

STANDING UP: CANADA'S LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL LGBTI FUNDING

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORTING
LGBTI COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE



GLOBAL
PHILANTHROPY
PROJECT



DIGNITY
NETWORK
CANADA

RÉSEAU
DIGNITÉ
CANADA



Representatives of organizations funded through the Act Together for Inclusion Fund (ACTIF) at Dignity Network Canada's roundtable meetings.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	1
Contents	2
Terminology	3
Acronyms	3
About	4
Brief Methodology	4
Executive Summary	5
Introduction	8
Global context	9
Looking Back	10
Canada: one of the world’s largest LGBTI donors	10
Where did Canada fund?	10
Who did Canada fund?	11
What did Canada fund?	12
Moving Forward	13
Build on the success of the 2SLGBTQI+ International Assistance Program (IAP)	13
Expand Canada’s LGBTI funding to at least CA\$20 million per year	15
Institutionalize LGBTI issues within Global Affairs Canada	18
Conclusion: Canada’s opportunity for global leadership on LGBTI issues	19
Endnotes	20

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was written by Aurore Guieu and Dave Scamell (Global Philanthropy Project) with the input and review of Michaël Arnaud (Égides), Doug Kerr and Emmett Mark (Dignity Network Canada), Matthew Hart, Ezra Nepon, Jay Postic, and Jennifer Redner (Global Philanthropy Project).

Graphic design by Lauren Denitzio.

This report is published in English and French.

TERMINOLOGY

This report primarily uses the acronym LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex) as it is widely used in an international context. It uses the acronym 2SLGBTQI+ (Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and additional people who identify as part of sexual and gender diverse communities) when referencing Canadian policy documents, as it is the official acronym used by the Government of Canada. Finally, there are a few references using the SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender identity, Gender Expression, and Sex Characteristics) acronym.

Throughout this publication, we refer to “anti-gender” movements to describe actors who want to advance an authoritarian agenda by weaponizing false arguments about gender to dismantle human rights and democracy. We place this term in quotations to indicate that it means “so called.”

ACRONYMS

2SLGBTQI+: Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and additional people who identify as part of sexual and gender diverse communities

ACTIF: Act Together for Inclusion Fund

CoP: Community of Practice

CSE: Comprehensive Sexuality Education

CSO: Civil Society Organization

CSW: Conference on the Status of Women

FIAP: Feminist International Assistance Policy

GAC: Global Affairs Canada

GBQ/MSM: Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Men/Men having sex with Men

GPP: Global Philanthropy Project

GRR: Global Resources Report

IAP: 2SLGBTQI+ International Assistance Program

ICPD: International Conference on Population and Development

LBQ: Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Women

LGBTI: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex

ODA: Official Development Assistance

SGBV: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SOGIESC: Sexual Orientation, Gender identity, Gender Expression, and Sex Characteristics

SRHR: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

UN: United Nations

USAID: US Agency for International Development

ABOUT

Dignity Network Canada

Dignity Network Canada is a network of over 60 civil society organizations across Canada involved in supporting the human rights of people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) globally. We work closely with the Government of Canada to advance Canadian foreign policy and international development support for global SOGIESC issues. Dignity Network Canada also acts as a Canadian hub for communication and knowledge-sharing across organizations on SOGIESC related human rights issues, especially emphasizing the perspectives of international partners. Dignity Network Canada is a partner in the Act Together for Inclusion Fund (ACTIF) with its member organization Equitas - International Centre for Human Rights Education.

dignitynetwork.ca



Égides - International Francophone Alliance for Equality and Diversities

Égides is an international non-governmental organization based in Montreal, Quebec (Canada). The charity currently has nearly 210 member organizations in 33 countries and territories of the French-speaking world. Égides and its members work to facilitate the networking and international mobilization of Francophone LGBTI organizations and activists, to ensure their access to resources in French to strengthen their capacities and actions, and to promote the availability of accessible funding adapted to the issues, needs and priorities of LGBTI communities in Francophone spaces.

www.egides.org



Global Philanthropy Project

Global Philanthropy Project (GPP) is a collaboration of funders and philanthropic advisors working to expand global philanthropic support to advance the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people in the Global South and East. Established in 2009, GPP's 23 member organizations include many of the leading global funders and philanthropic advisors for LGBTI rights. As the international cohort of LGBTI funders, GPP is internationally recognized as the primary thought leader and go-to partner for donor coordination around global LGBTI work.

globalphilanthropyproject.org



BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The funding information included in this report derives from the 2021–2022 Global Resources Report: Government & Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities (GRR).¹ A full methodology note is available in the report² - however some key points are listed here to facilitate an accurate reading of the data.

- The *Global Resources Report* data only includes grants to organizations or programs that focus on an LGBTI issue or population. In some cases, donors who track funding to multiple impacted populations have been able to identify a percentage of a larger grant with a demonstrated LGBTI focus.
- Full grants - including multiyear grants - are attributed to the year they are awarded, not the year of grant disbursement(s).
- Domestic government funding is not included in the data. Funding committed by the Government of Canada for LGBTI rights within Canada is thus not included.
- Data featured in this publication includes funds awarded for the purpose of regranting.
- The *Global Resources Report* findings are reported in US dollars; Canadian dollars amounts are indicated in this publication, using either original figures reported to the GRR or calculations based on mid-year exchange rates.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Inclusive, quality, and sustainable funding is vital for the work of LGBTI communities in upholding basic human rights for all. This work is courageously conducted in the face of many challenges, including relentless attacks from “anti-gender,” anti-rights, and anti-democracy forces.

Donor governments have a key role to play in supporting these efforts. There are encouraging signs: the newly-released *2021–2022 Global Resources Report* shows an all-time high of US\$174.8 million (CA\$220 million) in donor government and multilateral funding. Yet this funding represents only a portion of global resources: 19% of the total LGBTI funding awarded during the period, and only 4 cents out of every \$100 in Official Development Assistance.

In this global LGBTI funding landscape, Canada ranked third among donor governments with US\$23 million (CA\$29 million) awarded in 2021–2022, a 32% increase compared to 2019–2020. This funding was awarded through 91 grants. This increase demonstrates in particular the impact of the 2SLGBTQI+ International Assistance Program (IAP), launched by Canada in 2019 with an initial CA\$30 million commitment.

The *2021–2022 Global Resources Report* identified Canadian funding in 47 countries, seven of which were Francophone countries. In nine countries, Canada accounted for the totality of donor government funding. The vast majority of Canada’s funding (95%) was focused on general LGBQ populations, with only a few grants focusing on specific groups within LGBTI communities. Compared to 2019–2020, Canada increasingly funded LGBTI-focused organizations, although 79% of its funding went to non-LGBTI-focused organizations in 2021–2022. Canada also diversified the strategies and issues its funding supported.

Based on this analysis and the current context in which LGBTI movements operate, Dignity Network Canada, Égides and Global Philanthropy Project (GPP) provide in this report specific recommendations for Global Affairs Canada to strengthen Canada’s commitment to LGBTI rights and its leadership position within the global LGBTI funding landscape.



Members of Dignity Network Canada’s Global Advisory meeting with Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Mélanie Joly.

