

A GLOBAL GAZE: LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX GRANTMAKING IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST (2007)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AROUND THE WORLD, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) organizations and projects are responding to the complicated array of political, cultural and economic systems that threaten their communities and impair their rights. Across distinct regions and cultural contexts, from country to country, these NGOs have mobilized to combat injustice, demand their rights, improve their well being and live their lives freely and openly.

Despite their significant contributions to civil society—through advocacy, community building, policy reform, arts and culture, and direct services, to name a few—many of these groups survive on meager budgets and with little to no institutional support. Thus, LGBTI communities across the Global South and East are often left with few resources to respond to the rising tide of government hostility,

public backlash, fundamentalism, HIV/AIDS and the deeply entrenched structural barriers posed by homophobia, transphobia, and racial, economic and gender inequalities.

However, as *A Global Gaze: LGBTI Grantmaking in the Global South and East (Calendar Year 2007)* demonstrates, a small but committed sector of grantmakers are increasingly recognizing the importance of investing in this sector as a strategy for strengthening global democracy and achieving widespread equity. Yet this study also shows that such funding comes from a mere fraction of possible grantmakers and that NGOs in the field continue to operate with small budgets, few to no paid staff members and with little institutional support. It's in this context that the possibilities for enhancing this sector are manifold.

OVERVIEW

→ IN 2007, 40 GRANTMAKERS FROM 18 COUNTRIES AWARDED 451 GRANTS TO LGBTI ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS WORKING IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST, REACHING 79 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS. In total, these grantmakers awarded US \$26,201,336, including US \$2,341,760 earmarked for regranteeing purposes.¹

→ 163 LGBTI ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS FROM 61 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS WORKING IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST RESPONDED TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IN 2007—THE MAJORITY OF THESE GROUPS WORK AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS. These include NGOs and projects based in the Global South and East, as well as NGOs based in the Global North working at the international level.

KEY FINDINGS

→ TOTAL GIVING TO LGBTI ISSUES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BETWEEN 2005 AND 2007 YET THE MAJORITY OF THESE DOLLARS CAME FROM A SMALL GROUP OF FUNDERS. Between 2005 and 2007, total giving and total grants to LGBTI efforts in the Global South and East increased by 128 percent and 38 percent, respectively; however, the number of funders remained the same at 40.² Further, the top 10 funders of LGBTI giving in the Global South and East in 2007, by total giving, were responsible for 88 percent of total giving.

→ WHILE GRANTMAKERS BASED IN WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA PROVIDED VIRTUALLY EVERY DOLLAR TO LGBTI EFFORTS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST IN 2007, THE DOLLARS WERE DIVIDED BY

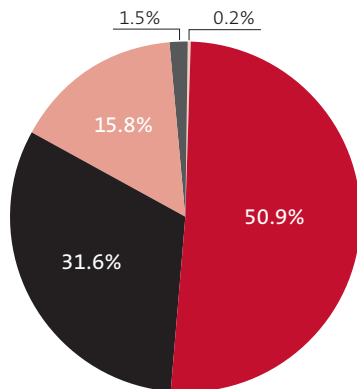
TOP 10 LGBTI GRANTMAKERS, BY TOTAL GRANTS, GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST, 2007

Name	Country	Total Grants	Rank (2005)
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice	United States	98	1
Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos)	Netherlands	57	2
Global Fund for Women	United States	35	3
Open Society Institute and Soros Foundations	United States	23	4
ILGA Europe	Belgium	17	–
Anonymous	United States	16	8
Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)	Sweden	16	6
Mama Cash	Netherlands	15	5
Angela Borba Fund	Brazil	13	–
Central American Women's Fund	Nicaragua	12	–

¹ "LGBTI grantmakers" includes grantmakers that responded to our requests and that are focused exclusively on LGBTI issues and grantmakers that incorporate LGBTI giving into their broader portfolios. They do not represent the universe of grantmakers that support LGBTI issues worldwide.

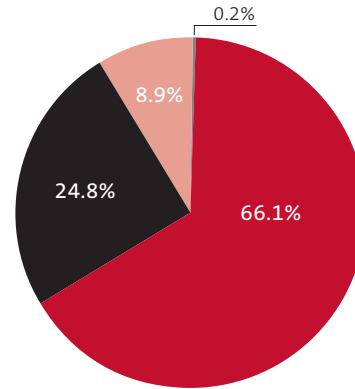
² The 2005 figures in this section are taken from a previous version of *A Global Gaze*. See *Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, A Global Gaze: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Grantmaking in the Global South and East Calendar Year 2005* (New York, FLGI 2008).

