



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2020/21



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First published in 2021 by
GiveOut
3rd Floor, Thomas Ford House
23-24 Smithfield Street
London EC1A 9LF
United Kingdom

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WELCOME



GiveOut Trustees, 2021.

From our Board of Trustees

Welcome to GiveOut's first annual impact report. Inside you will find updates on how your support has been vital to promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) human rights and equality across the globe. You will also meet GiveOut's existing and new grant partners for 2021.

For those keen to go deeper, GiveOut has maintained fully audited accounts since our first year of operation and these are available on the Charity Commission's website.

Since our launch in early 2018, we have built GiveOut into an international foundation for our community and allies to give in one place to support LGBTQI activism worldwide. We are incredibly proud of the progress we have made so far. In just three years, our supporters have provided over £650,000 in new funding to the LGBTQI movement globally and now support over 30 brilliant organisations across five continents.

The past year has once again shown the crucial role played by LGBTQI activist-led organisations. During the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, our communities have relied more than ever on their support and protection. And these organisations have relied more than ever on the support of our community globally.

Thank you so much to everyone who has joined GiveOut to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our movement, and in doing so, protected and improved the lives of LGBTQI people worldwide.

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

From our Executive Director and team

It is fair to say that 2020 was a difficult year for many in our community. But backed by our community globally, including GiveOut's supporters, the LGBTQI movement has responded with incredible resilience.

From the beginning of the pandemic, our grant partners told us that the virus and lockdown measures were amplifying existing vulnerabilities for LGBTQI communities. In response, GiveOut launched the COVID-19 LGBTQI Global Solidarity Fund – the first of its kind in the world. Thanks to our supporters' generosity, we provided emergency grants to our partners working around the world, on top of the long-term support we already give.

Armed with these resources, LGBTQI organisations have responded to the pandemic with agility and flexibility. They have adapted their ways of working, developed new services and approaches to activism, and pivoted to provide vital emergency humanitarian support. They have also achieved significant progress

for our communities and gained some important victories.

With much of the world still facing devastating new waves of COVID-19, we will continue to offer emergency support to our partners. At the same time, as the world looks to "build back better" towards a more equal future, we will focus on providing long-term and sustainable funding for our movement that is rooted in our community. "It takes a community to survive," Indian LGBTQI activist Vikramaditya Saha told us in 2020. We would add: it also takes a community to thrive.

Huge thanks to you, our supporters, for being part of this community.

Rupert Abbott, Lee Dibben, Claire Tunnacliffe and Fae Vincent



GiveOut Team, 2021.

ABOUT US

We are an award-winning international LGBTQI community foundation enabling our community and allies to give in one place to support LGBTQI activism worldwide.

Across the world, courageous activists are doing vital work to protect our communities and improve the lives of LGBTQI people. But they lack resources and funding is fragile, especially in the Global South and East. LGBTQI groups receive a tiny fraction of international development aid – just 4p in every £100 awarded by governments.

Our 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 supporters to give tax efficiently in one place to fund LGBTQI human rights activism worldwide. 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.

We pool the donations we receive to provide grants to LGBTQI organisations around the world, ensuring they have more of the resources they need to defend our communities, tackle inequality and campaign for lasting change.

Our vision, mission and values

Our vision is of a world in which LGBTQI people everywhere enjoy the freedom to be and to do, able to live their lives openly and fully, free from discrimination, fear and violence.

Our mission is to grow giving to support the global struggle for LGBTQI human rights. We enable our community and allies to give in one place to provide LGBTQI activists and their organisations with more of the resources they need.

We have five core organisational values:

- 1 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.
- 2 Equity**
We recognise the diversity of the global LGBTQI movement and seek to reflect this. We provide support across the movement, recognising that different parts of our community need different levels of support in different places.
- 3 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.
- 4 Stewardship**
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.
- 5 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.

A note from our founder



Elliot Vaughn

I'm GiveOut's founder, and chair the charity's Board of Trustees. What started as an idea back in 2015 has become GiveOut – an international LGBTQI community foundation that enables philanthropists in our community and allies to fund the movement for LGBTQI equality worldwide.

I came out growing up in a village in Oxfordshire at the age of 15. At Cambridge I led the University's LGBT group and it was there I met my husband-to-be, Colin. Growing up feeling different didn't feel easy, but looking back, I was one of the lucky ones. I have always been able to count on the love and support of family and friends.

At work I have built a career at Boston Consulting Group (BCG), where I'm a Senior Partner. I have tried to be active in supporting LGBTQI charities and also provide leadership to our Pride@BCG network.

But in 2015 as I was turning 40, I realised something was missing. The more I learned about what was happening to LGBTQI people around the world, the more I wanted to do something about it.

Before then I had made a commitment to myself to donate 10% of my annual income to charity and wanted to know how to do this in the LGBTQI human rights area with the greatest impact. But, in management consulting speak, there was a market failure. For those who wanted to support our communities in some of the hardest places to be LGBTQI, there was no way to do it in an effective and efficient way, with good governance. I remember thinking, "There must be more we can do."

Through speaking with a wide range of international LGBTQI activists, I realised that there were many incredible LGBTQI organisations to support. So, together with a group of colleagues, we decided to establish GiveOut to enable our community to back LGBTQI activism around the world.

It wasn't plain sailing. Plenty of people along the way told me that it would be too much work. But many others, in particular, the leading Kenyan LGBTQI activist Wanja Muguongo, guided and encouraged us. BCG was also hugely supportive and senior leaders at the firm encouraged the work, and the firm even went on to become our founding sponsor.

GiveOut started life through the support of volunteers and some talented interns, but by 2017, we recruited our founding Executive Director, Rupert Abbott. Rupert has brought a wonderful mix of a heavyweight human rights background with Amnesty International and the UN, a personal commitment to LGBTQI rights, and experience building organisations.

GiveOut was registered as a charity at the end of 2017. In 2018, we were recognised as the breakthrough charity of the year at the Third Sector Awards. The following year, I received the Prime Minister's Points of Light Award for founding GiveOut.

I feel proud of what we and our supporters have created together. We are growing the pie for the global LGBTQI human rights movement, working with other philanthropists in our community to support LGBTQI activism around the world, in ways none of us could accomplish before GiveOut existed.

“We established GiveOut to enable those of us in a position do so to support our community around the world, so LGBTQI people everywhere can live free from fear, discrimination and violence.”

OUR GRANTMAKING

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 community. With the right resources, our movement can help eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices, change attitudes and create safe spaces in places where LGBTQI people and identities are not accepted.

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

Recognising the diversity and complexity of the movement, we strive to make our portfolio of grant partners as 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.

2020 – Confronting the pandemic

Through GiveOut's 2nd round of grants, our supporters funded 24 LGBTQI organisations around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic severely affected the work of all our grant partners. Planned work has been and continues to be badly disrupted by the virus and restrictions, with organisations re-strategising and reorganising. The last year has been a matter of survival for our communities.

Our grant partners told us about the impact of lockdowns and social isolation, with LGBTQI people more likely to be trapped in abusive situations and disproportionately affected by mental ill-health. OutRight Action International found that LGBTQI people faced the loss of livelihoods, disruption to accessing health care, an elevated risk of domestic and family violence, social isolation and increased anxiety. The Kaleidoscope Trust found that 85% of LGBTQI organisations surveyed expressed concern about the wellbeing of their communities.

In Southeast Asia, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus reported that lockdown measures were devastating LGBTQI

livelihoods. This was mirrored in Jamaica, where TransWave and J-FLAG found that 25% of the LGBTQI community had lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

Compounding this, we have seen our communities scapegoated for the pandemic and even facing serious human rights abuses. Police in Uganda and elsewhere have specifically targeted LGBTQI shelters, using lockdown measures as a justification to shut down our safe spaces.

We also know that LGBTQI people have struggled to access health care, including essential HIV medications and hormone treatments. In response to this, our grant partner Access Chapter 2 has been sharing accurate information about COVID-19, and supporting contact tracing and testing among LGBTQI communities in South Africa.

A world-first COVID-19 LGBTQI Fund

In response to the unfolding disaster, in March 2020 GiveOut launched the COVID-19 LGBTQI Global Solidarity Fund, a world-first emergency appeal to support LGBTQI organisations respond to the pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to provide emergency grants on top of the long-term support we already give. These grants have allowed our partners to support LGBTQI communities across five continents during the pandemic. They include:

- TransWave and the United Caribbean Trans Network (UCTRANS), who delivered emergency packages and essential items and food to trans people in need across 10 Caribbean countries.
- Access Chapter 2, who carried out LGBTQI-focused contact tracing in South Africa and provided training to those delivering relief to be LGBTQI inclusive.
- ASEAN SOGIE Caucus in Southeast Asia, who made small grants to support LGBTQI livelihoods during the pandemic. One of their grantees was a Thai trans organisation that established a food delivery business, ensuring a reliable income while also providing a vital service to the wider community.
- The mobilisation of volunteer networks to deliver anti-retroviral medicines to LGBTQI people living with HIV in a sensitive context.



© The Other Foundation, South Africa, 2019.