Recommendation 1:

Build on the success of the International Assistance Program (IAP)

A second phase of the IAP will be a cornerstone of Canada's future support of LGBTI communities. The existing IAP has impacted movements around the world, whether through critical partnerships between Canadian and Global South LGBTI civil society (Canadian window), funding the response to global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic (International Partnerships window), or the scale-up of resources for local and national organizations in several under-funded regions (Geographic window). Although the 2024 Federal Budget took welcome steps in reiterating the commitment to the IAP beyond 2025, existing mechanisms can be improved.

Lead in funding local and national CSOs through regional funding mechanisms.

The Geographic window of the IAP, accessible to all ODA eligible countries in all world regions, is a unique funding mechanism amongst donor governments. It offers Canada an opportunity to invest in the development of regional LGBTI funding mechanisms. Intermediaries are playing an increasingly important role in the LGBTI funding landscape, and regional, LGBTI-led mechanisms have extensive knowledge of movements' needs, as well as experience working with local and national LGBTI civil society.

Invest in Canadian civil society's role in supporting the advancement of LGBTI human rights and inclusive development across the world.

Canadian LGBTI civil society was instrumental in the IAP coming to life and has remained engaged in the implementation of the program. The evaluation of ACTIF and its upcoming recommendations will provide a basis to conceptualize the future of this

engagement. This work can also be linked to the development of a robust and dedicated section on international issues within Canada's government-wide Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan, to shape an overall plan for Global Affairs Canada on SOGIESC issues.

Maintain the capacity to provide strategic global grants that advance the overall objectives of the IAP.

Maintaining the capacity to provide grants to power LGBTI movements' work on global challenges, as was done under the International Partnerships window, will remain important in the second phase of the IAP. This work complements and supports other work conducted at the local, national and regional levels. The potential shifts in funding priorities and capacities in other donor governments make that need more pressing.



Danilo Manzano from Dialogo Diverso discussing the impact of Canadian international assistance on a panel with Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Anita Vandenbeld.

Recommendation 2:

Expand Canada's LGBTI funding to at least CA\$20 million per year

The IAP, although a critical piece of Canada's global LGBTI funding, is not its only avenue. The "twin-track" approach combining mainstreaming and standalone efforts is increasingly recognized in the LGBTI landscape, including by peer donor governments. Canada can demonstrate global leadership through both fully resourcing the IAP and integrating funding for LGBTI organizations across its international assistance key priorities.

Prioritize LBQ, trans and intersex organizations as key responders in "anti-gender," anti-rights attacks.

The "anti-gender," anti-rights, and anti-democracy agenda is weaponizing the bodies and lives of LGBTI people, particularly transgender people, to foment a "moral panic" and build support for authoritarian politics. The resources of organizations working to oppose LGBTI rights far outweigh the investments into responding to the "anti-gender" movement. It is critical that funding be tailored to the specific needs of LGBTI communities and understand they are not homogeneous entities. In particular, it should acknowledge the specific challenges posed by conservative forces and the enforcement of strict gender norms on the lives of trans, intersex, and lesbian/bisexual/queer women.

Address the SRHR needs of LGBTI people.

Canada has a long-standing commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights, however strategic and operational documents such as GAC's department plan for 2023—2024 tend only to include "women and girls" in the SRHR-related sections. Separating SRHR and LGBTI matters ignores the reality of LGBTI individuals and communities. Because LGBTI people's SRHR needs are specific, inclusive

SRHR programming is not sufficient, and Canada can build on some existing LGBTI funding focusing on SRHR.

Resource the humanitarian needs of LGBTI communities.

The specific needs of LGBTI people and communities in crises is increasingly documented. However, in disaster responses, the existing framework for humanitarian action and its practice has LGBTI people at best, ignored and at worst, explicitly discriminated against. Canada, while featuring in the top 10 of humanitarian assistance providers, only dedicated a marginal part of its 2021–2022 global LGBTI funding to humanitarian-focused work.

Prioritize local LGBTI issues in the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives.

The CFLI was a key piece of Canadian global LGBTI funding in 2021–2022, as 12% of the funding, or 71 grants, were awarded by embassies under this scheme. Although the CFLI currently does explicitly include LGBTI issues, calls usually only use broad language as part of many priorities. While Canada has increased its funding for LGBTI issues through the CFLI in recent years, it could focus more explicitly on LGBTI issues to reach and support the work of local and national LGBTI organizations.

Recommendation 3:

Institutionalize LGBTI Issues within Global Affairs Canada

Establish a specific LGBTI strategy and a central unit to guide Canada's investment in global LGBTI issues.

While Canada's IAP has demonstrated leadership in the last five years, other donor governments have more explicitly outlined their commitment to resourcing the global LGBTI movement through specific LGBTI strategies or policy documents. Canada can draw on examples from the U.S., Australia, or Germany. GPP's experience of engaging donor governments on their global LGBTI funding and policy-making shows that a specific LGBTI strategy, overseen by a centralized unit with capacity and expertise in LGBTI issues, ensures that funding is strategically managed in a coherent way, has optimal impact, and effectively reaches underserved groups. This can be linked to efforts towards a broad framework on global LGBTI human rights building out from Canada's Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan.

Strengthen LGBTI inclusion in the Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP).

The Feminist International Assistance Policy, although a backbone document of Canada's international cooperation, currently has no specific LGBTI and/or SOGIESC language. Canada may build on existing elements of the FIAP to better include LGBTI people and movements, for example, the support to local organizations (prioritized under the core action area), and sexual and reproductive health and rights (prioritized under the human dignity area), as well as draw on the experience of other donor governments.

The recommendations presented in this report aim to support Canada in stepping up its commitment, both for increased global LGBTI funding and for funding that is more inclusive and responsive to the documented reality of LGBTI people and communities.

LGBTI movements pursue vital work while demonstrating unparalleled resilience daily in contexts where all other systems fail to protect and promote our rights. They cannot and should not do this work alone.

2024 will offer a prime opportunity for Canada to reassert its role as a progressive global funder, as the first-ever Global LGBTI Funding Summit will bring together 200 of the leading funders from across the globe who are committed to equality and inclusive development for LGBTI communities in November 2024 in Cape Town. Dignity Network Canada, Égides, and Global Philanthropy Project are happy to work with Global Affairs Canada in the coming months to inform a new commitment that truly serves LGBTI communities worldwide.

INTRODUCTION

This report explores the current state of global LGBTI funding by the Government of Canada. As one of the leading donor governments funding LGBTI communities' work worldwide, Canada can play a critical role in ensuring that LGBTI rights are further protected and promoted in the coming years.

As Canada continues to celebrate Pride throughout the summer 2024, Dignity Network Canada, Egides and Global Philanthropy Project (GPP) present our recommendations for the continuation of its ambitious leadership in the global LGBTI funding landscape.

Based on the current global context and existing conversations between Global Affairs Canada, civil society, and philanthropy, this report presents a detailed and nuanced picture of the existing funding before exploring avenues through which this current support could be strengthened in the future. It particularly looks into how Canada can simultaneously build on the success of its 2SLGBTQI+ International Assistance Program (IAP) and expand its support to global LGBTI communities beyond.



