

**SOLIDARITY FOR DIGNITY: INSIGHTS
FOR CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS
WORKING GLOBALLY TO SUPPORT THE
HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBTI PEOPLE**



ADVANCING LGBTI
HUMAN RIGHTS GLOBALLY

Acknowledgments

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Preface: About the Dignity Initiative



**DOUG KERR, DIGNITY INITIATIVE
PROJECT LEAD.**



**ERIN AYLWARD, RESEARCH LEAD,
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This report is one of three documents written by the Dignity Initiative, a working group of Canadian civil society organizations and individuals interested in supporting the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) communities around the world.

The first document, completed in mid-2015, was a [Call to Action](#), outlining how the Canadian government should enhance its support for the human rights of LGBTI people around the globe. The Call to Action sets out 22 recommendations in the following four areas:

- Supporting LGBTI activists and human rights defenders
- Funding organizations around the world and in Canada who advance the human rights of LGBTI people
- Using diplomatic influence to signal a commitment to the human rights of LGBTI people, including with respect to international development
- Supporting refugees and facilitating asylum in Canada for LGBTI people fleeing persecution

The [Call to Action](#) has been endorsed by more than 130 civil society organizations across Canada. It was shared with the major federal political parties during the 2015 Canadian federal election, with a request for endorsement and implementation of the recommendations. Following the election, it was shared with all Members of Parliament and submitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Interna-

tional Development and La Francophonie and the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. The Call to Action remains the centrepiece of ongoing advocacy with a view to securing action on the recommendations contained therein.

A second document, *Advancing Dignity: Assessing Canada's Global Action on Human Rights for LGBTI People* is being released alongside this report. *Advancing Dignity* highlights how Canada's foreign policy and refugee policy can better support the human rights of LGBTI people.

This report outlines best practices and case studies of how Canadian civil society organizations are currently supporting global human rights movements for LGBTI people. The report is based on the concept of "do no harm:" as Canadians who wish to support the human rights of LGBTI people everywhere, we must learn from what has been done before, we must listen to activists globally and we must try and work in partnership and collaboration with groups around the world.

We hope that this document will be a useful tool for people in Canada and abroad to understand the ways in which Canadian civil society has been active in global solidarity work in support of the rights of LGBTI people. It is our hope that this report will encourage and inspire others to participate in these movements and to learn from others who have led the way.

We would like to acknowledge the volunteer members of the national Dignity Initiative Working Group:

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Stephen Seaborn, ILGA-North America (Toronto)
Steven Ross, Fierté Montréal Pride
Val Kalende, Researcher (Toronto)



1. Executive Summary

This report has two goals:

- 1) To highlight the diverse ways in which Canadian civil society is supporting the human rights of LGBTI people around the world, and
- 2) To provide resources, strategies and connections to Canadian organizations who are interested in becoming more engaged in global work in support of these rights.

To do so, this report draws on data from a Canadian and a global survey in which civil society organizations were asked to describe their work and beliefs about how best to engage in global solidarity work. These data were supplemented with interviews of 21 civil society organizations in Canada whose work includes efforts to advance the rights of LGBTI people globally.

This report highlights the surveys' five most frequently cited forms of effective solidarity work: convening, fundraising, capacity building, advocacy and raising awareness. The report also notes how some Canadian civil society groups are supporting LGBTI refugees.

We note that Canadian organizations and global LGBTI organizations sometimes differed in their assessments of how Canadian civil society could best promote the human rights of LGBTI people. In comparison to the Canadian survey, global survey respondents were much more likely to cite convening, fundraising and capacity building as ways in which Canadian organizations could best engage in global solidarity work. Canadian organizations, in contrast, were more likely to identify advocacy and

awareness raising as important roles for Canadian civil society to play.

Additionally, global survey respondents were more adamant about the importance of enabling local organizations to take the lead and were more critical about certain kinds of advocacy strategies (particularly boycotting).

A compendium of case studies that highlights projects undertaken by Canadian organizations is included as a companion to this report. The themes from these case studies are highlighted in the report, including lessons learned and promising practices.

2. About the report

WHAT IS THIS REPORT'S PURPOSE?

The purpose of this report is two-fold:

- To highlight the range of strategies and collaborations that Canadian civil society organizations have developed to support LGBTI human rights globally, and
- To provide lessons learned, new ideas, suggestions and resources to organizations who are doing or who aspire to do LGBTI global engagement work.