Victories despite the odds

In their response to the pandemic, LGBTQI organisations around the world have shown incredible resilience, adapting their processes and developing new approaches to continuing their vital work defending our communities and demanding equality. And they have won important victories:

- Sudan lifted the death penalty and flogging as a punishment for same-sex relations. The Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality continued to support LGBTQI movements and the advancement of equality across the Middle East and North Africa.
- Iraq recognised the right to life of all persons including LGBTQI people in its report to the UN Human Rights Committee, as IraQueer continued their vital work to advance respect for LGBTQI human rights throughout the country.
- Gabon and Bhutan decriminalised same sex relations.
- In a historic first, 36 states across the globe called on the UN Human Rights Council to urgently protect intersex people. The Intersex Human Rights Fund increased access to flexible resources to advance human rights and bodily autonomy for intersex people, supporting over 50 groups.
- In India, the Centre for Law and Policy Research successfully petitioned the courts to ensure trans people could access COVID-relief provided by the state, including food rations and economic support.
- The trans movement in the Caribbean was strengthened with the establishment of the UCTRANS central hub in the Bahamas, and TransWave launched the Trans and Gender non-conforming National Health Strategy and Needs Assessment Report, an important research and advocacy tool.
- In the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific, J-Flag, Tonga Leitis Association and Equal Asia Foundation undertook ground-breaking research into how their communities are affected by and

“In their response to the pandemic, LGBTQI organisations around the world have shown incredible resilience.”

responding to the climate crisis, to share best practices across the LGBTQI movement.

- Marriage equality triumphed in Costa Rica, parts of Mexico, and Northern Ireland. LGBTI Equal Rights Association celebrated as Montenegro became the first country in the Western Balkans to introduce civil partnerships.
- Albania banned so-called “conversion” therapy, as did Mexico City and Germany for those under 18, following a call by the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity for a global ban on the practice. OutRight Action International released a pioneering research report and launched regional networks and a campaign to end conversion practices globally.

2021 – Building towards a more equal future

While the world continues to face devastating new waves of COVID-19, there are reasons to be cautiously hopeful for LGBTQI human rights in 2021 and beyond. Activists are continuing the struggle for equality, defending our communities and campaigning for change.

Around the world, the LGBTQI movement is forging new intersectional, cross-movement alliances with Black Lives Matter, democracy and climate movements.

A new era of responsible business beckons, with growing recognition that businesses have a role to play in supporting social progress, including LGBTQI equality. GiveOut’s *Pride with Purpose* campaign celebrates those businesses that are already supporting LGBTQI rights worldwide.

Many of us are looking to the U.S., where the Biden-Harris administration represents new opportunities for our community and has already taken early measures to advance equality. And with its new LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, the European Commission has committed to play a stronger role in supporting our communities.

With continued support from the LGBTQI community globally, other social justice movements, friendly governments, the private sector and other allies, we can be optimistic that progress will be made in 2021 and beyond towards LGBTQI human rights and equality globally.



From L – R: GiveOut’s Rupert Abbott and Claire Tunnacliffe, and GMAP members Neish McLean, Rima Athar, and Ryan Silverio

Our third grant cycle

Through GiveOut’s 3rd round of grants, our supporters will fund 33 LGBTQI organisations around the world. We are protecting the identities of three of these organisations due to the sensitive contexts in which they are working.

To identify new grant partners, we established a new Grant-making Advisory Panel (GMAP) of external experts from across the LGBTQI movement. This further grounds our grant-making in the advice and expertise of those active in the global movement. GMAP members use their networks and knowledge to identify movement trends and emerging movement actors. They provide unbiased and objective recommendations to GiveOut on potential new grant partners. GMAP is an important step towards making our grant-making more participatory. Participatory grant-making is a power-shifting ethos and is in line with emerging best practices in grant-making as well as with our own values.

Each grant in the 3rd round provides an opportunity for impact. The portfolio of grant partners reflects – as far as 33 grants can – the diversity and complexity of the global LGBTQI movement in terms of: location/geographic impact; organisation type (international, regional, diaspora, national and grassroots); focus area (all our communities); and approach/methodology (from international advocacy to grassroots capacity building and organising).

A priority for this 3rd round is to further reflect this diversity. In particular, this round focuses on further supporting trans organising, LBTQ Women movement building, and the intersections of

LGBTQI activism with refugee experiences, youth and faith, and climate action.

Trans organising

Around the world, trans people suffer widespread human rights violations, from discrimination and a lack of legal recognition to violence and killings. Within the LGBTQI movement, trans organisations remain disproportionately under-resourced. Despite this, the global trans movement is building momentum, including in the Global South and East. We are proud to support trans organisations worldwide, in particular through the Antonia and Andrea Belcher Trans Fund.

In this 3rd round, our focus on supporting the global trans movement continues. Of our 33 grant partners, 8 are dedicated to advancing trans rights. Guyana Trans United will be our first grant partner in South America. They support the trans community with a range of services, including HIV counselling, legal advice, and peer and psychosocial support.

LBTQ women’s activism

Women face significant challenges within the global LGBTQI movement due to the intersection of their gender and sexuality, especially in countries where the rights of women are limited. As well as this, their organisations receive just 8% of total funding for LGBTQI issues worldwide.

We also know that LBTQ women, particularly women of colour, can experience marginalisation and misogyny within both LGBTQI spaces and wider society. We want to empower more women to support the global movement for LGBTQI human rights, while ensuring that organisations working

to protect the human rights of LGBTQ women can access sustainable and flexible funding. Our new Women's Fund seeks to enable women and their allies to stand in solidarity with LGBTQ women's organisations around the world.

Of our 33 grant partners, 15 are LGBTQ+ women-led. In this 3rd round, L'Union Féministe Libre is our first grant partner in Morocco. They are the country's only legally registered LGBTQI organisation and the first to openly defend the rights of women, LGBTQI people and to oppose gender-based and sexual violence.

In addition, the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, based in Kenya, are a queer women-led organisation. The Commission advances the meaningful participation of LGBTQI people in Kenyan society through their legal aid centre, community outreach, education programmes and sensitisation training.

Intersectional activism

We recognise that many in our community face multiple forms of systemic discrimination and disadvantage based on overlapping identities and contexts in which they live. In this 3rd round, we are supporting organisations working at the intersection of LGBTQI human rights and refugee experiences, youth and faith, and climate change.

Our new partner, People Against Suffering, Oppression and Poverty (PASSOP), addresses the needs of LGBTQI asylum seekers, refugees, and immigrants arriving in South Africa. While South African law provides for asylum for people persecuted because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE), in practice the situation is often more complex.

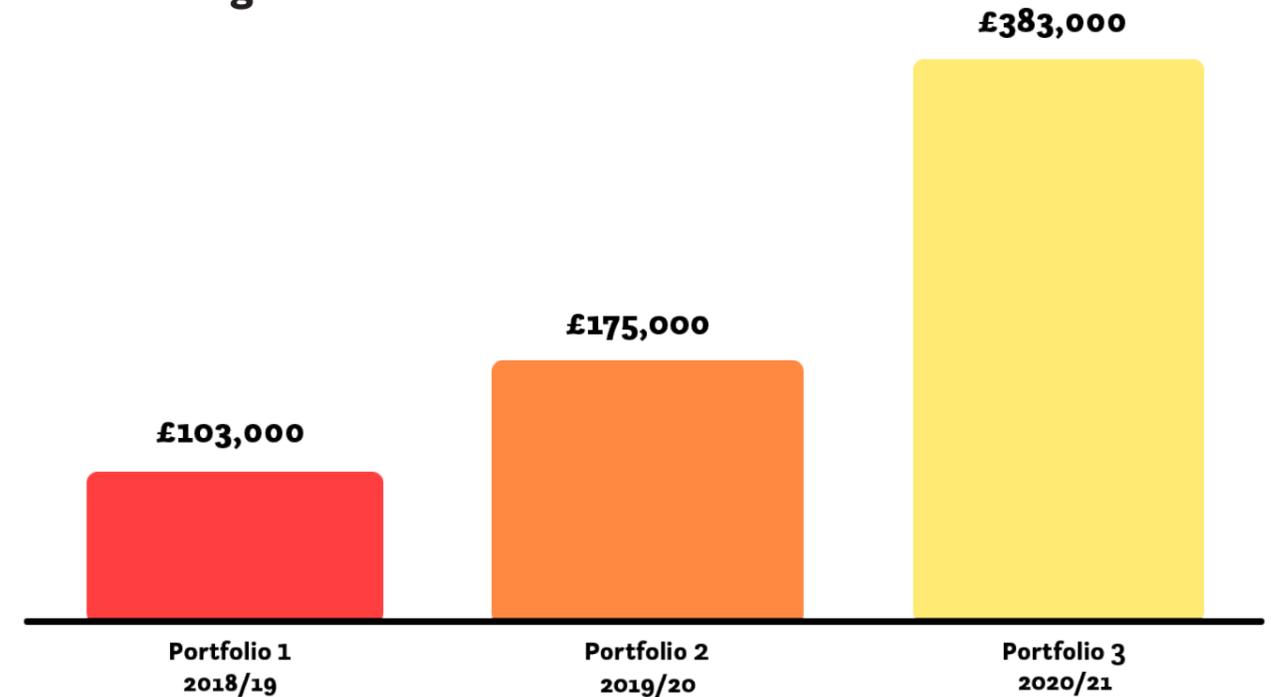
The Queer Muslim Project, another new partner, is one of the largest youth-led virtual networks for queer people, Muslims, and allies. They challenge fear, stigma and violence through digital art and storytelling, promoting sex-positive, affirming and intersectional representations of their communities. Supporting the Queer Muslim Project strengthens our continued support of activism in Muslim societies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown on a global scale that LGBTQI people are disproportionately affected in crisis situations. But the pandemic may prove to be a dress rehearsal for the greatest challenge of our time: the climate emergency.

