

PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE

## PROGRESS AND SETBACKS IN LGBTQI RIGHTS GLOBALLY: WHAT'S A FUNDER TO DO?



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ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED BY THE  
GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY PROJECT  
CO-SPONSORED BY FUNDERS FOR LGBTQ ISSUES

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HOSTED BY:



## DESCRIPTION

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) rights have never been the subject of more global attention or debate. While some countries are making major advances in recognizing rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), others are taking regressive actions to codify discrimination in their national laws. Russia, Uganda, and Nigeria have all recently received global condemnation for their rights-violating laws criminalizing same-sex relations, the very existence of LGBTQI people, and the rights of activists to organize.

Even in places with legal equality, LGBTQI people face violence, exclusion and isolation. Those that face the worst stigma and discrimination are those experiencing multiple oppressions, such as women, youth, trans\*<sup>1</sup> and intersex people, and people of color, as well as LGBTQI people who are poor, HIV positive, involved in sex work, or use drugs. Unfortunately, these are the constituencies that receive the least attention and support from the philanthropic community and are often marginalized within LGBTQI communities as well. Overall, LGBTQI issues receive insufficient funding—of the billions granted annually, LGBTQI issues receive only 0.26% of foundation dollars—just 26 cents of every \$100 invested.<sup>2</sup>

Despite this challenging context, LGBTQI activists are demanding their rights and building strong movements for social justice. At the local level, they are creating safe spaces for communities to come together and build solidarity, organizing for access to services, doing cultural work to change attitudes about sexuality and gender, and forming alliances with other human rights movements. Their advocacy at the regional and global level is contributing to a shift in international norms around LGBTQI issues, as demonstrated by the United Nations' historic resolution in favor of SOGI rights in 2011 and the SOGI-inclusive conventions passed by the Organization of American States in 2013.

This institute will be useful for brand new funders and old hands alike. Interactive sessions will enable participants to take deep dives into key topics such as how to mitigate backlash against rights gains and the possibilities and pitfalls of international advocacy. Come engage in honest discussion with peer funders and activists from around the world about successful and failed strategies in funding LGBTQI rights, and take away practical strategies to make your funding more effective.

## OBJECTIVES

In this institute, participants will:

- Gain a baseline of understanding about LGBTQI rights globally, including the challenges and failures in funding LGBTQI rights.
- Understand the connections between SOGI and other human rights issues to apply an intersectional analysis to their funding strategies.
- Learn new ideas of how to plan for and mitigate scapegoating and backlash in their LGBTQI rights funding strategies.
- Understand the dynamic contexts in which discussions on SOGI issues are happening in international and regional human rights bodies, and explore strategies for advocacy in those forums.
- Connect to a community of donors funding LGBTQI rights globally and identify opportunities for ongoing learning, networking, and collaboration.

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<sup>1</sup> Many global activists have been using the abbreviation, “trans\*,” with an asterisk to denote a placeholder for the entire range of possible gender identities, some of which are specific to local cultures, that fall under the broad definition of “transgender.”

<sup>2</sup> Maulbeck, Ben Francisco. *The Physics of LGBTQ Funding: Momentum, Resistance & Impact*. Funders for LGBTQ Issues, June 2013.

## AGENDA

8:00-9:00	<b>BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION</b>
9:00-9:45	<b>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND AGENDA REVIEW</b>  Institute Facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sarah Gunther, Associate Director of Programs, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice</li> <li>○ David Mattingly, Vice-President for Programs, Fund for Global Human Rights</li> </ul>
9:45-10:45	<b>FUNDING GLOBAL LGBTQI RIGHTS: THE BASICS</b>  What do we mean when we say LGBTQI? What on earth is “SOGI”? (Short answer: sexual orientation and gender identity.) What does a <i>hijra</i> in India have in common with a transgender person in the United States? How do communities, activists, and funders think about gender and sexuality in different cultural contexts, and what are the implications for rights-based advocacy?  Through interactive and critical engagement, participants will explore their own and others’ assumptions, expectations, and insights regarding concepts of “LGBTQI identities.”  Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mariam Armisen, Founder/Program Coordinator, Queer African Youth Network</li> <li>○ Andres Rivera Duarte, Director, <i>Organización de Transexuales por la Dignidad de la Diversidad</i></li> <li>○ Carla Sutherland, Associate Research Scholar, Gender and Sexuality Law Center, Columbia University Law School (Facilitator)</li> <li>○ Haneen Maikay, Director, Al-Qaws for Sexual and Gender Diversity in Palestinian Society</li> </ul>
10:45-11:00	<b>BREAK</b>
11:00-12:00	<b>WHAT WORK IS HAPPENING ON SOGI ISSUES GLOBALLY? WHERE’S THE MONEY FOR IT?</b>  This two-part session will explore the diversity of work happening to advance SOGI issues and LGBTQI rights. It will also explore where the money for this work is coming from and where it’s going. Through a conversation with donors and an overview of funding data, participants will gain familiarity with the funding landscape, with a particular focus on geography, populations, and issue trends.  Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ J. Bob Alotta, Executive Director, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice</li> <li>○ Adrian Coman, International Human Rights Program Director, Arcus Foundation</li> <li>○ Christen Dobson, Research and Policy Program Director, IHRFG</li> <li>○ Gabriel Foster, Co-Organizer, Trans Justice Funding Project</li> <li>○ Wanja Muguongo, Executive Director, UHAI-East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative</li> <li>○ Lyle Matthew Kan, Director of Communications and Education, Funders for LGBTQ Issues</li> </ul>
12:00-1:00	<b>LUNCH</b>

## AGENDA (continued)

1:00-2:15

### **FUNDING LGBTQI RIGHTS: GRANTMAKING STRATEGIES**

What is unique about funding SOGI issues? What are particular dynamics and challenges that funders should keep in mind?