WHAT METHODS WERE USED?

This report used a mixed-methods approach to data collection, including two online surveys, a series of interviews with leaders of civil society organizations and a literature review of global LGBTI solidarity work.

Surveys: A short, online survey about Canadian organizations' interest and experience in global solidarity work was circulated in May and June of 2015, to which 55 organizations responded (see Appendix A for an overview of these organizations). An online survey about international LGBTI organizations' experiences in global solidarity work was also

distributed, to which 21 organizations from around the world responded. (See Appendix B for an overview of the regional scope and nature of these organizations). We circulated these surveys through contacts made available by the WorldPride Human Rights Conference and through personal contacts of Dignity Initiative's Steering Committee Members. The size, scale, regional focuses and thematic focuses of LGBTI organizations differ dramatically throughout the globe and in Canada; while this survey helps capture some of this diversity, it is meant to serve as a very preliminary snapshot, with the understanding that more in-depth and large-scale research is also required.

Interviews: The data collected through these two surveys were supplemented by interviews with 21 Canadian civil society organizations. Our research team sought to profile organizations whose work represented diverse, effective and important strategies for advancing LGBTI human rights globally. The selection of organizations interviewed was based partially on survey data; efforts were also made to profile organizations from diverse areas, including academic institutions,

Pride festivals, unions and organizations focused on the arts, community service, faith, human rights, international development and sports and recreation. We recognize that there are projects and organizations working on international LGBTI issues in Canada that are not profiled in this report and we hope that this information can be updated in the coming years.

Literature Review: In addition to primary data collection, our research integrated a review of several recent documents produced in other countries or regions regarding the possibilities and limitations of conducting global solidarity work.

LIMITATIONS OF LANGUAGE

We recognize the limitations of using the terms lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex. There is a spectrum of gender identity and sexual diversity both in Canada and around the world and there are many other words in various languages to describe this diversity, reflecting the culturally and historically-specific ways in which sexual and gender identities are recognized and expressed. For example, in Canada, the term "two-spirited" is used by and within Indigenous communities, reflecting the history among some peoples of describing those who differed from gender norms and crossed gender boundaries as carrying both male and female spirits. We use LGBTI because it is widely understood in the Canadian context and in international settings, but acknowledge its limitations.



**SOME MEMBERS FROM THE WORLDPRIDE HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.
CREDIT: BONHAM CENTRE**

3. Introduction

Canadian civil society has a long tradition of supporting global solidarity work for human rights. This report examines how Canadian civil society has built on these traditions in recent years in their support for the human rights of LGBTI people around the world.

Within Canada, the last few decades have seen tremendous advances in strengthening the human rights of LGBTI people domestically. With the leadership of grassroots organizers, human rights groups and advocates, progressive religious groups, unions and educational institutions, Canada has (mostly) decriminalized consensual sex between men, has implemented anti-discrimination laws, has included sexual orientation in hate crime legislation, has recognized same-sex re-

lationships in law (including equal marriage rights), has taken steps to address harassment of LGBTI youth and has started to make health services more accessible to LGBTI individuals. Canada remains one of a limited number of countries with constitutional protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation (via a Supreme Court of Canada ruling in 1995); on May 17 of 2016, the federal government also introduced legislation guaranteeing legal and human rights protection for transgender individuals. Canada was also one of the first countries in the world to recognize persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity as valid grounds for obtaining refugee status.

As the global struggle for advancing the human rights of LGBTI

people gains greater visibility, a growing number of Canadian organizations are also asking what they can do in support of international movements. High-profile human rights violations, including legislative developments or legal setbacks in countries such as Russia, Uganda, Nigeria and Jamaica – which Canadian non-governmental organizations or media have helped publicize – have contributed to public interest in this topic. Many diaspora communities in Canada have organized in solidarity with LGBTI communities in their countries of origin. The last decade has also seen a number of Canadian international development NGOs integrate sexual and gender diversity into their programming. Canadian Pride festivals have begun to develop international solidarity initiatives and more Ca-

CANADA COULD HELP THE GLOBAL LGBTI MOVEMENT AND MAKE THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE SAFER BY ADVOCATING FOR THE DIRECT INCLUSION OF SOGI IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND GLOBAL DEBATES. CANADA CAN HELP BY FUNDING GRASS-ROOTS INITIATIVES AROUND THE GLOBE AND BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS TO LEARN AND SHARE ...”

