



# A Global Gaze

## *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Grantmaking in the Global South and East*

### Overview

*A Global Gaze: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Grantmaking in the Global South and East* examines the state of LGBTI grantmaking and organizations in the Global South and East. As the report reveals, in 2005 grantmakers provided nearly US \$10.5 million to LGBTI organizations working in the Global South and East and to LGBTI organizations in the Global North working at the international level.

*The full report—including detailed findings and a complete list of grantmakers—will be available online in August 2007. To download the report, please visit [www.lgbtfunders.org](http://www.lgbtfunders.org).*

### Key Findings: LGBTI Grantmaking in the Global South and East

#### Donors<sup>1</sup>

- In 2005, 40 grantmakers from 16 countries awarded 328 grants to 205 LGBTI organizations and projects in the Global South and East, totaling US \$10,452,321.<sup>2</sup>
- The Global North provided almost all of the dollars granted to LGBTI organizations and received more LGBTI foundation dollars than any other region. Ninety-three percent of LGBTI dollars granted in 2005—to LGBTI groups based in the Global South and East and groups in the Global North with an international primary focus—came from funders in the Global North. Likewise, LGBTI groups working on the international level and based in the Global North received more funding than any other region.

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<sup>1</sup> “Donors” includes private, public, bilateral and corporate funders, as well as individual donors and non-governmental organizations with grantmaking functions. “Organizations” includes LGBTI organizations that address LGBTI issues as their core focus *and* organizations that address LGBTI issues explicitly through programs or projects but not as the core focus of the organization. These are groups based in the Global South and East or based in the Global North and working primarily on the international level.

<sup>2</sup> To calculate LGBTI dollars *received* by LGBTI organizations, these figures exclude US \$1,745,100 earmarked for regranting purposes.

- The median budget for LGBTI organizations was US \$7,600, while grants for organizations and projects in the Global South and East tended to be small. Eighty-four percent of grants in 2005 were for US \$50,000 or less while 82% of organizations reported annual incomes of US \$50,000 or less. Moreover, nearly one in two LGBTI grants awarded by LGBTI funders was for US \$10,000 and under.
- Public foundations and NGOs that have a regranting function play a significant role in grantmaking for LGBTI organizations and projects around the world. In 2005, these types of funders provided 59 percent of all LGBTI grants in the Global South and East.
- A handful of women's funds have been critical grantmakers to LGBTI groups in the Global South and East, especially in Latin America. Forty-eight percent of grants to LGBTI organizations and projects in the Global South and East were made by a handful of women's funds.

### Organizations<sup>3</sup>

- The 20 largest LGBTI organizations and programs responding to the survey received the majority of funding (68%) for LGBTI rights in the Global South and East. Further, these organizations and programs saw their income more than double from US \$4 million to nearly US \$8 million between 2002 and 2005.
- LGBTI organizations and projects working in the Global South and East tend to be national in focus (though attuned to local concerns) and operate within a variety of frameworks, strategies and issue areas. Most organizations report utilizing human rights, LGBTI rights, and sexual rights frameworks; take on advocacy efforts; and work largely on issues of gender identity and civil and political rights.
- More than half (54%) of the organizational respondents working on LGBTI rights in the Global South and East are based in Latin America. In addition, 14% are based in Sub-Saharan Africa, 12% in Asia, 9% in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 8% in Western Europe and North America and 1% in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Organizations supporting LGBTI communities typically have small staff sizes and incomes, and tend to be relatively young. More than half of these organizations (59%) have three or fewer staff members (one in three is volunteer-run) and operate on an annual budget of US \$10,000 and under (53%). Further, the median age of an LGBTI organization in the Global South and East is seven years.

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<sup>3</sup> Findings on organizations should be read with caution. Because this research represents a first attempt to identify and describe these groups, it is possible that they do not fully represent the universe of LGBTI organizations and projects in the Global South and East.

## Key Lessons and Recommendations for Global LGBTI Grantmakers

- Devising and implementing coding systems that track support to LGBTQ populations and issues over time can assist grantmakers in evaluating their reach to LGBTI communities. Further, a widely-used, more standard system of tracking support would simplify comparing data across foundations.
- Public foundations and NGOs that have a regranting function are critical actors in the grantmaking process for LGBTI communities around the world.
- Several women's funds have played a key role in supporting and sustaining International movements for LGBTI rights. These funds have modeled how LGBTI grantmaking can be integrated into broader struggles for gender, sexual and social justice.
- Latin America, which houses numerous LGBTI organizations, provides lessons on how LGBTI movements can develop when a broader social movement exists, and they are able to take part in it.
- As reported by LGBTI organizations and projects, government funding is a significant source of support.
- LGBTI total giving is concentrated among a select group of larger organizations; grantmakers should assess the implications of this concentration of resources.
- Grantmakers invested in building a broad-based movement for LGBTI social change around the world should ensure that LGBTI organizations of varying strategies and sizes have the support, financial and otherwise, to thrive in their regions.
- Smaller grants, coupled with increased, multi-year support, can nourish the LGBTI infrastructure of organizations in the Global South and East, which tends to operate on small incomes and few to no staff members.
- An international snapshot of LGBTI grantmaking and organizations provides insight and evaluative potential; however, further research will enrich data over time and delve deeper into the findings.

*The full report—including detailed findings and a complete list of grantmakers—will be available online in August 2007. To download the report, and learn more about Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, please visit [www.lgbtfunders.org](http://www.lgbtfunders.org).*