ORIGIN OF LGBTI DOLLARS BENEFITING THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST, BY FUNDING SECTOR, 2007



- Private (\$13,331,822; 81 grants)
- Public (\$8,287,091; 328 grants)
- Bilateral (\$4,131,493; 16 grants)
- NGOs (\$390,930; 23 grants)
- Corporate (\$60,000; 3 grants)

DISTRIBUTION OF LGBTI DOLLARS BENEFITING THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST, BY TYPE OF SUPPORT, 2007



- Project (\$17,313,397; 293 grants)
- General Operating (\$6,501,379; 145 grants)
- Regranting (\$2,341,760; 12 grants)
- Unspecified (\$44,800; 1 grant)

GROUPS INDIGENOUS TO THESE REGIONS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL-LEVEL NGOS BASED IN WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA. LGBTI efforts in Latin America received the most grants, while efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa, North America, Western Europe and Latin America received the most dollars.

➔ SUPPORT FOR LGBTI ISSUES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST TENDED TO BE PROJECT RELATED, FOR ONE-YEAR DURATIONS AND SUPPORTIVE OF STRATEGIES THAT EMPLOYED LITIGATION/POLICY REFORM, CAPACITY BUILDING/ TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. A related note is that nearly one in four dollars (23 percent) awarded to LGBTI efforts in the Global South and East were for organizations and projects dealing with HIV/AIDS among LGBTI (and the general) populations.

➔ THE MAJORITY OF LGBTI ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS THAT RESPONDED TO THIS STUDY WERE BASED IN LATIN AMERICA, FOUNDED BETWEEN 2000 AND 2007,

AND OPERATE THROUGH A VARIETY OF STRATEGIES AND WITH MULTIPLE POPULATIONS AND IDENTITIES.

The strategies most frequently cited by LGBTI groups were advocacy/public policy, conferences/seminars and community organizing, while the most cited issues were human rights, homophobia and gender identity. Further, while a majority of organizations report working with a variety of populations, LGBTI and others, 64 percent are focusing efforts on addressing the general public.

➔ MANY OF THESE LGBTI GROUPS WORKING IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST OPERATE WITH SMALL BUDGETS, FEW TO NO PAID STAFF MEMBERS AND REPORT RECEIVING LITTLE SUPPORT FROM FOUNDATIONS. Half of the LGBTI organizations and projects that responded to this study did not receive any foundation or individual support for their organizations; even less received support from government and corporate sources.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

→ **ADOPT A CODING SYSTEM THAT SYSTEMATICALLY TRACKS YOUR FOUNDATION'S LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR LGBTI ISSUES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA.** A formal, standardized system of tracking support would help identify funding gaps and opportunities, as well as provide the field a more accurate benchmark of support to LGBTI efforts in the Global South and East.

→ **ALLOW FOR FUNDING THAT REACHES ORGANIZATIONS WITH SMALLER BUDGETS AND FEWER RESOURCES, SUCH AS THE MANY GROUPS STUDIED IN A GLOBAL GAZE. ONE OPTION IS TO WORK WITH PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS AND NGOS WITH REGRANTING FUNCTIONS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO WORTHY YET LESS VISIBLE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST.** Such “intermediary” funders often have the capacity to allocate smaller grants as well as a thorough, nuanced knowledge of local politics.

→ **CONSIDER COLLABORATING WITH OTHER GRANT-MAKERS AND WITH NGOS IN THE FIELD TO INFORM YOUR GRANTMAKING.** Together, the wisdom of both sectors can help identify the most appropriate and effective routes for supporting LGBTI human rights.

→ **REFLECT ON YOUR INSTITUTION'S PATTERNS OF SUPPORT IN REGARDS TO LGBTI COMMUNITIES, INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OR OTHER RELATED WORK.**

Are there areas where your grantmaking could better address the complexity of LGBTI rights? Do some organizations, geographic areas or certain types of strategies receive disproportionately larger levels of support? What's the entire possible landscape and where can you make a difference?

→ **CONTEMPLATE HOW SUPPORT FOR LGBTI ISSUES AROUND THE WORLD—GIVEN THE REALITIES OF THESE POPULATIONS—CAN CUT ACROSS THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY ISSUES SHAPING THEIR LIVES.** Support for LGBTI issues need not be relegated to an “LGBTI grant”; support can come from focus areas such as health, economic well being, civic participation, human rights, reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS and many others.

→ **RECOGNIZE THE “REASSURANCE FACTOR” OF MULTI-YEAR GRANTMAKING, ESPECIALLY FOR ORGANIZATIONS WITH LESS TIME AND LESS RESOURCES TO COMPETITIVELY SEARCH FOR FUNDING.** LGBTI groups working in the Global South and East could benefit tremendously from the breathing room that a multi-year grant engenders.

→ **INVEST IN RESEARCH THAT DELVES DEEPER INTO THE LOCAL, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL REALITIES OF LGBTI POPULATIONS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST.** Given distinct geopolitical contexts, it's important that grantmakers have the knowledge to make informed decisions about better supporting LGBTI communities around the world.

WWW.LGBTFUNDERS.ORG

Download the full report and find a variety of resources on global LGBTI funding.

The mission of Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues is to seek equality and rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) individuals and communities by mobilizing philanthropic resources that advance racial, economic and gender justice.

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