DASTAN KASMAMYTOV, COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & RESEARCH, KYRGYZSTAN

Canadian academics are doing work on global LGBTI issues. Within the past decade, Canada has hosted two major international conferences on global LGBTI human rights - the 2006 Outgames International Conference on LGBT Human Rights in Montreal and the 2014 WorldPride Human Rights Conference in Toronto. Both of these events were important catalysts for many communities and organizations in Canada in recognizing the importance of learning what is happening around the world and of supporting such human rights struggles abroad.

Recent events have also powerfully demonstrated that well-intentioned efforts to advance the human rights of LGBTI people can either stall or even backfire in particular contexts. While recent years have seen tremendous gains for the human rights of LGBTI people in countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Mozambique and Vietnam (among many others), we have also seen increased hostility and repression in an alarming number of countries, particularly in Eastern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa. In these cases, even where there are local voices and organizations calling for change, advocacy for the human rights of LGBTI people is often mischaracterized as a Western imposition. This can make advocacy emanating from countries such as Canada even more challenging because such efforts may reinforce a dynamic in which human rights abuses and repressive laws are “justified” in the name of “defending national values or culture” and of resisting “Western imperialism.” International support may be needed and welcomed by local activists in some contexts, but such support can also complicate struggles or make local activism even more difficult or dangerous in other contexts.

This report is designed to help Canadian organizations navigate these complex dynamics. To do so, we will first underline some important principles underpinning effective solidarity work. Next, we will draw on the survey findings to expand on the five most frequently cited roles that Canadian organizations can play in advancing the human rights of LGBTI people globally, namely convening, fundraising, capacity building, advocacy and awareness raising. A brief overview of Canadian civil society’s work in advancing the human rights of LGBTI refugees is also provided. Additionally, this report is accompanied by a compendium of case studies that highlight the range of ways in which Canadian civil society are involved in this work.



CREDIT: ICS CENTRE (WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ICSVN)

4. Findings

PRINCIPLES UNDERLINING GOOD SOLIDARITY WORK

Partnership

“WE HAVE SEEN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHO HAVE COME IN AND NOT COOPERATIVELY ENGAGED WITH THE EXISTING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UNDERMINED THEIR EFFORTS, EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE”
– SHIVANA SINGH, TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST, FIJI

Partnering with local activists and organizations is vital for effective and sustainable solidarity work. It can also be very difficult to do well. In our surveys, numerous international and Canadian respondents highlighted the importance of enabling local activists and organizations to take the lead. Setting up clear expectations within partnerships (whether these are informal

collaborations or more formal agreements) was also highlighted as an important pillar to effective solidarity work.

The importance of partnership is also well articulated in the guiding principles of the Amsterdam Network, a network of LGBTI organizations from over twelve countries in Western Europe and North America. In a document outlining this Network’s guiding principles, it was noted that:

“True change comes from within a society. Our role as foreign NGO advocates is to support and contribute to that change from the outside, not to supplant it or direct it in any way. When engaging outside of one’s own country, it is important to recognize who is the agent of change or ‘owner’ of the process of change.... Things to remember include: who is speaking on behalf of who, how

inclusive is the coordination process (who is at the table?) and who is coordinating who and in whose interest.”¹

Diversity

It should also be noted that LGBTI activists and organizations rarely speak with a single, unified voice in any country. Organizations and activists differ in opinions, approaches and constituencies. In light of these dynamics, it is vital that Canadian individuals and organizations connect, consult and partner broadly when doing global solidarity work. Otherwise, the voices of the most marginalized members of an LGBTI community risk being excluded and well-intentioned efforts might overlook any number of important considerations. Further, the term LGBTI itself is unlikely to adequately cover the wide range of identities, experiences, and terminologies that may exist within a particular region. Investing time into

understanding the complexities and local nuances of sexual orientation and gender identity is critical to ensuring that solidarity work is inclusive and locally relevant.