Dignity Network Canada's Board, Advisory and staff at roundtable meetings with Global Affairs Canada.

The second phase of the IAP comes at a time where there is a pressing need to respond to an array of global challenges. Forces gathering around an “anti-gender,” anti-rights, and anti-democracy agenda show no sign of weakening. In the past twelve months, LGBTI movements have witnessed new legislation criminalizing their rights in Ghana, Uganda, and Kyrgyzstan; public violence in Uganda, Senegal, Cameroon, and Ethiopia; and threats and attacks against Pride events in Georgia, the U.S., Austria, and Canada.

Currently there are still in the world at least:

- 60 countries that criminalize by law consensual same-sex sexual acts
- 59 countries that have laws that restrict freedom of expression on LGBTI issues
- 75 countries that offer no possibility for trans people to change their gender marker to align with their identity.³

Insidiously, human rights language is co-opted to undermine LGBTI rights and gender justice. International multilateral human rights fora, such as the Conference on the Status of Women (CSW), are abused by a well-coordinated set of actors that seek to weaponize LGBTI lives to attack democracy and the rule of law.

Because attacks against the basic human rights of LGBTI people and communities are increasingly connected and organized, the response must be similarly calibrated. It is critical for the effectiveness of this response that the link between LGBTI rights, democracy, and civic space is recognized and taken into consideration in funding strategies.

Research by GPP shows that while autocratic countries are more likely to criminalize same-sex relations, block the possibility of changing one's gender markers, or permit surgical interventions on intersex minors, they receive less than half as much the amount of global LGBTI funding per capita than democratic countries.⁴

Donor governments have a key role to play in supporting these efforts. The latest biennial *Global Resources Report* shows encouraging signs that this is increasingly being recognized, with a total funding by donor governments and multilaterals reaching US\$174.8 million (CA\$22 million) in 2021–2022.⁵

It is however important to look behind this number. First, this number represents only 19% of all funding identified for the period (US\$905 million - CA\$1.1 billion). Out of the 13 donor governments present in this edition of the GRR, 4 reported lower funding commitments than in 2019–2020. Donor governments are still collectively dedicating only 0.04% of their Official Development Assistance (ODA) to global LGBTI funding (i.e. 4 cents out of every \$100 in ODA) – a proportion that has not evolved since 2013. Finally, no government in the world is currently providing more than 0.5% of its ODA to LGBTI-focused work.

This demonstrates that there is room for growth. The past years show that the leadership of key donor governments is critical to drive funding up so it can effectively address the growing needs of LGBTI communities worldwide. The top 3 donor governments – the third one being Canada, after the Netherlands and the U.S – represent 65% of the total donor government and multilateral funding for 2021–2022. This shows the critical role of ambitious commitments by a few governments, but it also indicates the fragility of current donor government funding. The effect of one of the top donor governments downgrading its contribution to LGBTI movements is compounding in this context.

2024 is a key year. About half of the people in the world – more voters than ever in history – have voted, or will vote, in national elections in 64 countries on virtually all continents.⁶ Unfortunately, the results of recent elections have given warning signs of what the future may hold. The Netherlands, the all-time top contributor government to global LGBTI funding, will be governed by a coalition including an extreme-right party, which will hold, among other portfolios, the Development Cooperation Ministry. The coalition already announced a cut of up to two-thirds of the development cooperation budget in the coming years.⁷

Beyond the elections, Official Development Assistance numbers indicate a trend towards decreases rather than increases. France announced in February a cut of EUR 742 million (CA\$1.08 billion) to its international assistance budget,⁸ and the German Finance Minister proposed further reductions to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation

and Development budget.⁹ These cuts are put forward despite their contradiction with existing commitments, whether inscribed in voted laws (France) or coalition agreements (Germany).

At the same time, the world witnesses expanding regional conflicts and protracted crises, with vulnerable populations further impacted by the climate crisis and the disruption of already-strained essential services. In all situations of humanitarian emergencies and complex changing political contexts, LGBTI rights are particularly threatened, with demonstrated increases in discrimination, harassment, and violence.¹⁰

LGBTI communities are organizing to respond. A funding infrastructure exists within LGBTI movements – notably regional community-led and sometimes participatory intermediary grantmakers – ready to move money to frontline movement leaders and organizations.

Given this increasingly challenging environment, Canada has become a truly important global leader supporting the human rights of our communities. With the current backlash and the uncertain geopolitical context, now is the moment to step up, solidify, and increase this donor support.

LOOKING BACK

Canada: one of the world's largest LGBTI donors

According to data self-reported to the newly released *Global Resources Report*, in 2021–2022 Canada¹¹ provided US\$23 million (CA\$29 million) in global LGBTI funding. This placed Canada third among donor governments in absolute terms, and represented an increase from the previous period when it invested US\$17.5 million (CA\$23.7 million).

Documented Canadian Government funding was awarded through a total of 91 grants - the highest number of grants ever reported to the *Global Resources Report* by Canada (+62.5% from 2019–2020). The average Government of Canada grant for the period was US\$230,953 (CA\$322,475). This is a slight decrease from 2019–2020 when the average grant was US\$286,816 (CA\$422,895). However, the average amount for grants awarded at the embassy level did increase substantially, from US\$19,402 (CA\$25,402) in 2019–2020 to US\$39,665 (CA\$50,115) in 2021–2022 (+104%).

In 2021–2022, Canada dedicated only 0.167% of its ODA to global LGBTI funding. This represents a decrease from the previous period (0.178% in 2019–2020). Canada was third among donor governments in proportion of ODA going to global LGBTI funding in 2021–2022.

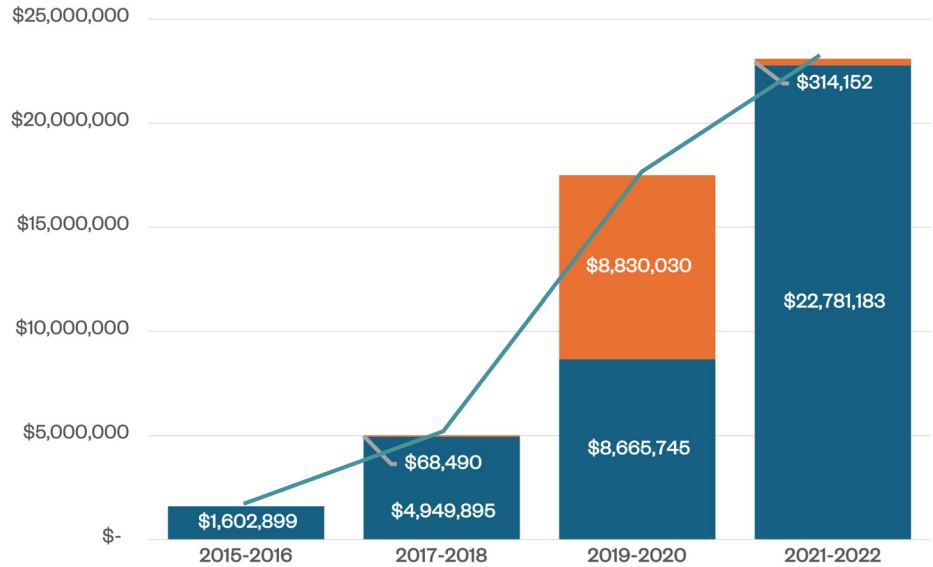
Where did Canada fund?