Participants will explore a range of funding strategies that can be deployed to address SOGI issues and advance LGBTQI rights, including base-building and community organizing, cultural work, legal and policy advocacy, movement building, security and emergency response.

We will grapple with tough core questions, including:

- How can funders best support nascent and emerging groups, when organizing is at an early stage and movements are just starting to come together?
- What can we learn from the ways in which LGBTQI rights movements are taking shape in certain countries or regions? How does funding influence the way these movements are formed?
- How can funders committed to SOGI issues avoid working in silos?
- What are the geopolitical issues affecting LGBTQI rights? How can funders respond when homophobia and transphobia are used as political strategies?

Speakers:

- Mariam Armisen, Founder/Program Coordinator, Queer African Youth Network
- Happy Kinyili, Senior Programme Officer for Body, Mama Cash
- Anna Kirey, Researcher, LGBT Rights Program, Human Rights Watch
- Kent Klindera, GMT Initiative Director, amFAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
- Javid Syed, Director of Sexual Health and Rights, American Jewish World Service (Facilitator)

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## AGENDA (continued)

2:15-3:45 pm

### DIVING DEEPER: KEY ISSUES IN FUNDING GLOBAL LGBTQI RIGHTS

As we will have learned, a variety of trends are shaping the current landscape of global LGBTQI funding, and funders can apply several key strategies to seed legal, policy, and cultural change. Participants in this session will have the opportunity to select *one of three* key SOGI funding topics on which to engage in a more in-depth discussion.

#### **Topic 1: Organizing as funders to advance trans\* and intersex movements worldwide**

How can funders support nascent trans\* and intersex movements? *What* should we be funding? *How* should we be funding? Building on a global meeting of donors and activists in Berlin in December 2013, this working session will engage participants in strategizing how to increase and improve funding for trans\* and intersex issues.

Facilitators:

- Justus Eisfeld, Co-Director, Global Action for Trans\* Equality
- Sarah Gunther, Associate Director of Programs, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
- Dave Scamell, Associate Director of Sexual Health and Rights, American Jewish World Service

#### **Topic 2: Regional and international advocacy on SOGI issues**

What's the state of play in the international human rights arena? What's next at the UN since the SOGI resolution in 2011? At regional bodies? What funding strategies enable local LGBTQI activists to effectively engage with international and regional human rights bodies to hold their governments accountable?

Speakers:

- Jean Chong, Co-Founder, Sayoni
- Adrian Coman, International Human Rights Program Director, Arcus Foundation (Facilitator)
- Marianne Mollman, Director of Programs, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
- Camila Zabala, Co-Coordinator, Aireana - *Grupo por los Derechos de las Lesbianas*

#### **Topic 3: Engaging the state in combating violence and discrimination**

What tactics are groups using to fight violence and discrimination, including that perpetrated by the state? What funding strategies help enable the long-term safety, dignity and lived equality of LGBTQI communities?

Speakers:

- Haneen Maikey, Director, Al-Qaws for Sexual and Gender Diversity in Palestinian Society
- Andrea Ritchie, Coordinator, Streetwise and Safe
- Andres Rivera Duarte, Director, *Organización de Transexuales por la Dignidad de la Diversidad*
- Addison Smith, Program Officer, Wellspring Advisors (Facilitator)

## AGENDA (continued)

3:45-4:00 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
4:00-5:00 pm	<b>EXPLORING NEXT STEPS: CONVERSATIONS, QUESTIONS, AND NETWORKING</b>  Join small-group conversations that explore where we go from here as a funding community, or identify a topic, question or challenge that you'd like to explore with your peers. Conversations will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Making the Case and Mobilizing Resources for LGBTQI Rights</u>: How can non-LGBTQI focused funders make the case for including SOGI issues in their funding? What opportunities should we be seizing to grow the pool of resources for LGBTQI rights globally?</li><li>• <u>Exploring our Stories and Silos</u>: What story are we telling about LGBTQI rights globally? How is it helping movements, and how is it hindering them? When people's rights are violated often as a result of their behavior, not their identity, what are the implications of using an identity frame? How can funders support LGBTQI groups to connect their struggles with broader social justice issues?</li><li>• Other topics identified by participants</li></ul>
5:00-5:30 pm	<b>KEY TAKEAWAYS, NEXT STEPS, AND EVALUATION</b>

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Sarah Gunther, Associate Director of Programs, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
- Kellan Baker, Associate, Global Philanthropy Project
- Adrian Coman, International Human Rights Program Director, Arcus Foundation
- David Mattingly, Vice-President for Programs, Fund for Global Human Rights
- Nicky McIntyre, Executive Director, Mama Cash
- Addison Smith, Program Officer, Wellspring Advisors
- Javid Syed, Director of Sexual Health and Rights, American Jewish World Service
- Kristina Wertz, Director of Engagement, Funders for LGBTQ Issues