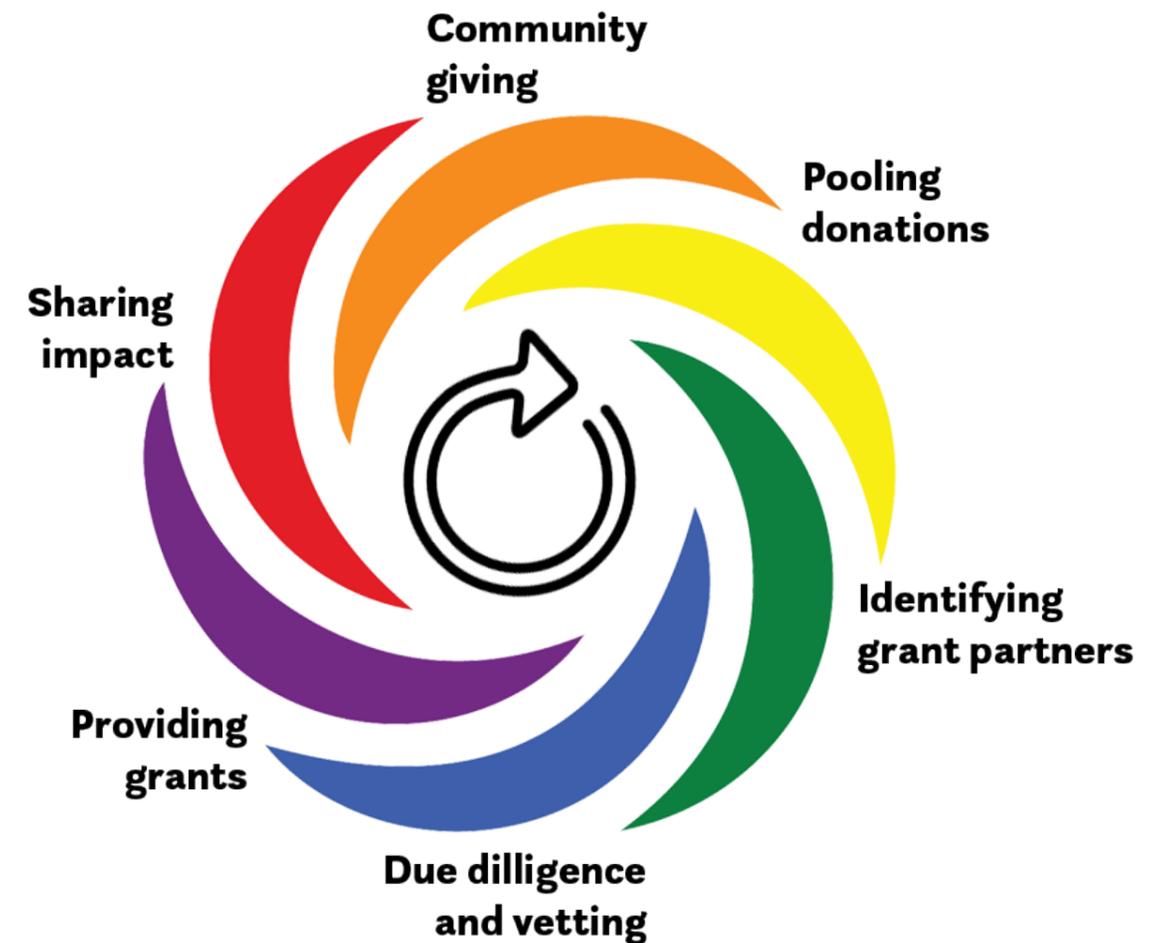
In this 3rd round, our new grant partner the Equal Asia Foundation is working at the intersection of LGBTQI human rights and climate change. Asia is the world's most disaster-prone region. Millions of people are blighted by natural disasters and conflict each year. LGBTQI people are disproportionately affected by these humanitarian events, yet are not included in plans to reduce, respond to or recover from them. Recognising that climate change adaptation is taking place on a community level, Equal AF is undertaking research to understand how communities are responding to climate change.

As the world looks towards a greener future, GiveOut has launched a world-first LGBTQI Climate Fund to provide an opportunity for our community and corporate allies to support more of this ground-breaking work.

Our total grants

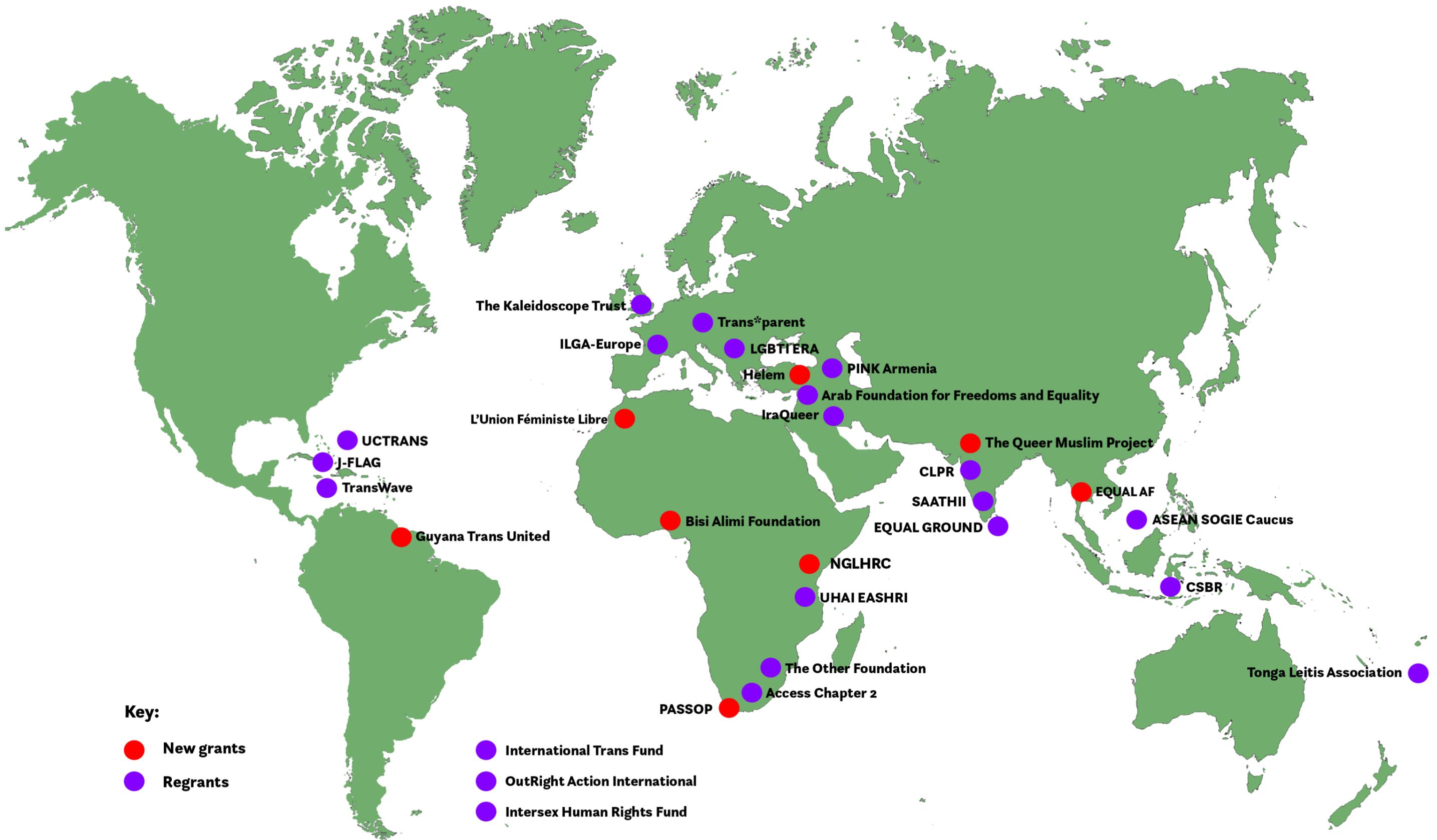


Our model



UHAI, Hope for Young Girls programme, Tanzania, 2020.

GIVEOUT'S GRANT PARTNERS 2021



ASIA-PACIFIC

- 7 grant partners in total
- 2 new grant partners
- £50,000+ total grants provided in 2020/21



Supporter spotlight: Suki Sandhu, Founder & CEO, INvolve & Audeliss



I founded the Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund with GiveOut in 2018 to support LGBTQI human rights activism across Asia. I wanted to focus on this region due to my Indian heritage, and inspire others to look outside our bubble to support activists on the ground.

Across Asia, LGBTQI people face human rights abuses based on their SOGIE, from discrimination to violence. And over the past year these challenges have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, with LGBTQI organisations playing a vital role in supporting their communities. ASEAN SOGIE Caucus (ASC) have been instrumental in organising the response to COVID-19 across the LGBTQI movement in Southeast Asia, and we are so proud to support them under the fund. I am therefore pleased to introduce this conversation with Lini Zurlia about how ASC have been supporting their communities through the pandemic.

Activist spotlight: Lini Zurlia, Advocacy Officer, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus

We are a network of LGBTQI human rights organisations working in Southeast Asia. We strengthen our regional movement by providing capacity building support and connecting grassroots groups across the region. However, the pandemic is causing severe challenges to the survival and wellbeing of our communities here. And at this time, support for LGBTQI communities is imperative.

In 2020, we launched a programme to support grassroots LGBTQI organisations with small grants as they adapt to and provide emergency support in this crisis. Many trans people in the region rely on daily wages, meaning significant economic hardship for them under lockdown. As well as this, trans organisations are among the most underfunded in the global LGBTQI movement, making emergency support hard to access. We were therefore pleased to fund Esbisquet, a group of trans persons from Indonesia who run a shelter to provide a safe space for homeless trans persons, and to serve as a community space for empowerment activities. Other groups we support include



Rainbow Alliance LGBT Youth in Myanmar; Rainbow Six in Myanmar; and San Julian Pride in the Philippines, which assists in providing relief support for LGBTQI youth and elderly from rural and disaster-prone areas.

Supporting grassroots organisations helps ensure that the LGBTQI movement in our region remains resilient through this pandemic. We look forward to being able to meet in person soon, but until then, we will keep supporting and strengthening our movement across Southeast Asia.