Before identifying key regions receiving Canadian funding, it is important to recall that the Government of Canada, like many other peer donor governments, reported a significant share of its funding without attribution to a specific country. In 2021–2022, more than half (59%) of grants from the Canadian government were categorized as having a multi-country focus, while 5% of grants did not disclose the country location.¹²

In 2021–2022, the Government of Canada was the largest funder by amount in the Asia Pacific region, all donors considered. It was the fifth largest donor in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the ninth in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Canada's Global LGBTI Funding

■ Direct Grants ■ Regranting ■ Total



WORLD REGION ¹	CANADA'S RANKING (ALL DONORS)	CANADA'S RANKING (DONOR GOVERNMENTS)
Asia Pacific	#1	#1
Latin America and The Caribbean	#5	#2
Sub-Saharan Africa	#9	#3
Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Russia	#34	#5
Middle East and North Africa	#34	#7
International/Multiregional	#5	#3

In Asia and the Pacific, Canada funded with a focus on South Asia (ranking 1st in that sub-region), followed by Southeast Asia (3rd). In Sub-Saharan Africa, Canada was a particularly important donor in Central and West Africa (respectively 2nd and 4th among all donors in these two sub-regions).

In 2021–2022, Canada funded LGBTI issues in 47 countries, seven of which were Francophone countries.¹³ Canada's funding represented 52% of donor government funding and 13% of all funding available in those countries. Overall, funding to Francophone countries accounted for 9% of Canada's global LGBTI funding - this is an increase compared to 2019–2020, when Canada only dedicated 2% of its funding to

Francophone countries.¹⁴ However, in 2021–2022, nearly all of Canada's Francophone-country funding was focused on one country - so these resources were not widely distributed among Francophone LGBTI geographies.

Canada accounts for the totality - 100% - of donor government funding in 9 countries globally. In 20 countries, Canada accounts for over 50% of donor government funding awarded in 2021–2022. Finally, it accounts for more than 50% of the total funding identified in four countries - all donors considered (government, multilateral, foundation). This indicates the importance of Canada's commitment to LGBTI communities in these countries.

Who did Canada fund?

Organizations

When looking at the proportion of funding going to LGBTI grantees, Canada increasingly funded LGBTI-focused organizations, although a large majority of its funding went to organizations with a broader focus (non-LGBTI organizations).¹⁵ In 2019–2020, 91% of funding committed by the Government of Canada was awarded to non-LGBTI organizations. In 2021–2022, 79% of funding went to non-LGBTI organizations.¹⁶

This decrease from 91% to 79% does not mean that less grants were awarded to non-LGBTI organizations in 2021–2022. The number of grants awarded to these organizations actually doubled between the period - from 23 to 48 - and the total funding to non-LGBTI organizations increased by 15%. The proportional decrease should thus be read in the context of an overall increase in Canadian funding and in the total number of LGBTI grants awarded.

General LGBTI organizations received 12% of all Canadian funding - from 7% only in 2019–2020. The amount of funding they received more than doubled (+135%) and the number of grants slightly increased (35 vs 30).

The remaining 9% of funds were awarded to organizations with a specific LGBTI subpopulation focus. Of these, 8% was for organizations with a focus on gay/bisexual/queer men, and less than 1% was focused on either trans or intersex organizations. No funds went to organizations focused on lesbian/bisexual/queer women.

Populations

In 2021–2022, the vast majority of Canada's funding (95%) was focused on general LGBTQ populations. Of the remaining funds, 4% was specifically focused on trans people (either as a whole group or more rarely, focusing on trans women or trans men), 1% on LBQ women, and 0.1% on intersex people.

Considering funding focused on other subpopulations within LGBTI, 12% of Canadian funding was focused on children and youth, while 2% focused on immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. One percent funded work dedicated to survivors of violence. Less than 1% explicitly focused on Indigenous people. No LGBTI grants focused on sex workers.

What did Canada fund?

In 2021–2022, Canada diversified the strategies its funding supports. In 2019–2020, advocacy represented 99.1% of Canadian funding. The remaining 0.9% went to a few direct service grants and one capacity-building and training grant.

In 2021–2022, Canadian funding was distributed among six different strategies.

STRATEGY	% OF TOTAL CANADIAN LGBTI FUNDING, 2021-2022	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Advocacy (advocacy, community organizing, litigation)	57.6%	57
Direct Service (direct service, relocation/evacuation, victim support)	22.5%	20
Capacity-Building and Training (leadership development, organizational capacity-building, training/technical assistance)	8.5%	7
Philanthropy and Fundraising (intermediary funding, philanthropic advocacy)	7.5%	1
Research	3.6%	3
Culture and Media (culture, electronic media/online services, film/video/radio)	0.3%	3
TOTAL	100%	91

This diversification of Canadian global LGBTI funding is also apparent in terms of the issue focus. In 2019–2020, 97% of the work funded revolved around the issue of general LGBTI human rights. This changed in 2021–2022. Work on LGBTI human rights still received the lion's share of funding, but stood at 85%. The majority of this human rights funding went to sexual and reproductive health and rights rather than general human rights funding.¹⁸

Once again, this decrease in proportion should be read keeping in mind the overall increase in the number of grants awarded by the Government of Canada in 2021–2022 compared to 2019–2020. Indeed, the number of human rights-focused grants increased between the two periods, going from 42 to 55.

In 2021–2022, Canada funded seven various issues:

ISSUE	% OF TOTAL CANADIAN LGBTI FUNDING, 2021-2022	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Human Rights (<i>general LGBTI human rights, decriminalization, gender identity rights, marriage/civil unions, migration and refugee issues, SRHR</i>)	84.9%	55
Economic Inclusion	9.4%	10
Confronting Discrimination and Violence (<i>anti-violence, confronting homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, and interphobia</i>)	4.2%	11
Health and Wellbeing	1%	7
Strengthening Community, Family, and Visibility	0.2%	3
Education/Safe Schools	0.2%	2
Humanitarian Response	0.1%	3
TOTAL	100%	91



Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development Anita Vandenbeld with activists attending the Dignity Roundtable in Ottawa, May 2024

MOVING FORWARD

This section presents the joint recommendations of Dignity Network Canada, Égides and Global Philanthropy Project towards Canada as a leading donor government in the global LGBTI funding landscape.

Build on the success of the 2SLGBTQI+ International Assistance Program (IAP)

The increase in Canadian Government funding for LGBTI issues in recent years, particularly through the IAP, has impacted LGBTI movements across the world. Through the Act Together for Inclusion Fund (ACTIF), Canada supported critical partnerships between Canadian and Global South LGBTI civil society, while also responding to key global issues impacting LGBTI communities such as COVID-19 through the International Partnerships Window.

Canada has scaled up resources for local and national LGBTI organizations in several under-funded regions such as Southeast Asia and Central America, through the Geographic Window. Global Affairs Canada (GAC) established the Community of Practice (CoP), which underpins and connects all the funding windows with Dignity Network Canada in a knowledge broker role. The CoP facilitates engagement with civil society in Canada and internationally and allows staff teams at GAC to play a coordinating and learning function.

