LGBTQI asylum seekers and refugees globally, creating sustainability and systematic change.

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



Asia Feminist LBQ Network,
Asia



Centre for Law and Policy Research (CLPR),
Southeast Asia



EQUAL GROUND,
Sri Lanka



Equal Asia Foundation,
Asia



ILGA Asia,
Asia



Legal Dignity,
Malaysia



Mayako Pahichan (Recognition of Love),
Nepal



Rainbow Community Kampuchea (RoCK),
Cambodia



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



Tonga Leitis Association (TLA),
Tonga



The Queer Muslim Project (TQMP)
South Asia



Transmen Indonesia,
Indonesia



Europe & Central Asia

Consortium,
United Kingdom



Equal Rights Association,
Western Balkans & Turkey



Kyiv Pride,
Ukraine



Mongolia LGBT Centre,
Mongolia



Pink Armenia,
Armenia



Trans*parent,
Czech Republic



Latin America & Caribbean

Derechos Humanos y Diversidad,
Argentina



Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE),
Eastern Caribbean



Guyana Trans United (GTU),
Guyana



Equality for All Foundation (EFAF),
Jamaica



REDCAHT+,
Central America



SASOD Guyana,
Guyana



TransWave,
Jamaica



United Caribbean Trans Network
(UCTRANS),
Caribbean



South West Asia & North Africa

Coalition for Sexual & Bodily Rights
(CSBR),
South West Asia & North Africa



Helem,
Lebanon



IraqQueer,
Iraq



Qorras,
Lebanon



Sub-Saharan Africa

Access Chapter 2 (AC2),
South Africa



Bisi Alimi Foundation,
Nigeria



Iranti,
Southern Africa



Parents, Families and Friends of
South Africa Queers (PFSAQ),
South Africa



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



The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs),
Nigeria



The Other Foundation,
Southern Africa



Womens Health and Equal Rights
(WHER),
East Africa



International

International Trans Fund (ITF)



Intersex Human Rights Fund



Organisation for Refugees, Asylum and Migration (ORAM)



Outright International



Rainbow Railroad



The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN)





GiveOut

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