Humility and Awareness of Context

While countries in Western Europe and North America may have valuable insights into LGBTI advocacy work, most of these same countries had also criminalized consensual same-sex relations until quite recently. Further, about half of the world's anti-LGBTI legislation stems directly from colonial laws that powers like the United Kingdom had imposed on its colonies.²

Today, religious movements from

a number of North American and Western European countries are contributing to the spread of homophobia and transphobia throughout the world. In light of this troubling history and present, it is important for actors in countries like Canada to avoid simplistic assumptions about the nature of intolerance towards LGBTI people globally, and to reflect critically on the kinds of roles that Canadian activists and organizations should play.

Thinking about one's position as a Western organization also matters because of the erroneous but common perception that LGBTI identities and the notion of universal enjoyment of fundamental human rights – including by LGBTI people – are Western

impositions. In our surveys, both Canadian and international organizations acknowledged the importance of engaging in this work with humility and with a strong understanding of the diversity of local contexts. This does not necessarily mean that Canadian organizations should feel paralyzed or unable to contribute to any kind of positive change; however, Canadian organizations should become intimately aware of the local context and should assess how best to respond with an open mind and through extensive dialogue with local actors.

MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE FOR SOUTH ASIAN AIDS PREVENTION AT A TORONTO DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE RECRIMINALIZATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN INDIA. CREDIT: ALLIANCE FOR SOUTH ASIAN AIDS PREVENTION



ROLES FOR CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS TO PLAY ABROAD

An overview of the survey results:

We surveyed international LGBTI organizations on the role that they thought Canada and Canadian organizations should play in support of the human rights of LGBTI people, to which 21 individuals responded. A similar survey was circulated to Canadian organizations, to which 55 individuals responded.

Global survey respondents were careful to note that particular forms of collaboration are likely to be more useful than others; interestingly, these responses sometimes differed from the

roles that Canadian organizations perceived as most important. The graphic below illustrates these contrasting views regarding the most significant roles for Canadian organizations to play in global solidarity work.

Global survey respondents identified convening (43%), fundraising (38%) and capacity building (33%) as three of the most important roles that Canadian organizations could play; in contrast, Canadian respondents singled out advocacy (39%) and awareness-raising (26.5%) as the two most significant roles for Canadian organizations. Further,

while 4% of Canadian organizations suggested that Canadian organizations should support boycotts, 0% of global survey respondents issued this recommendation. In fact, in response to a question about which practices should be avoided, 10% of these organizations identified boycotts as an unhelpful strategy.

Significantly, international LGBTI organizations also introduced several possibilities for collaboration that were not frequently identified within the Canadian survey responses. Several organizations highlighted the



possibility of collaborating with the private sector, noting that a number of corporations that position themselves in support of LGBTI human rights within Canada are loathe to do so abroad.

Additionally, several global survey respondents noted that Canadian organizations are uniquely positioned to engage in global advocacy work since Canada's multiculturalism provides opportunities to engage strategically with members of the diaspora to build support for the rights of LGBTI people, including in their countries of origin. Sometimes, these possibilities for collaboration have yet to be adequately tapped into.

In contrast, many Canadian organizations highlighted the value and importance of improving policies and services for LGBTI refugees and asylum-seekers, noting that many gaps and challenges persist within Canada's current framework for accepting refugees in general and LGBTI refugees in particular. Several Canadian respondents also emphasized the importance of stemming the export of homophobia and transphobia from Canada.³ Finally and significantly, a considerable number of Canadian

survey respondents articulated a need to better understand who within Canada is working on LGBTI rights globally, and how might like-minded organizations collaborate more effectively in planning, funding, implementing and/or communicating about global solidarity work. This is a clear gap in Canada: many organizations do not know what other organizations are doing and are consequently unable to collaborate with or support such efforts.

In the next section, we provide a more in-depth examination of how organizations can best fulfill the five most frequently recommended roles for Canadian civil society to play based on the survey results: convening, fundraising, capacity building, advocacy and awareness raising. We have ordered these in the order of importance that these were assigned by global survey respondents. We recognize that, by limiting our focus to these five most frequently cited areas, we are unable to adequately examine certain vital forms of solidarity and collaboration. In particular, work to support the rights of LGBTI refugees and asylum-seekers is a vital and under-resourced area of work in Canada and abroad. Support

to LGBTQ refugees from the over 80 countries around the world where homosexuality and transgenderism are punishable is vital. Improvements to Canada's immigration system on global LGBTQ-related issues is important, as is work to improve the services and resources made available to inland refugees/asylum-seekers. We conclude our report with a brief summary of some of the work that is being done in Canada in this field; however, we acknowledge that additional research is needed here.