As Canada moves into the second phase of the IAP, the government's commitment to providing at least CA\$10 million in funding annually through the program must be fully resourced in GAC's budget. A fully resourced second phase of the IAP over the next five years can build off the success of the first five years of Canada's global LGBTI funding commitment in a number of ways:

A. Lead in funding local and national CSOs through regional funding mechanisms.

Regional, LGBTI-led funding intermediaries¹⁵ are an important mechanism for large funding institutions like Global Affairs Canada to reach local and national CSOs that are critical to advancing human rights at the country level. Benefits of working with regional intermediaries include:

- Many intermediary funders are better positioned to make grants to smaller, grassroots institutions due to regional, population-related, or issue-area expertise.
- Many intermediary funders can move quickly, identifying needs and making numerous small grants that would not be possible for private foundations, governments, or multilateral agencies set up to disburse much bigger grants with

heavy reporting burdens.

- This is provided that reporting requirements are adapted so they are not simply replicated at the intermediary and final grantee levels. It also requires funders to enhance their risk tolerance to account for the volatile, ever-changing contexts in which LGBTI movements often operate.
- Intermediary funders serve as a buffer between smaller grantees and larger funders, taking on reporting requirements and navigating risks to move funds.
- Intermediaries often work throughout various countries and regions, enabling them to detect common trends and facilitate exchange and learning between grantees.¹⁶

Intermediaries are playing an increasingly important role in the global LGBTI funding landscape, with analysis of 10 years of data from the *Global Resources Report* showing a significant increase in total funding over time from both public foundations and NGO intermediaries, with the latter in particular showing an increase in the number of grants and decrease in grant size over the ten years, demonstrating their role in reaching smaller CSOs. The *Global Resources Report* also shows that LGBTI-focused donors (which includes intermediaries as well as a number of private foundations) are more likely to fund LGBTI-focused grantees, particularly LBQ, GBQ/MSM, trans, and intersex-focused grantees, than donors that have a wider focus.²¹

Including the geographic window in the first phase of the IAP was an important step by Global Affairs Canada in prioritizing regional intermediaries as a strategy for resourcing local and national CSOs. Given that the Geographic Window was designed for all ODA eligible countries and was not meant to be restricted to specific regions, it stood out as a unique funding mechanism amongst donor governments.

Moving into the second phase, and with the potential shift in funding priorities and capacities from other donor governments, there is an opportunity for Canadian leadership in shifting the global LGBTI funding landscape through long-term investment in the development of regional LGBTI funding mechanisms.

Building on the lessons learned from the first phase, in addition to ensuring that resources exist across the regional desks to support the Geographic Window programme, Global Affairs Canada should prioritize identifying funding intermediaries that are LGBTI-led and based in the region of focus. Such intermediaries exist in several regions and are well-positioned to partner with GAC to ensure that Canadian Government resources reach local and national CSOs. Having a centralized unit overseeing a formal LGBTI strategy that can work in partnership with regional desks and Canadian and international civil society will be an important way to identify and support partnerships between GAC and regional LGBTI-led intermediaries.

In regions where LGBTI-led intermediaries currently do not exist, the Geographic Windows programme should still prioritize supporting intermediaries based in the region who have extensive experience working with local and national LGBTI CSOs. While not essential, having LGBTI-identifying staff, particularly in leadership roles and on the organization's board, indicates the intermediaries' capacity to work with LGBTI communities.

For non-LGBTI-led regional funding intermediaries, an important criterion for partnership with GAC through the Geographic Window programme should be a commitment to working with LGBTI civil society in the region of focus to build the infrastructure necessary for LGBTI-led regional funding mechanisms over the medium to long term. Over the five years of the second phase of the IAP, GAC should commit resources to these partnerships to support research, consultation, and meaningful co-design processes between the regional intermediary and LGBTI civil society to identify and then develop regional LGBTI-led funding infrastructure that will best serve LGBTI communities in the region.

B. Invest in Canadian civil society's role in supporting the advancement of LGBTI human rights and inclusive development across the world.

The IAP was created after significant engagement with Canadian LGBTI civil society organizations. A core group of Canadian CSOs have been engaging in the global LGBTI rights movement over the past decade and developing programs and partnerships to build solidarity with global LGBTI human rights movements. Canadian organizations, linked through Dignity Network Canada, have played

an important role and should continue to be strengthened through partnership funding mechanisms. Since 2020, The Act Together for Inclusion Fund (ACTIF), administered through Equitas, has supported 12 such partnerships and helped to develop the programming and partnerships for organizations such as Égides and Rainbow Railroad, which are now also being funded directly by GAC. Dignity Network Canada has also been supported through ACTIF to play a valuable convening and knowledge broker role in the ecosystem.

Partnerships have been established between organizations in Canada and in the Global South, contributing to tangible impacts for LGBTI people and organizations involved in these programs. In addition, through these partnerships connections and networks have been built across organizations reinforcing solidarity, movement building and cross-country learning. ACTIF is currently being evaluated, with recommendations forthcoming, on the future of the program and the second phase needs to take into account the role of the Canadian partnerships window as a key part of the infrastructure of the overall program.

Canadian civil society maintains a continuous dialogue with the Government of Canada on its commitments to global LGBTI communities. There are regular virtual meetings between civil society and Global Affairs Canada on various topics related to LGBTI issues in international development and foreign affairs.

In May 2024, Dignity Network Canada held the largest-ever iteration of its international roundtable meetings, bringing together over 220 civil society representatives, international human rights defenders, and government representatives from Global Affairs Canada, Women and Gender Equality Canada, and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Key thematic topics and learning were covered in facilitated small groups, culminating in an entire working day dedicated to discussing these issues with staff from the Government of Canada. The ACTIF partnerships led by Dignity Network Canada members have created opportunities for direct engagement with Global Affairs Canada.

The goal for Canada to continue stepping up as a leader donor was a strong thematic outcome - this includes a framework at Global Affairs Canada for current commitment in official development assistance outlined by the IAP. Dignity Network Canada continues to call on the Canadian government to achieve an

overall CA\$20 million a year target, including the CA\$10 million IAP commitment (see further below).

There were continued calls for Canada's government-wide Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan to commit to developing a robust and dedicated section on international issues, where language is still pending, namely an overall plan for Global Affairs Canada on SOGIESC issues. The strengthening of numerous other Government of Canada mechanisms was discussed, including the role of Canadian embassies and ensuring geographic window funding continues to move out, particularly for the sub-Saharan African region.

C. Maintain the capacity to provide strategic global grants that advance the overall objectives of the IAP.

As highlighted above, GAC has been able to respond to key global issues impacting the LGBTI movement through grants awarded under the Global Partnerships Window in the first phase of the IAP. Moving into the second phase, maintaining the capacity to provide similar grants for work at the international level will remain important, particularly given the potential shifts in funding priorities and capacities in other donor governments. Such grants should be directly tied to advancing the overall objectives in a formal strategy (see further below), and work to support the investments that GAC makes under other parts of the IAP.