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



ASC are a network of LGBTQI human rights organisations working across Southeast Asia. In 5 out of 11 countries in the region, consensual same-sex sexual activity is illegal or partially illegal. ASC ensure the involvement of grassroots LGBTQI activists in regional and global human rights advocacy initiatives, while strengthening local LGBTQI advocacy.

During the pandemic, ASC initiated a Rapid Risk Assessment to give LGBTQI organisations a chance to air concerns and hopes related to the pandemic – and responded accordingly. In 2020, GiveOut enabled ASC to fund local LGBTQI organisations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Support took the form of direct cash aid to activists who had lost their income due to work or business closures; and relief supplies such as food, hygiene kits, face masks and other protective gear.

In 2021, GiveOut’s grant will support ASC core costs as they advance the human rights of LGBTQI and gender diverse people in Southeast Asia, particularly as civic spaces continue to shrink and as pro-democracy protests continue to make waves.

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



CLPR engage in path-breaking litigation, and law and policy research that shapes the field of transgender rights in India. They provide free legal representation to trans communities, winning a number of important victories.

In 2018, CLPR represented the trans community in Section 377 proceedings that ended in the landmark Supreme Court decision decriminalising same-sex relations in India. CLPR have been instrumental in challenging the 2019 Transgender Act to better represent the community, as it failed to incorporate the right to self-declare gender identity without undergoing reassignment surgery. They drafted the Equality Bill 2021, further addressing discrimination



CLPR attends Pride in India, 2019.

experienced on the basis of caste, gender, religion, transgender and intersex identity, disability and other grounds.

In 2020, GiveOut’s grant helped produce and disseminate two publications: ‘Beyond the Binary - Advancing Legal Recognition for Intersex Persons in India’, and ‘Exclusion Amplified’ on the needs and rights of the trans community during the pandemic. During lockdown, several government relief efforts were deployed, almost none of which were targeted at or accessible to trans people. CLPR successfully petitioned the courts to provide trans people access to COVID-relief provided by the state, including food rations and economic support.

In 2021, GiveOut’s grant will support CLPR’s core costs as they continue their dedicated efforts to make the Indian Constitution work for all through policy research, social and governance interventions and strategic impact litigation.

EQUAL GROUND, Sri Lanka
Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund



EQUAL GROUND campaign to decriminalise adult consenting, same-sex relations, and achieve equal rights for the LGBTQI community in Sri Lanka.

With the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the government used the health crisis to increasingly monitor activists. In June 2020, the President

established a Task Force to create a “virtuous society” and stamp out “anti-social behaviour”, threatening the LGBTQI community.

The pandemic hit the community hard. Many thrown out by their families were ineligible for government support as they were not part of a ‘family unit’. Lockdowns had psychological impacts, as people were forced to repress their identity or face their hostile families. EQUAL GROUND continued to work with the community, providing virtual events, community spaces and emergency support.

In November 2020, EQUAL GROUND submitted recommendations to the Constitutional Reform Committee to include SOGIE as a protected characteristic. They also carried out research culminating in the report, ‘Mapping LGBTQI Identities in Sri Lanka’ – the first of its kind in the country – which revealed that 12% of the adult population identify as LGBTQI. In February 2021, they launched the first LGBTQI career site on the island, offering a safe virtual space for job seekers and employers. In 2021, GiveOut’s grant will support EQUAL GROUND’S core costs as they continue decriminalisation efforts in Sri Lanka and achieving equal rights for the community.

Solidarity and Action Against the HIV Infection in India (SAATHII), India
Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund



SAATHII seek universal access to rights, health, and legal and social services for communities marginalised due to their HIV status, gender or sexuality. Their LGBTQI work aims to amplify community voices.

With GiveOut’s support, SAATHII established a Fellowship programme, now in its second year. This has created a new way of supporting LGBTQI activists who have the potential to advocate for social and policy change around LGBTQI rights through individual projects focused on gender and sexuality.

Several activists have benefited. In 2019, Revathi staged her play ‘Vellai Mozhi’ across India to public approval. Posts and photographs of her performances circulated on social media and led to further invitations. Muthukumaran 14 sensitisation sessions and lobbied local government officials, representatives, and faculty and administrators, calling for safe spaces for trans communities. In 2020, Kumam mobilised and facilitated COVID relief in Manipur for 40+ transgender people. Kumam has since been invited to University of

California Santa Barbara, Ashoka University Delhi and Gargi College Delhi University to run webinars, workshops and write articles on the experiences of LGBTQI people during COVID. Shivalal is developing an online directory for the state of Assam, containing queer affirmative services; a website launched in May 2021. In 2021, GiveOut’s grant will continue to support two activists to participate in the fellowship programme.



Tonga Leitis Association, 2019.

Tonga Leitis Association (TLA), Kingdom of Tonga
Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund / LGBTQI Climate Fund



TLA are Tonga’s only organisation focused on transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming communities. Leitis are transfeminine and gender non-conforming people traditionally working as domestic servants for the Tongan royal family. However, leitis are often shunned and face incarceration. Tonga criminalises cross-dressing and sodomy, which carry sentences of up to 10 years.

GiveOut supports TLA with funding to cover staff and building costs, allowing the team to focus on advocacy, outreach and community-building work. In 2020, planned consultations among decision-makers and community influencers about LGBTQI and leiti identities – some related to the discriminatory ‘cross-dressing’ law – were postponed. During the pandemic, TLA received government approval to provide the community with food, water and information. They continued their HIV-Awareness Programme for men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people and sex workers.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant is supporting TLA's climate justice research and advocacy. LGBTQI communities will be among the most vulnerable to climate change, but are scared to access emergency shelters that are largely controlled by religious organisations often hostile to them. TLA have been training those running shelters to accommodate LGBTQI people, and are campaigning to include the community in climate change consultations.

Equal Asia Foundation (Equal AF), Asia
LGBTQI Climate Fund
New Partner



Established in 2019, Equal AF are a regional LGBTQI innovation incubator, anchored in feminist and human rights principles. Their collaborators include donors, policymakers, governments, businesses, academics and UN agencies. Equal AF design and test solutions that advance inclusion, and support those working for a more equitable future for all.

They address blind spots in LGBTQI programming by co-creating solutions with community organisations in the region. They focus on: poverty and economic exclusion; mental health and wellbeing; aging and intergenerational gaps; and inclusion in humanitarian action.

Asia is the world's most disaster-prone region: millions of people are blighted by natural disasters and conflict each year. LGBTQI people are disproportionately affected by these humanitarian events, yet are not included in plans to reduce, respond to or recover from them. Recognising that climate change adaptation is taking place at a community level, Equal AF want to understand the strategies communities use to do this. In 2020, they received a small grant from UNDP Asia to look at current research in this area. Since then, they have focused on online advocacy, developing a platform for LGBTQI people to share their experiences of climate change. They have also begun building case studies of LGBTQI communities that have developed responses and strategies. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support Equal AF's core costs as they undertake further research on how communities are responding to climate change in Southeast Asia.

The Queer Muslim Project, South Asia
New Partner



The Queer Muslim Project are one of the largest youth-led virtual networks for queer people, Muslims and allies, with a global community of over 26,000 people. Based in India, they link activists across South Asia. They work with LGBTQI Muslims, challenging fear, stigma and violence through digital art and storytelling, and promoting sex-positive, affirming and intersectional representations of their communities. Together with LGBTQI and Muslim youth, they are building skills and support systems through creative collaborations, workshops and training, curatorial initiatives, and inclusive faith-based dialogue.

They amplify LGBTQI Muslim voices around the world and create opportunities for self-representation and leadership for underserved artists, creators and activists. They also nurture conversations around gender and sexuality in Islam, and create greater acceptance of gender and sexual diversity within religious teachings, institutions and communities.

In March 2021, they launched a first-of-its-kind digital newspaper focused on uplifting the voices of queer and trans Muslims around the world. They have also established an Artists' Directory of emerging LGBTQI Muslim artists and creators from across the globe and from a diverse range of backgrounds and practices. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support the Queer Muslim Project's core costs as they produce engaging and exquisite online content, using story-telling to create safe online and offline community spaces.



CLPR, Dr. Akkai Padmashali celebrates decriminalisation in India, 2018.

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

● 4 grant partners in total

● £15,000 total grants provided in 2020/21



Activist spotlight: Lenka, Board Member Trans*parent

I am a software developer by occupation and a pianist by heart, and love spending time with my eight year-old son. It took me 37 long years to discover my true identity, and I lost my family and my home due to my transition. When I started hormone therapy, it was shortly after the breakup and divorce with my wife of 15 years. This period was incredibly difficult, I was depressed and didn't know any other trans people at that time - not even on social media.

My depression led me to join a support group organised by Trans*parent. This was the first time I met other trans people, and it changed everything in my life. I became a member of Trans*parent and was later elected a board member. I am now a very visible figure in Czech trans activism, have given many interviews to the media, and started a YouTube talk show called "V Tranzu" (in a trance) about trans life in the Czech Republic.



The guests on my show are either trans people that share their stories, or people that have something to say about trans issues. The interviews are usually funny and relaxed, but sometimes get serious and even political – for example, I recently spoke with a member of Czech parliament! My life would be totally different if I hadn't met other trans people and that is all thanks to the support groups that Trans*parent organises. I can't express with words how grateful I am.

Supporter spotlight: Josh Graff, Director EMEA & LATAM, LinkedIn



I grew up in the UK in the eighties and nineties, when Section 28 "prohibited the promotion of homosexuality" and stopped councils and schools teaching the "acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship". As a closeted gay kid, I was acutely aware of the discrimination facing my community and the lack of openly LGBTQI leaders in government, business and media. I knew it wasn't right at the time and, although a lot has changed, we still have a long way to go.