Expand Canada's LGBTI funding to at least CA\$20 million per year

We welcome Canada's recommitment to invest at least CA\$10 million in the IAP beyond 2024 announced in the Federal Budget 2024, as well as the broader commitment to "play a leading role in standing up for a brighter, more inclusive future for LGBTQI+ people at home and around the world."²² The IAP is indeed not the only avenue through which the Canadian government can support global LGBTI movements.

The importance of the "twin-track" approach to achieve gender justice - combining mainstreaming and standalone efforts - is now widely recognized in the international community. It is notably embedded in the Agenda 2030 and should not be construed in a limiting, binary manner to efforts focusing on the empowerment of women and girls. The relevance of the twin-track approach to best meet LGBTI needs and uphold LGBTI rights is increasingly recognized by key actors. For example, the LGBTQI+ Inclusive Development Policy adopted by USAID in August 2023 to "guide and reinforce USAID's commitment to championing LGBTQI+ inclusive development and the human rights of LGBTQI+ people," explicitly states the combination of mainstreaming and targeted efforts to reach its objectives.²³

A common question when considering how to best meet LGBTQI+ persons' needs is whether to do this by integrating LGBTQI+ individuals into mainstream development programming or by developing standalone activities and programs specifically focused on LGBTQI+ advocacy, service delivery, or organizational development.

The answer is that both integrated and standalone approaches are necessary.

LGBTQI+ people have many of the same needs as the general population in areas including employment/livelihoods, political participation, and access to education, health care, and justice, as well as housing, land, and property. Yet, stigma and discrimination also create particular barriers for LGBTQI+ people. USAID and its partners should carefully analyze these barriers while also developing targeted programs that ensure LGBTQI+ people have the opportunity to make valuable contributions to society and be recognized for those contributions. A key aim for the new LGBTQI+ Policy is pursuing LGBTQI+ integration in USAID policies and programming.

USAID LGBTQI+ Inclusive Development Policy, August 2023 (emphasis in original)

Canada can demonstrate global leadership on LGBTI issues through both fully resourcing the International Assistance Program and

integrating funding for LGBTI organizations across a number of other key priorities for the Canadian Government.

A. Prioritize LBQ, trans and intersex organizations as key responders in "anti-gender," anti-rights attacks.

The "anti-gender," anti-rights, and anti-democracy agenda is weaponizing the bodies and lives of LGBTQI+ people, particularly transgender people, to foment a "moral panic" and build support for authoritarian illiberal politics while amplifying and disseminating disinformation.¹⁷ Research has documented that trans people are experiencing a particularly heightened backlash to their rights. The Trans Rights Indicator Project documents, for example, that more countries were explicitly criminalizing people based on gender identity or expression in 2021 than in 2000, and in some countries that have moved LGBTI rights forward, transgender people still enjoy fewer rights than lesbian, gay, or bisexual people.²⁵

Intersex people also face a wide range of human rights violations, and progress on embedding their rights in legal frameworks is slow. The ILGA database shows that only 11 UN Member States currently have some form of restriction against interventions on intersex minors, while 182 do not.²⁶ "Anti-gender" attacks against the right to make autonomous decisions about one's own body, to self-identify, and to access healthcare without violence

or discrimination, reinforce existing societal expectations of what "male" and "female" bodies should look like.

Lesbian, bisexual, and queer (LBQ) women also face specific challenges that often go unnoticed. A dedicated report by Human Rights Watch in 2023 shed light on the specific violations of LBQ women's rights (consent to marriage, family-building, access to justice, housing or work, etc) and the danger in understanding these violations only as mere subsets of LGBTI and/or women's rights violations.²⁷ Once again, research points to the vitality of understanding how the enforcement of strict gender norms by conservative forces directly impedes the lives of people that are deemed non-conforming.

As mentioned above, in 2021–2022, 4% of Canada's funding specifically focused on trans people (either as a whole group or more rarely, focusing on trans women or trans men), 1% on LBQ women, and 0.1% on intersex people. Canada can thus build on its increasing acknowledgment of the need to tailor funding to the specific needs of LGBTI population groups and not to treat LGBTI communities as homogeneous entities.

There are also distinct existing resources within these communities that Canada – along with other donors – may rely on to ensure that its funding responds to these specificities. Trans, intersex, and LBQ activists and movements

hold expertise informed by lived experience, making them well-placed to find the best solutions to their challenges.

Although the FIAP does not explicitly address the importance of addressing the growing “anti-gender” and anti-rights attacks, this response is aligned with its announced priority areas. Funding this response is also in line with the priority underfunded SRHR areas acknowledged in the 10-year Commitment to Global Health and Rights launched by Prime Minister Trudeau at Women Deliver 2019¹⁸: abortion, CSE, family planning, advocacy, and SGBV. Although the Commitment does not explicitly link these issues to LGBTI rights, a coherent and strategic response necessitates looking across the core elements of gender justice and its relationship with other core priorities of GAC, including democracy and civil political rights, all of which are under attack by “anti-gender” and anti-rights movements.

Recent research by GPP provides funders - including Canada - with targeted recommendations for strengthening an institutional response to increasingly well-organized and well-funded “anti-gender” and anti-rights movements. They include, for example, the need to address organizational risk adversity, currently slowing down many progressive actors’ efforts in the field. The research also critically highlights that despite the lack of funding being acknowledged by key actors as a significant obstacle to responding to the “anti-gender” movement, investments remain insufficient. Three organizations working to oppose LGBTI rights reported a combined income of over US\$1 billion (CA\$1.37 billion) in 2021-2022, which is more than that of 8,000 grantees across the global LGBTI movement during the same years.²⁹

B. Address the SRHR needs of LGBTI people.

Canada can build on its long-standing commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to further the inclusion of LGBTI rights in its policies and practice. Existing commitments in that realm currently do not explicitly include LGBTI communities. The 10-year Commitment to Global Health and Rights announced by Prime Minister Trudeau during Women Deliver 2019 made no reference to LGBTI people. Recent working documents of GAC, such as its department plan 2023-2024³⁰, tend only to include “women and girls” in the SRHR-related sections.

However, the realization of sexual and reproductive rights is crucial to LGBTI people.

The 1994 International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action recognizes the right of all people to have a satisfying and safe sex life. LGBTI people deserve access to care that recognizes their specific needs and understands that their communities are not homogeneous. Separating SRHR and LGBTI matters is a practice rooted in heteronormative assumptions (e.g. that LBQ women do not need contraception, that trans people are not concerned by abortion accessibility, or that the only sexual health issue directly relevant to LGBTI communities is HIV prevention, care, and treatment) which ignore the reality of LGBTI individuals and communities. Sexual and reproductive rights of LGBTI people remain routinely ignored and denied: the right to access comprehensive LGBTI-inclusive sexuality education, the right to gender-affirming care, the right to physical integrity, or the right to access one’s own medical records, to name but a few.

Because LGBTI people’s SRHR needs are specific, it is not sufficient to assume that implementing SRHR programming under an overarching LGBTI-inclusive framework will properly address those needs. Recent research by GPP also stresses that understanding the significance of connections between anti-LGBTI actors and anti-SRHR actors is critical to respond to these forces and counter their influence properly.

The *2021-2022 Global Resources Report* unveils opportunities to improve linkages between SRHR and LGBTI funding. For example, 43% of Canadian global LGBTI funding in this period was invested in sexual and reproductive health and rights of LGBTI communities in Asia and the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as through multi-regional grants.

C. Resource the humanitarian needs of LGBTI communities.

LGBTI people and communities have specific needs in contexts of natural or human-made disasters. Because of discrimination and violence, they are more likely to live in concentrated, poor urban areas or have difficulties finding employment.³¹ These vulnerabilities are heightened during disasters or conflicts, complicating access to mitigation and adaptation measures. In disaster responses, LGBTI people are at best ignored and at worst explicitly discriminated against. There have been numerous reports of harassment and violence in refugee camps and on migration routes; exclusion of LGBTI

communities from accessing medicine and sanitary products, food, shelters, or cash vouchers because of their gender identity and/or sexual orientation; and the spreading of religious narratives scapegoating LGBTI people and their ‘sins’ as the cause of natural disasters.

There is increasing acknowledgement that the current framework for humanitarian action does not adequately address LGBTI-specific needs. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted by the UN in 2015, is the current reference in the field yet it does not make a single mention of LGBTI people. The Framework only uses very broad language around “people in vulnerable situations.”³² This lack of inclusiveness not only weakens the objective of mitigating risks for all people but it also misses the opportunity to make use of the existing resources within LGBTI communities and networks.

According to the *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2023*³³ Canada was the 8th largest provider of funding for humanitarian assistance, contributing more than US\$1.1 billion in 2022 (an increase of 23% from 2021). However, support to LGBTI work in humanitarian response is currently only a small piece of the Canadian global LGBTI funding puzzle. The *2021-2022 Global Resources Report* identified that 0.14% of the total Canadian funding for the period funded humanitarian response work. The few grants identified reached the world regions of Asia and the Pacific; Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia; and the Middle East and North Africa.

D. Prioritize local LGBTI issues in the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives.

The *2021-2022 Global Resources Report* identifies that 12% of the Canadian government funding for the period, US\$2.8 million (CA\$3.6 million) was attributed through embassies (71 grants). All these grants were awarded under the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). This Fund provides funding to small-scale projects in 120 ODA-eligible countries. Projects are selected and funded by Canadian embassies.

The CFLI currently does explicitly include LGBTI issues, but this is usually worded within “Inclusive governance, including diversity and 2SLGBTQI+, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law,” which is itself only one of a number of priorities listed within calls for proposals.

These calls require applicants to provide a gender-based analysis (in compliance with the FIAP). Guidelines for these analyses included in the calls do not make mention of the need to include concerns relevant to LGBTI communities at the local level or - where feasible, with consideration for organizations' safety - the importance of consulting with local LGBTI organizations in addition to women's rights organizations.

While Canada has increased its funding for LGBTI issues through the CFLI in recent years, changing to more explicitly encourage applicants to focus on LGBTI issues and communities will likely further increase the Canadian Government's ability to reach and support the work of local and national LGBTI organizations.

UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS: GRANTS UNDER THE CFLI

The 71 grants attributed at the embassy level under the CFLI mirror the patterns identified for overall Canadian funding. CFLI grants primarily funded Advocacy (78%) and Direct Service (12%), and the primary issue focus was Human Rights (77%). These grants enabled a wide range of work.

It can be noted that 41% of the funding represented by these 71 grants was channeled through 3 multi-regional grants (and notably through two large grants with no regranting). The average grant was US\$39,665 (CA\$50,115) but US\$24,422 (CA\$30,856) when excluding the two large multi-regional grants.

Eleven percent of the CFLI funding was focused on transgender people, 1% on intersex people, and 1% LBQ women. Five percent focused on the LGBTI subpopulations of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and 8% on children and youth.

Institutionalize LGBTI issues within Global Affairs Canada

A. Establish a specific LGBTI strategy and a central unit to guide Canada's investment in global LGBTI issues.

While Canada's IAP has demonstrated leadership amongst peers in a number of ways in the last five years, it is notable that other donor governments have more explicitly outlined their commitment to resourcing the global LGBTI movement through specific LGBTI strategies or policy documents. Examples include USAID's LGBTQI+ Inclusive Development Policy (mentioned above), Germany's LGBTI Inclusion Concept for Foreign Policy and Development Cooperation³⁴, and Australia's forthcoming LGBTI Human Rights Engagement Strategy.³⁵

GPP's experience of engaging donor governments on their global LGBTI funding and policy-making shows that a specific LGBTI strategy, overseen by a centralized unit with capacity and expertise in LGBTI issues, ensures that funding is strategically managed in a coherent way, has optimal impact, and effectively reaches underserved groups. Building on the work undertaken to develop a results framework for the first phase of the IAP, a specific strategy developed at the commencement of the second phase will ensure strong monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes are built into the IAP. Such a strategy will also create a framework for dialogue, consultation with civil society, and accountability in the field. Importantly, producing a specific LGBTI strategy will not only provide guidance for the second phase of the IAP. As with USAID's policy, it will signal GAC's leadership on global LGBTI issues by committing to integrating LGBTI issues across its development programming areas.

Dignity Network Canada has been advocating for a broad framework or plan on global LGBTI human rights building out from Canada's Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan, launched in fall of 2022. This plan, while noting Canada's foreign policy and development aid commitment to LGBTI rights globally, did not provide further details. There is an opportunity with the second phase of the IAP to provide this detail and link it to a broader foreign policy framework.

B. Strengthen LGBTI inclusion in the Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP).

While the International Assistance Program was originally conceived to be in line with the FIAP, the policy currently has no specific LGBTI and/or SOGIESC language. The closest acknowledgment of the role a feminist foreign policy could – and should – play to uphold LGBTI rights is a broad mention that Canada “will speak out about the value of diversity and inclusion, and the importance of human rights for all”.³⁶ By not questioning a binary understanding of gender, the FIAP missed an opportunity to identify the specific power relations and challenges that affect LGBTI communities, but also the specific resources thriving within our communities. Although this is a common challenge of various existing feminist foreign policy documents, some donor governments have more recently included explicit recognition of the importance of a non-binary understanding of gender, such as Germany in its 2023 Feminist Development Policy.³⁷

There are, however, elements in the FIAP that Canada may build on to better include LGBTI people and movements in its future, for example, the support to local organizations prioritized under the core action area and sexual and reproductive health and rights prioritized under the human dignity area. The commitment in the GAC's department plan 2023-24³⁸ to “support 2SLGBTQI+ communities abroad” signaled that the practice of the FIAP has grown to integrate more explicitly LGBTI rights.

Institutionalizing as much support as possible is critical to protect feminist foreign policy, and the inclusion of LGBTI rights within, under future governments. Sweden, the pioneer country in feminist foreign policy, saw its newly elected government publicly revoke it in 2022³⁹. Although it is too early to examine the concrete impact on funding commitments, this demonstrates the importance of locking in commitments when they are possible.