A few years after joining LinkedIn, I became the Executive Sponsor for our LGBTQI Employee Resource Group (ERG). We have offices in 33

countries and members in every country of the world, so I needed to educate myself about LGBTQI rights to effectively lead and guide the ERG. I was naïve in thinking that just because the UK had made progress, other countries would be on a similar journey.

I was shocked to discover that 71 countries still criminalise private, consensual same-sex sexual activity, six implement the death penalty for it, and 15 criminalise the gender identity of transgender people. That was an awakening for me. It made me realise my own privilege, and the obligation that comes with that to speak out on behalf of others. For the past year I've also been a Commissioner on the HIV Commission, and again, that's educated me on the challenges and stigma facing people living with HIV, both in the UK and around the world.

I always wanted to give to LGBTQI causes outside the UK, notably in countries with repressive policies and practices. However, I struggled to find a single charity that enables individuals to give in one place to support this type of worldwide activism. And then I discovered GiveOut and was 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. It's human nature to want to help others and to support your community, and it's certainly gratifying that GiveOut makes this possible.

ILGA-Europe, Europe & Central Asia



Across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, LGBTQI communities lack legal protections against discrimination, face harassment and violence, and are marginalised in an increasingly polarised Europe. The Creating Opportunities programme run by ILGA-Europe supports campaigning activities and provides financial and strategic support. They fund new organisations, under-represented groups, and individual activists working in hostile environments and situations where it is challenging to gain access to funding.

2020 was an important year for Creating Opportunities as they gathered research on the needs of 200 activists and groups in the region. Five projects were supported in Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Italy and Serbia, although many had to re-plan because of the pandemic. In Serbia, for instance, a pro-civil partnerships campaign diverted funding to members of the community struggling with isolation during lockdown. Creating Opportunities also supported a campaign in Italy for LGBTQI hate crime legislation, which went online as a result of the pandemic and has led to more acceptance of LGBTQI people.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will continue to support the Creating Opportunities programme, and in particular improve the movement's ability to prevent, respond to and resist attacks of the so-called anti-gender movement. The programme is supporting 11 trans groups to challenge anti-trans discourse, which includes research, training and



Pink Armenia, 2019.

communication campaigns. In addition, ILGA-Europe will host spaces for peer-learning and inspiration sessions with guest speakers.

Pink Armenia, Armenia Amplifund



Pink ('Public Information and Need of Knowledge') Armenia are an advocacy organisation that raises public awareness about sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and equal rights for LGBTQI people in Armenia.

The pandemic prompted consecutive lockdowns and widespread restrictive measures in Armenia. In September 2020, war broke out in Nagorno Karabakh. Pink mobilised resources to help people fleeing the violence. They collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on hotlines and other activities to sustain those affected by the pandemic and by the war. This situation has exacerbated existing social issues, particularly affecting LGBTQI people. Pink continued to offer social, psychological and legal support to the community.

In 2020, GiveOut's grant helped Pink to open a new office, which serves as a community centre. It is a vital space for the community where people can be themselves. Despite setbacks, Pink's advocacy efforts in 2020 have reaped improved partnerships with state agencies and other stakeholders. They are now looking to expand their activities geographically.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support Pink's core costs as they implement their new strategic plan for 2021-2023. The plan includes researching public perceptions on LGBTQI issues, implementing advocacy and protection of LGBTQI people's rights, and strengthening Pink's capacity to ensure its sustainability.

Trans*Parent, Czech Republic Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund



Trans*parent are the only group advocating for the rights of trans and gender non-conforming people in the Czech Republic. While there is a legal gender recognition procedure in place, the Czech Republic is one of the last European countries requiring

surgical treatment and forced sterilisation before someone is allowed to legally change their gender. Same-sex unions are legal, but same-sex marriage is not (a bill to legalise it is currently under review), meaning that when a spouse is trans and seeks legal gender reassignment, couples must divorce. Trans people cannot have their preferred name on diplomas and academic certificates, access to hormone replacement therapy is out of reach due to cost, and there is poor mental health amongst the community.

Trans*parent are trying to change this discriminatory legislation, lobbying for self-determination and an end to forced sterilisation. They organise workshops for the media on how to use correct language and for companies on how to treat trans people better in the work place. They also lobby politicians to expand the legal rights of trans people.

Trans*parent are also active in countering the growing backlash from conservative and populist parties in Eastern and Central Europe, particularly in Hungary and Poland. In June 2020, for instance, they organised a demonstration in the Czech Republic in support of LGBTQI communities in Poland. Their outreach grew exponentially that year. They have since become a voice that can no longer be ignored in both the public and medical sphere, empowering both the community and individual trans and non-binary people in the Czech Republic. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support Trans*parent's core costs as they continue advocating for trans and gender non-conforming communities in the Czech Republic.

LGBTI Equal Rights Association (ERA) Western Balkans & Turkey Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund



ERA are the regional LGBTI network in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Despite some minor legal advances in the last few years, trans and non-binary people in the region still do not enjoy most rights related to their gender identity and expression. Trans communities continue to be denied legal gender recognition, are pathologised, and have little protection against discrimination and violence. Public attitudes also remain extremely negative across the region.

ERA's Trans, Non-Binary and Intersex (TNBI) Caucus was established in November 2019 with a grant from GiveOut. As activist B. Ginova put it, the Caucus was "the first ever convening of only trans, non-binary and intersex activists in the Western Balkans and Turkey. When we told participants that the funding which made this possible came from a trans woman in the UK, Antonia Belcher, their faces changed. This money was coming from our community, and this had special value for us."

The pandemic affected the Caucus's work. Activities planned for 2020 were postponed, with attention diverted to COVID relief efforts. During the pandemic, many within TNBI communities faced job losses, a lack of access to appropriate health care and increased violence and discrimination. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support ERA's Caucus in planning a regional public event aimed at celebrating TNBI people in the Western Balkans and Turkey and advocating for their rights.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



- 4 grant partners in total
- 1 new grant partner
- £20,000+ total grants provided in 2020/21

Supporter spotlight: Antonia Belcher, Founding sponsor of the Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund



I believe fervently that we need to support activists and their organisations with reliable funding so they can advocate for their communities in the places where it's hardest to be trans. That's why I established the Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund with GiveOut. By providing long-term, reliable financial support, the fund enables our community and business allies in the UK and elsewhere to stand in solidarity with trans communities around the world.

I feel very proud about what we're achieving through the fund by supporting grassroots organisations around the world to strengthen the global trans movement. This has been especially important in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. In 2019, we helped fund the establishment of the first network of trans organisations in the Caribbean, the United Caribbean Trans Network (UCTRANS). Over the past year, UCTRANS have played a vital role in coordinating support for trans people across the region in the face of COVID-19. From distributing humanitarian aid to advocating for trans inclusion in national healthcare strategies, they have supported trans communities through this very difficult time. I am therefore so proud to share this interview with Alexis D'Marco, Executive Director of UCTRANS.

Activist spotlight: Alexis D'Marco Executive Director, UCTRANS

UCTRANS are a network of trans activists and organisations working across 10 Caribbean countries. We foster a collaborative voice for trans people in the Caribbean to advocate for the needs of our community across the region.

Throughout the Caribbean, many trans people are immersed in a cycle of exclusion and poverty due to a lack of legal recognition of gender identity, which limits access to healthcare and formal work. Due to this, trans people are more likely to rely on informal employment, tourism and sex work. Over the past year, their livelihoods have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions.

At the start of the pandemic, we released a statement to regional governments outlining the importance of supporting trans and non-binary people at this time. We have also been coordinating the delivery of emergency care packages to trans individuals across eight countries. These include food, masks, hand sanitisers, and phone cards to ensure that they can stay in contact in the event of illness, human



rights abuses, or other difficult circumstances during the pandemic. As well as this, we have provided emergency financial support to members of our community so they can access healthcare and stable accommodation.

By ensuring that trans people have access to essential supplies and emergency assistance, UCTRANS has been working hard to protect some of the most marginalised members of our LGBTQI community. We want our trans community in the Caribbean to be able to survive and thrive beyond this pandemic.

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



J-FLAG are the foremost human rights and social justice organisation working for LGBTQI people in Jamaica. Established in 1988, they mobilise the LGBTQI community, improve access to services, campaign or legal reform and work to increase public understanding and acceptance of LGBTQI people.

In 2020, GiveOut's grant helped to fund the reconstruction of Rainbow House, J-FLAG's office and community safe space following a fire. Despite these challenges, they successfully supported LGBTQI people, while also developing the organisation, raising visibility for the local LGBTQI movement and building the capacity of staff. Their human rights advocacy and activism efforts flourished. They also extended their programmes to parishes in rural Jamaica, and encouraged more young people to work with the community.

According to J-FLAG, 7 out of 8 LGBTQI people experienced financial, social, mental or emotional impacts due to COVID-19 at the start of the pandemic. In collaboration with WE-Change, TransWave and Equality Youth JA, J-FLAG launched the #GiveOneHelpOne campaign, raising funds and distributing care packages to hundreds of LGBTQI Jamaicans in need.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant is supporting J-FLAG's ground-breaking research into how their community is affected by and responding to the climate crisis. These findings will shape J-FLAG's work in this area and provide vital evidence for LGBTQI organisations around the world looking to join the movement for climate justice.

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



TransWave are Jamaica's first non-profit organisation dedicated solely to promoting the health and wellbeing of the transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex communities. Their advocacy focuses on legal gender recognition, non-discriminatory and gender-affirming healthcare, and access to affordable transition-related healthcare. They have successfully increased visibility and acceptance of the trans community through engaging online and social media content,

mobilising around Jamaica Pride, and establishing the first and only emergency fund for trans individuals at risk in Jamaica.

As COVID-19 took hold, trans people, particularly sex workers, felt stigmatised and discriminated against when accessing health care spaces. In this context, TransWave helped the community access vital healthcare.