CONCLUSION: CANADA'S OPPORTUNITY FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ON LGBTI ISSUES

Canada has positioned itself as a leading force in the global LGBTI funding landscape. As the third largest donor government and with a 32% increase in funding between 2019–2020 and 2021–2022, Canada has proven it is committed to supporting LGBTI movements worldwide.

This support remains critical in 2024. While progress has certainly been made in supporting LGBTI people and communities to attain - and retain - their rights, disparities remain in how they can access funding and needs are far from being met. In the current geopolitical context, government support in particular can unfortunately be volatile and support for LGBTI rights will be an integral part of the answer to challenges to inclusive societies by “anti-gender,” anti-rights, and anti-democracy forces.

The recommendations presented by Dignity Network Canada, Égides and Global Philanthropy Project in this report aim to support Canada in stepping up its commitment, both for increased global LGBTI funding and for funding that is more inclusive and responsive to the documented reality of LGBTI movements.

Recommitting to funding the 2SLGBTQI+ International Assistance Program for the second phase is an essential first step, and we welcome existing signs in this direction. The IAP in itself, with its different windows, offers a number of avenues through which Canadian funding can be strengthened and refined: from investing in the development of regional LGBTI funding mechanisms, to reinforcing the dialogue with Canadian civil society on global investments, to supporting international efforts.

However this renewed commitment cannot be circumscribed to the IAP alone. Support for LGBTI movements is not a niche issue and should thus be addressed in a broad encompassing strategy, linking the protection and promotion of LGBTI rights to overarching Canadian international cooperation priorities, both at headquarter and embassy levels.

There are opportunities to embark on these changes in the coming months and to showcase Canada's commitment to global LGBTI rights. On November 11-12th, 2024, the Global LGBTI Funding Summit will bring together 200 of the leading funders from across the globe who are committed to equality and inclusive development for LGBTI communities. The leadership of donor governments in particular will be key to ensure that the collective response effectively matches the level of urgency and guarantees the advancement of LGBTI rights. The Summit will provide a prime opportunity for Canada to reassert its role as a progressive global funder, and we are happy to work with Global Affairs Canada in the coming months to inform a new commitment that truly serves LGBTI communities worldwide.

ENDNOTES

- 1 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report: Government & Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities*. Global Philanthropy Project, June 2024. <https://global-resourcesreport.org/>
- 2 See pp 153-160
- 3 ILGA World Database <https://database.ilga.org/en> (as of July 4th, 2024)
- 4 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report*, pp. 22-24
- 5 All funding figures included in this report without a specific reference are derived from the 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report*.
- 6 <https://time.com/6550920/world-elections-2024/>
- 7 <https://www.devex.com/news/the-netherlands-is-cutting-billions-from-aid-what-happens-next-107691>
- 8 <https://www.devex.com/news/french-government-criticized-over-806m-cut-to-aid-107193>
- 9 https://donortracker.org/policy_updates?policy=german-finance-ministry-plans-signal-further-reductions-to-bmz-2024
- 10 See for example “They Know What we Don’t - Meaningful Inclusion of LGBTIQ People in Humanitarian Action”, Outright International, 2024 <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/human-rights-research/they-know-what-we-dont-meaningful-inclusion-lgbtiq-people>
- 11 Throughout this report, “Canada” and “Government of Canada” are used interchangeably.
- 12 Donors may choose not to reveal the country focus of a grant award, instead only identifying the grant as within a world region or sub-region, within the Global South and East, or deciding not to disclose the geographical location at all. These locations were redacted out of concern for the safety and security of grantees and regionally based grantmaking staff because of hostile environments.
- 13 As per the *Global Resources Report* taxonomy. No Canadian funding identified in the Western Europe and North America regions.
- 14 “Francophone countries” refer to all funding focused on LGBTI communities that are located, registered, and operating in French-speaking countries (determining factors: use of French in the administration, status of French as official or co-official language, and the significance of French in the general population). We acknowledge that labeling countries as “Francophone” may only refer to a general reality of the use of French in each one of them, keeping in mind that French may be a colonial heritage in many of those countries.
- 15 The 2019-2020 figure is from “Global Resources Report: A Francophone Perspective”, published in partnership between Global Philanthropy Project and Égides - International Francophone Alliance for Equality and Diversities in May 2023 <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/grr-francophone>
- 16 Non-LGBTI organizations are organizations with a broader focus, that may include an LGBTI program, as opposed to organizations whose primary focus is LGBTI populations or issues.
- 17 It should however be noted that some existing awarded grants to non-LGBTI organizations do include regranting to a combination of LGBTI and non-LGBTI organizations.
- 18 This shift derives, in part, from the inclusion of explicit LGBTI-focus within large SRHR-focused grants for multiple key populations.
- 19 Organizations whose primary focus is LGBTI populations or issues, operating a range of programs including the regranting of funds received from foundations or development agencies to civil society organizations and grassroots groups.
- 20 *Diving Deeper: Under the surface of Intermediary funding data*, Global Philanthropy Project, June 2021. https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/diving_intermediary
- 21 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report*
- 22 <https://budget.canada.ca/2024/report-rapport/budget-2024.pdf>
- 23 <https://www.usaid.gov/policy/lgbtqi>
- 24 Global Philanthropy Project and Elevate Children’s Funders Group. 2021. “Manufacturing Moral Panic: Weaponizing Children to Undermine Gender Justice and Human Rights.” <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/manufacturing-moral-panic>
- 25 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/perspectives-on-politics/article/global-analysis-of-transgender-rights-introducing-the-trans-rights-indicator-project-trip/3C143E501E0824C8F9F0C40925965F43>
- 26 <https://database.ilga.org/interventions-intersex-minors>
- 27 https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2023/02/global_lbq0223_web.pdf
- 28 https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/commitment-health-rights-engagement-sante-droits.aspx?lang=eng
- 29 The three organizations are Alliance Defending Freedom, Focus on the Family, and the Christian Broadcast Network (2021-2022 *Global Resources Report*)
- 30 <https://www.international.gc.ca/transparence-transparence/departemental-plan-ministeriel/2023-2024.aspx?lang=eng>
- 31 See for example <https://earth.org/climate-inclusion/> and <https://www.deloitte.com/global/en/issues/work/content/lgbt-at-work.html>
- 32 <https://www.undrr.org/publication/send-ai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>
- 33 <https://devinit.org/resources/global-humanitarian-assistance-report-2023/key-trends-humanitarian-need-funding-2022/>
- 34 <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2445310/7a532b519e092ed-6117535b78209162e/210226-inklusion-skonzepdf-data.pdf>
- 35 <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/gender-equality/new-international-gender-equality-strategy>
- 36 https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/assets/pdfs/iap2-eng.pdf?_ga=2.181773671.1904343650.1720426848-63570935.1708435060
- 37 <https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/153806/bmz-strategy-feminist-development-policy.pdf>
- 38 <https://www.international.gc.ca/transparence-transparence/departemental-plan-ministeriel/2023-2024.aspx?lang=eng>
- 39 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/31/swedens-new-government-abandons-feminist-foreign-policy>



**GLOBAL
PHILANTHROPY
PROJECT**



**DIGNITY
NETWORK
CANADA**

**RÉSEAU
DIGNITÉ
CANADA**