In 2020, TransWave reactivated their Trans Emergency Fund, initially launched with GiveOut's grant, to support trans people with housing, medicine or transport. They provided close to 400 care packages across 9 parishes, including non-perishable food items and toiletries. These care packages have made a huge difference, at times between life and death. TransWave also worked with UCTRANS to distribute these packages, and are running a COVID hotline with J-FLAG, WE-Change and Equality Youth in Jamaica.

Despite such a difficult year, TransWave launched the Trans and Gender non-conforming National Health Strategy and Needs Assessment Report, an important research and advocacy tool. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support TransWave's core costs as they continue promoting the health and wellbeing of their communities.



UCTRANS members deliver COVID-19 relief, 2020.

**United Caribbean Trans Network (UCTRANS), Caribbean
Antonia & Andrea Belcher
Trans Fund**



In 2019, with GiveOut's support, activists from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States established UCTRANS.

Across the Caribbean, trans people face discrimination and widespread physical and sexual violence. In most countries, there is no legal recognition of their affirmed gender identity. Activists campaign for visibility, acceptance and legal changes. However, the trans movement has been disconnected in the region.

In 2020, GiveOut's grant supported UCTRANS in uniting the movement, providing a space for sharing ideas, creating connections, and building an internationally credible Caribbean network separate from the culturally distinct Latin American trans movement, with which the Caribbean movement is often associated.

In 2020, UCTRANS launched the first holistic survey to look at trans and gender diverse lives in the Caribbean, releasing a report in collaboration with Outright Action International on the experiences of trans and gender non-conforming people in the region. This research found that the most significant challenge experienced is discrimination related to the inability to show a valid identity card or documentation that aligns with their gender identity and expression.

Also in 2020, as the pandemic continued, UCTRANS distributed emergency care to 10 countries in their network. They also made huge strides towards establishing their central hub in the Bahamas. GiveOut's 2021 grant will continue supporting UCTRANS' core costs as they further mobilise and strengthen the Caribbean trans movement.

**Guyana Trans United (GTU), Guyana
Antonia & Andrea Belcher
Trans Fund
New Partner**



GTU ensure that the rights of Guyana's trans people are recognised in all domains through human rights advocacy, promoting respect and acceptance within society, and empowering trans individuals

through creating and sustaining an environment free from violence, prejudice, and discrimination.

A former British colony, Guyana continues to criminalise sex between men with a punishment of life in prison. While rarely enforced, the law contributes to ongoing negative perceptions of LGBTQI people. Politicians regularly use anti-LGBTQI hate speech and evangelical Christian leaders vocally oppose the human rights of LGBTQI people. As a result, public attitudes are mostly negative and LGBTQI people are threatened, harassed, attacked and stigmatised.

However, public opinion, especially among younger generations, has been shifting. In 2018, the Caribbean Court of Justice overturned a ban on transgender 'cross-dressing' widely used to criminalise transgender people in Guyana. The ruling could prove beneficial to GTU's ongoing campaign to overturn the British colonial era 'buggery law' which could improve access to health and rights services for transgender people.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support GTU's core costs in facilitating community access to a range of services, including HIV counselling and testing, legal advice, and peer and psychosocial support.



Guyana Trans United at Pride, 2019.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

- 5 grant partners in total
- 2 new grant partners
- £60,000+ total grants provided in 2020/21



Activist Spotlight: Amir Ashour Executive Director, IraQueer

I am a human rights defender with over 10 years' experience working with Iraqi and international organisations. In March 2015, I founded IraQueer, Iraq's first LGBTQI human rights organisation, as a safe space and advocacy group for the rights of our community in Iraq.

Five years on, we have six team members and a network of over 600 Iraqi LGBTQI people. By providing information and direct services, we empower our community and advocate for an Iraq and Kurdistan Region where LGBTQI people are recognised, protected, and have equal rights like every other citizen in the country.

A climate of hostility towards LGBTQI people in Iraq puts our community at risk of discrimination, extreme violence, torture, and murder. There are no safe spaces to be a community, so in many ways, we were self-isolating long before COVID-19.

Since the start of the pandemic, these challenges have only been exacerbated. Religious leaders publicly scapegoated LGBTQI people and blamed us for causing the pandemic. The community is struggling economically as we face losing our



livelihoods. I have heard from many LGBTQI people who were trapped in abusive homes due to lockdown.

Using support from GiveOut, we moved quickly to establish three new safe houses for LGBTQI people fleeing dangerous living situations. And for those who came to us, these were lifesaving. We've also been trying to work with the health system and challenge the condemnation of LGBTQI people in the media. However, in some respects, 2020 was not that different for us as an organisation. I mean we work in Iraq, and things can't be more challenging than that!

Supporter spotlight: Tag Warner, CEO, Gay Times



We established Amplifund with GiveOut to support our LGBTQI communities to shape their own stories in the media. The fund opens space for LGBTQI activists and journalists to speak their truth in regions where our communities face legal and social adversity.

Since our inception in 1975, Gay Times have championed the LGBTQI community, rallying together and uplifting people whom the media and government routinely persecuted and vilified at the time. As the social and political landscape

shifted so, too, have we. Our legacy shows in the evolution of our magazine covers – from topless white men to celebrations of queer diversity and exploration of issues faced by LGBTQI communities in the UK and globally.

Businesses have played an increasingly important role in progressing LGBTQI rights through inclusion and diversity policies and values, but the international movement remains woefully underfunded.

Amplifund with GiveOut enables us at Gay Times to achieve our philanthropic goals of channelling resources to support queer activism and media, helping to increase the acceptance of LGBTQI communities around the world.

I fundamentally believe that we all want to be seen for who we are. Amplifund will enable our partners to continue their work, empowering queer people to feel understood, recognised and heard in all the places we call home.

Arab Foundation for Freedoms & Equality, Middle East & North Africa



The Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality based in Lebanon are an LGBTQI organisation in the MENA region, working at the centre of a quickly expanding movement. In 2020, GiveOut's grant supported the Foundation to establish a Queer Women Network. LBTQ women are affected by poverty, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, abuse of their sexual and reproductive rights and limited access to information, services and resources. The purpose of the network is to address these challenges through information sharing and innovative programmes.

The WHO reports that mental health services ceased in 93% of countries globally during the pandemic despite an increase in demand. LBTQ women were particularly vulnerable. The network undertook a study exploring the psychological impact of the pandemic on the community in the region. Rana, a transwoman, said: "It was extremely difficult. Suddenly, I found myself separated from my support system, and locked with family misgendering me all the time, because they think of me as their son. I started experiencing panic attacks and flashbacks – quarantine time was like hell".

COVID-19 had an alarming impact on LBTQ women in the region, from mental distress to financial ruin. The study provided valuable information that will inform interventions to improve mental health care for LBTQ women. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support the Queer Women Network's core costs as it continues to establish itself as a vital space for community and organising across the region.

Coalition for Sexual & Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR), Middle East & North Africa, Southeast & Central Asia
Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund



CSBR are an international solidarity network that supports sexual and bodily rights across Muslim societies.

In the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Central Asia, LGBTQI people face persecution, violence and other human rights abuses, due to conservative traditions and restrictive religious norms. Same-sex sexual activity between men is illegal and punishable by imprisonment in Egypt, Kuwait,

Oman, Syria and Qatar. It is punishable by death in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE.

During the pandemic, CSBR launched Rights and Resilience – seed grants to support alternative ways of organising and advancing rights. Rights and Resilience is not just a means to distribute funds, but a mechanism to strengthen collective capacity, solidarity and movement building, by and for the community. CSBR hosted events for recipients to come together virtually, allowing them to learn from each other's work, build relationships and collectively share in the monitoring, evaluation and lessons learned.

CSBR supported 13 grassroots groups (instead of the 10 originally planned), made possible through funding from GiveOut and COC Nederland. The projects exceeded expectations, especially in expanding space for activists to organise throughout the ongoing pandemic. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support CSBR's core costs, contributing to human resources, technology and communications, as they continue to advance a holistic and affirmative approach to sexual and bodily rights as human rights across Muslim societies.

IraQueer, Iraq
Amplifund



IraQueer are Iraq's first and leading LGBTQI human rights organisation. The community faces discrimination, threats, physical attacks, kidnappings, and death. In 2020, IraQueer experienced several challenges. Restrictions around COVID-19 limited their ability to document violations against LGBTQI people on the ground and lead advocacy work. The government also increased their hateful rhetoric and the media increased negative coverage of the community.

Still, IraQueer provided vital support and celebrated successes. They provided psychosocial support to 159 people, documented 250+ cases of discrimination against LGBTQI people and are establishing a queer women's network in 2021. From June to August 2020, they provided emergency temporary housing for the community.

In 2020, IraQueer successfully seeded a counter-narrative in the media, appearing on national channels debating with politicians and lawmakers. These were watched by millions live, and hundreds of thousands on social media. The landmark release of their media report 'Biased' in July 2020 provided extensive analysis of media coverage concerning the community, and is now used to encourage politicians to end hate speech.

Iraq's recognition of the right to life of all persons including LGBTQI people in its report to the UN Human Rights Committee in February 2020 is a historic win for the LGBTQI community. This recognition is both a legally binding statement and an acknowledgement that LGBTQI citizens exist in Iraq.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support IraQueer's core costs, particularly staff salaries as they continue to raise awareness and campaign for accurate and accessible information about the queer Iraqi community.

Helem, Lebanon
New Partner



Helem are Lebanon's largest national LGBTQI rights organisation and the oldest Arab LGBTQI organisation in the region. They are a community centre, social service provider, legal aid clinic, and activist organising centre.

Lebanon criminalises sex between men and the gender expression of trans people. However, since their vocal participation in the anti-corruption revolution of October 2019, the LGBTQI movement has seen some progress. The revolution restructured the playing field and has ushered in advantages for the movement, such as a new public narrative of citizenship that centres feminism, diversity, and rule of law, and introduced new political players who have the highest acceptance rate for LGBTQI individuals in Lebanon according to Helem's data.



Helem, 2019.

On 4 August 2020 a stockpile of ammonium nitrate stored at the port of Beirut exploded, causing hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries, and billions in property damage. An estimated 300,000 people were made homeless. Located just 700 metres from the blast epicentre, Helem's community centre sustained major damage, with windows and a wall knocked out. Nevertheless, Helem continued to provide emergency humanitarian relief in the form of food boxes and micro-loans for temporary shelter to LGBTQI blast survivors and those made vulnerable by the pandemic, while also trying to rebuild their office. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support Helem's core costs, as the community rebuilds following the blast and the continued impacts of the pandemic.

L'Union Féministe Libre, Morocco
Women's Fund
New Partner



L'Union Féministe Libre continue to be Morocco's only legally registered LGBTQI organisation and the first to openly defend the rights of women and LGBTQI people and to oppose gender-based and sexual violence. They have 300 members from 10 cities, including a network of lawyers.

Same-sex relations are illegal in Morocco and carry a three-year jail sentence. LGBTQI visibility and activism have increased recently, leading to a backlash branding the community a threat to "traditional values". Hate speech by public officials and religious leaders perpetuates misinformation, while increased targeting by the police results in blackmail, intimidation and imprisonment. Public opinion is largely negative. Since April 2020, online harassment and outing have intensified, with fake accounts on dating sites exposing gay and bisexual men.

During the pandemic, the Union experienced a rise in emergency calls from those seeking safety from dangerous domestic situations. In response, they are establishing a shelter for survivors that will also provide space to run workshops and activities, which GiveOut's grant will support. This will also allow the Union to collect high quality testimonies and evidence from survivors to help challenge gender-based violence and seek justice for survivors.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



- 6 grant partners in total
- 3 new grant partners
- £115,000+ total grants provided in 2020/21

Supporter spotlight: Steve Wardlaw, Chairman, Emerald Life



In 2019, I established the Emerald 50 Fund with GiveOut to support LGBTQI activism in Southern Africa because of a personal connection and love for the region. I'm a passionate advocate for LGBTQI rights, and wanted to do more to support my community in the places where we cannot live freely as ourselves.

I'm so proud to support Access Chapter 2 under this fund. It has been a privilege to learn more about their work and hear directly from courageous activists over the past two years. I'm therefore pleased to share this interview with Steve Letsike. She is such a well known and respected figure in the South African LGBTQI and anti-apartheid movements, and I'm consistently inspired by her knowledge and activism.

Activist Spotlight: Steve Letsike Executive Director, Access Chapter 2

Access Chapter 2 protect and promote the human rights of LGBTQI people, women and girls in South Africa. Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the country hard. Lockdown measures have caused an already high unemployment rate to increase, and we have seen a growing epidemic of gender-based violence and hate crimes. Exacerbating these challenges, in townships and rural areas many people do not have access to reliable sources of water and can't afford to buy necessary supplies like sanitiser and masks. This leaves them at much higher risk from the virus, with LGBTQI people in these areas facing a severe threat to their livelihoods and health.

Within the first two weeks of lockdown in South Africa, we surveyed over 1,000 LGBTQI people to quickly understand how COVID-19 is affecting our community. We found that many LGBTQI people have avoided accessing health services for fear of being stigmatised and abused, especially if they have conditions like HIV. They also face widespread unemployment and increased rates of domestic violence due to being trapped in unsafe living situations. In response, we carried out LGBTQI-focused contact tracing, providing LGBTQI people with



information, advocating for LGBTQI human rights, and training those delivering public services to be LGBTQI inclusive.

Without support from GiveOut and others through the pandemic, our services would have become increasingly inaccessible to the community members who need them most. We have been able to directly support those in need and ensure that LGBTQI people are included in our government's response to this crisis.

Access Chapter 2, South Africa Emerald 50 Fund



Access Chapter 2 protect and promote the human rights of LGBTQI people, women and girls in South Africa. They uphold South Africa's bill of rights, found in Chapter 2 of the country's Constitution, which guarantees civil, political and socio-economic rights for all.

GiveOut's grant supported their inaugural Advocacy Week in 2019, bringing together a new generation of LGBTQI activists from across South Africa. Through it, they created platforms for networking, information and knowledge sharing, building the capacity of activists through high-level engagement with stakeholders in the fields of law, social and political science, creative arts, psychology, economics, and healthcare. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will continue supporting Access Chapter 2's core costs as they strive for the empowerment and liberation of the LGBTQI community, women and girls, and civil society in South Africa.

Access Chapter 2 have been on the frontline of the pandemic response to ensure that LGBTQI people are not forgotten. While South Africa's Constitution is celebrated across the world, gender-based violence, LGBTQI violence and femicide are endemic. Access Chapter 2 are calling for the government to enact the Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill, and to undertake gender and sexuality sensitisation campaigns.

The Other Foundation, Southern Africa Emerald 50 Fund



The Other Foundation are a grant-giving body that champions equality and freedom across Southern Africa, with a focus on SOGIE. They have established strategic partnerships with community organisations, creating inroads into previously inaccessible spaces, such as church groups and businesses. Notable achievements include funding projects that resulted in the Botswana High Court's landmark ruling on the decriminalisation of same-sex relations; sensitising journalists in Madagascar about violence, exclusion, and injustice towards LGBTQI people; and enabling the creation of a national activists' alliance in Namibia.

COVID-19 threatens to roll back gains made by an already marginalised movement in the region. In response, the Foundation pivoted their grant-making to support remote work, gatherings and digital security. They facilitated the procurement of masks, sanitisers, and other PPE, and supported

the documentation of human rights abuses as a result of restrictions, referring cases to the authorities or advocacy groups. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support the Foundation's core costs as they continue to work towards expanding space for LGBTQI human rights activism and activist protection in the region.

In January 2021, a Zambian newspaper began exposing LGBTQI organisations supported by the Foundation, endangering the lives of those working at and dependent on their services. Since the beginning of the pandemic, politicians and religious leaders have targeted the LGBTQI community. The Foundation responded by providing emergency relief to activists on the ground to ensure their safety, and are supporting the establishment of a regional-level protection mechanism for frontline LGBTQI human rights activists.

UHAI-EASHRI, East Africa Women's Fund



UHAI-EASHRI are an activist-led fund for sex workers and LGBTQI communities across Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. They offer vital support to the Pan-African movement through participatory grant-making, capacity building, convening support, advocacy, and knowledge building.

In 2020, many states in the region used their COVID response as a pretext to remove civil liberties. In Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda, targeted violence, arbitrary arrests of activists, and media censorship spiked. Tanzania de-registered sex worker and LGBTQI groups and increased surveillance. In Kenyan-Ugandan border towns, the authorities used contact tracing to identify sex workers and their clients.

Nevertheless, UHAI have sustained activists in the region, focusing particularly on emergency response. They raised \$1 million for grant-making, supporting 50 applicants, making this the largest distribution since their inception. This included BAWA the first sex worker-led and focused organisation in Burundi and Ndabagas Sisters, the first exclusively LBQ organisation in Rwanda. UHAI's grant successes include enabling the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition to give legal support to seven gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) arrested and charged with sodomy; and enabling Addis Alliance to create an app to share information on COVID for those living with HIV in Ethiopia during lockdown.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support UHAI-EASHRI's core costs as they continue their vital work in these areas.

Bisi Alimi Foundation (BAF), Nigeria Emerald 50 Fund New Partner



BAF advocate for the rights and dignity of LGBTQI people in Nigeria. They were founded by Bisi Alimi, an LGBTQI rights activist who gained international attention in 2004 when he became the first Nigerian to come out on television. After an attempt on his life, he fled to the UK where he was granted political asylum. In 2015, he set up BAF to challenge homophobia in Nigeria and West Africa.

Nigerian law criminalises same-sex relationships, with prison sentences of up to 14 years. In parts of Northern Nigeria governed by Sharia Law, homosexuality is punishable by death – one of the few countries where this is the case.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support BAF's core costs and their work advancing social acceptance of LGBTQI people in Nigeria. They cultivate change through four thematic areas: research into the perceptions Nigerians have of LGBTQI people; training journalists and lawyers to better understand SOGIE; engagement with politicians, police, religious leaders and other influential people to accelerate social acceptance; and harnessing the potential of business to be a force for social and economic inclusion.

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



NGLHRC identified the need for a national legal aid response that would challenge and prevent discrimination based on SOGIE in Kenya. They provide this, promoting and protecting the equality and inclusion of LGBTQI individuals and communities.

A high-profile legal campaign, led by the Kenyan LGBTQI movement including NGLHRC, was struck down in May 2019 when the High Court of Kenya refused to declare colonial-era laws criminalising same-sex conduct between consenting adults as unconstitutional. Kenya thus remains one of the 29 African countries that continue to criminalise queer lives.

Homophobia remains pervasive in the country, with religious leaders promoting conservatism and a reverence for 'African values' that are presented as hostile to sexual and gender diversity. This has a deeply negative impact on public opinion which hinders the progress of inclusion and non-discrimination, directly affecting the lives of queer Kenyans.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support NGLHRC as they take a multi-pronged approach to advancing the meaningful participation of LGBTQI people in Kenyan society. They offer free legal advice through their legal aid centre, carry out community outreach, offer country-wide education programmes and paralegal training; and conduct sensitisation training with police, health and legal staff, among others.

People Against Suffering, Oppression and Poverty (PASSOP), South Africa New Partner



PASSOP are a community-based, non-profit human rights organisation devoted to protecting and advancing the rights of LGBTQI asylum seekers, refugees, and immigrants in South Africa. They advocate on behalf of LGBTQI refugees and confront homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia throughout South Africa, providing legal, social, financial, psychosocial and housing support.

While South African law provides for asylum for people persecuted because of their SOGIE, in practice the situation is often more complex. Arriving in country, LGBTQI refugees and migrants struggle to navigate and access legal systems, health care, housing and attain asylum status. As foreign nationals, they are targets for xenophobic abuse and discrimination, and as LGBTQI people, they are vulnerable to SOGIE-based attacks. Add to this an overstretched system and the situation for LGBTQI asylum claimants becomes extremely precarious. In 2017, PASSOP found that only 4% of asylum applications per year were successful, and they currently support over 200 LGBTQI individuals

PASSOP staff have lived these experiences and are committed to uplifting and empowering their communities through collaboration with civil society, activist networks, research institutions and global funders. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support PASSOP'S core costs as they establish a vital shelter for the LGBTQI refugee community escaping from persecution from their countries.

INTERNATIONAL

● 4 grant partners in total

● £85,000 total grants provided in 2020/21



Activist spotlight: Ruth Baldacchino, Associate Director of Programs, Intersex Human Rights Fund

Astraea launched the Intersex Human Rights Fund in 2015 to honour the resilience, creativity, and growth of intersex activism and to ensure the human rights of intersex people.

People with intersex variations face many challenges including invisibility, stigma, discrimination and violence. Intersex babies, children and teenagers are widely subjected to normalising, non-consensual, harmful surgeries and other medical interventions, with life-long consequences. And there are very few legal frameworks to protect intersex people from multiple forms of discrimination and institutional violence.

While intersex activism has been growing around the world, intersex issues and communities remain starkly under-funded, receiving less than a fraction of 1% of global foundation funding for LGBTQI people and/or women and girls. That's why we support organisations, projects and campaigns led by intersex activists working to ensure the human rights, bodily autonomy, physical integrity and self-determination of intersex people. We are currently supporting over 50 intersex organisations and projects all over the world and are committed to building and strengthening our global movement.



Intersex Human Rights Fund, 2019.

Supporter Spotlight: Rachel Reese & Emma Cusdin, Global Butterflies



We run Global Butterflies, a consultancy that helps firms develop trans and non-binary inclusive work environments. Since 2015 we have worked closely with hundreds of clients to foster an inclusive culture through adopting a zero-tolerance approach to transphobic behaviour

and attitudes. We believe that governments disappear and change, but corporates don't. If you can change a company's internal structure, then they can change the minds of government through their influence. We're big believers in corporate power.

We are proud to support LGBTQI activism worldwide through GiveOut, with Rachel as one of the charity's first trustees. We often ask our clients to make a donation to GiveOut in lieu of speaker fees. If you are helping activists in other jurisdictions to forward trans and non-binary inclusion and support in those countries, then you're lifting everybody. That can only be symbiotic back to us, and therefore we all rise together. That's why we are passionate about GiveOut's work.

Kaleidoscope Trust Amplifund



Kaleidoscope Trust promote the human rights of LGBTQI people in the Commonwealth. They envision a world where LGBTQI people everywhere, irrespective of their country of birth or residence, are free, equal, and in full possession of the rights to which they are entitled.

At the start of the COVID-19 crisis, Kaleidoscope Trust surveyed members of the Commonwealth Equality Network during April 2020, gathering the testimony of 41 LGBTQI individuals from 34 member organisations in 37 Commonwealth countries. The Trust wanted to understand how COVID-19 has affected LGBTQI people, activists and civil society organisations and launched a report capturing their findings. The report showed that grassroots activists and civil society organisations lack funds to support the marginalised communities they serve.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support Kaleidoscope Trust's core costs and work as the Secretariat to The Commonwealth Equality Network.

OutRight Action International OutRight



OutRight Action International are a leading LGBTQI human rights advocacy organisation based in New York. Working at international, regional and national levels, they research, document, defend, and advance human rights for LGBTQI people worldwide. They play a crucial role in the global movement, taking their findings and experiences to those in power to effect change.

Every December, they host activists from around the world in New York City. Throughout the week, they set up meetings with diplomats, governments and individuals, as well as events at the UN, creating opportunities for activists to meet donors and the media. Advocacy Week culminates with OutSummit, a conference dedicated to activists. While Advocacy Week did not take place in 2020, OutRight held their OutSummit virtually, attracting a record 1,600 attendees.

During the pandemic, research by OutRight found that LGBTQI people suffered from food insecurity, barriers to health care and other vital services (see activist spotlight, pX). They launched the COVID-19 LGBTQI Emergency Fund to respond to the needs of the community, particularly in the Global

South where humanitarian interventions overlook LGBTQI populations. By the end of 2020, the fund had disbursed USD\$1 million to 125 organisations. Needs remain urgent in many parts of the world, and OutRight relaunched a new call for funding in March 2021.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support OutRight's core costs as they continue to fight for the human rights of LGBTQI people everywhere.

International Trans Fund (ITF)



ITF is a trans activist and funder-led participatory grant-making fund, increasing the capacity of trans movements to self-organise and advocate for trans people's rights. While the LGBTQI rights movement is severely under resourced, funding for trans organising is particularly limited. ITF addresses this gap, helping local and national trans groups access funding, while also providing capacity and technical support. It is well established and highly respected in the global trans movement.

Trans rights are under attack across the globe, from an epidemic of violence against trans women of colour, sex workers and immigrants, to the rise of anti-gender ideology that is fuelling the backlash against hard-fought progress. Flexible funding to grassroots trans-led groups is urgently needed, more so given the additional challenges posed by COVID-19.

In 2020, ITF funded 52 trans-led organisations in 41 countries. GiveOut's 2020 grant was restricted to ITF's grant-making in the Global South and East. Through ITF, GiveOut supported Grupo de Acción y Apoyo a Personas Trans. Founded in Colombia in 2008, they are a grassroots social organisation that defends, promotes and makes visible the rights and full citizenship of trans communities. In 2021, GiveOut's grant will again support ITF's grant-making efforts to support the trans movement in the Global South and East.

The Intersex Human Rights Fund (IHRF)



IHRF are dedicated to resourcing the intersex movement globally and championing the human rights of intersex people. They give flexible funding to enable intersex activists to address the root causes of the violations they face, and promote the agency and autonomy of intersex people.

Intersex people face systemic human rights violations in all regions of the world. Children are subjected to non-consensual and harmful "normalising" surgeries and other interventions, including forced hormone treatments, sterilisation and genital mutilation. Intersex people report lifelong psychological distress and physical health issues from interventions, while those not subjected to these procedures face violence, stigma and discrimination. Yet, intersex groups receive less than 2% of the global foundation funding allocated to LGBTQI people and women and girls. IHRF are bridging that gap.

As the world grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, IHRF provided an additional USD\$2,000 – 8,000 to each of their existing intersex grantee partners. The pandemic and associated restrictions on movement have heightened the exclusion and discrimination many intersex people already face, with many left isolated, jobless and unable to access the medical and mental health services they need. In 2020, IHRF funded over 50 intersex organisations and projects around the world, a 65% increase on their 2019 grants.

In 2021, GiveOut's grant will support IHRF's grant-making efforts to support the intersex movement in the Global South and East.

THANK YOU



GiveOut 100 Circle gathering, 2019.

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

To our supporters, thank you for making this vital work possible. Together, we have already begun the work of building a better, more equal world. That work is full of challenges, but it's also full of hope – and with your continued support – will be full of success, too, as we build towards a more equal future.

Thank you to our closest individual supporters, including: Antonia Belcher, Paolo Fresia and Charlie Melvoin, James Frost, Josh Graff, Sunny Mann, Suki Sandhu, Steve Wardlaw, the LBTQ*Women network, and our 100 Circle of regular givers.

Thank you to our corporate allies, including: our founding sponsor Boston Consulting Group, Emerald Life, ev.energy, Gay Times, Global Butterflies, Goldman Sachs, Macquarie, Travers Smith, and TSB.

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

Give in one place to support LGBTQI activism worldwide

- 1 Give regularly**
Be part of our community of regular givers. Our 100 Circle of closest supporters give at the level of £100+/month or the annual equivalent, providing long term support to the LGBTQI movement.
- 2 Provide angel support**
Join the coalition of individuals and businesses who give at a level of £5,000+/year. You can direct your donation to one of our Special Focus Funds.
- 3 Set up your own LGBTQI Fund**
For gifts of £10,000+/year we can work with you to establish your own fund for your family or business.
- 4 Get your business involved**
We offer a range of ways for businesses to support LGBTQI equality and inclusion, including sponsorship opportunities, in-kind support, employee engagement and payroll giving. Visit PrideWithPurpose.com for more information.

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

SPECIAL FOCUS FUNDS

GiveOut's Special Focus Funds are generously sponsored by individuals and businesses with a connection and commitment to particular parts of the LGBTQI movement. You can choose to direct your giving through any of these funds. For gifts of £10,000+/year we can work with you to establish your own fund for your family or business.



Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund

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



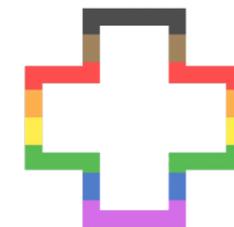
Climate Fund

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



Emerald 50 Fund

Sponsored by LGBTQI campaigner Steve Wardlaw and his insurance company Emerald Life, the Fund supports LGBTQI activism in Southern Africa.



Emergency Fund

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



Gay Times Amplifund

Sponsored by Gay Times, Amplifund supports LGBTQI activists around the world in their campaigning and media work.



Legal Aid Fund

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



Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund

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



Women's Fund

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



GiveOut

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