I. CONVENING AND SHARING BEST PRACTICES

Ten of the twenty-one global survey respondents identified convening (e.g. for meetings or conferences) with the purpose of exchanging experiences as a



Candy Yun at WorldPride 2014.

“IN 2014, I WENT TO WORLDPRIDE. IT WAS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LGBTI MOVEMENT. AFTER THE EVENT I HAD MORE COURAGE AND MOTIVATION, AND IT SHOWED ME WHAT LGBTI SOLIDARITY LOOKS LIKE. I RETURNED TO TORONTO FOR THE SPORTS INCLUSION SUMMIT AT THE TORONTO PANAM PRIDE HOUSE, AND OUR ORGANIZATION DECIDED TO HOST A PRIDE HOUSE AT THE 2018 PYEONGCHANG WINTER OLYMPICS.... FOR EQUALITY, GLOBAL SOLIDARITY IS AN IMPORTANT THING, IT WILL GIVE US ALL A WIDER PERSPECTIVE AND POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD.” – CANDY YUN, KOREAN SEXUAL MINORITY CULTURE AND RIGHTS CENTRE



“WHILE GLOBAL SOLIDARITY BETWEEN LGBTQ MOVEMENTS IS VERY IMPORTANT, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR IT TO BE DONE IN A CAREFUL AND SENSITIVE MANNER. IT IS IMPORTANT TO HEAR THE VOICES OF QUEER MOVEMENTS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE WEST AND TO NOT MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THEIR SITUATIONS, STRUGGLES OR PRIORITIES.”– ANNA REKVIASHVILI, GEORGIAN LGBTI ACTIVIST

Anna Rekvashvili at WorldPride 2014.

valuable potential role for Canadian organizations to play. For example, several non-Canadian organizations expressed an interest in better understanding how LGBTI human rights have been integrated into Canadian education systems, while several others expressed an interest in legal advocacy related to LGBTI human rights. Two organizations highlighted an interest in learning more about Canadian organizations’ experience in advocating for trans rights.

It should be noted that convening and sharing best practices are meant to be exchanges of information and strategies. Several global survey respondents were adamant that Canadian organizations needed to treat global activists as equals with valuable insights to share if these kinds of processes were to be effective. Similarly, several respondents highlighted the value of exchanges between global LGBTI activists. In other words, Canadian organizations are sometimes well positioned to provide insights; however, an equally important contribution for Canadian organizations can

be creating spaces in which global LGBTI activists share insights with each other.

HOW HAVE CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED CONVENING AND SHARING BEST PRACTICES?

- The Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies convened hundreds of activists during the WorldPride Human Rights Conference in 2014.
- The Outgames in Montreal in 2006 also convened nearly 2,000 delegates from all over the world at its human rights conference.
- Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights works in constant partnership with other sexual health and rights organizations around the world in order to learn, exchange knowledge, and amplify impact.
- Oxfam Canada supported learning and collaboration across developing countries through a project with LGBTI organizations in South Africa, Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

- The Comité de Solidarité Trois-Rivières in Quebec has received funding from the Government of Quebec’s Quebec Without Borders program to develop exchanges between LGBTI activists in Cuba and Trois-Rivières.
- Equitas - International Centre for Human Rights Education also contributes to convening and sharing best practices among LGBTI activists through its annual International Human Rights Training Program in Montreal.
- Pride House at Toronto’s Pan-Am Games in 2015 brought together LGBTI groups from countries planning to host international sporting events, including Brazil, Japan and South Korea, in order to share ideas and learning about how to set up LGBTI inclusive spaces.
- A particularly unique form of sharing comes from the Metropolitan Community Church Toronto, one of Canada’s leading LGBTI faith groups. Every week, the church broadcasts its inclusive Sunday services



Delegation of young Québec LGBTI rights activists with José Martínez, representative of the CPPVIH-sida de Bayamo during internship in Québec. (Credit: Comité de Solidarité Trois-Rivières)

online. To date viewers from 136 countries have logged on to view the services.

- In Toronto, the El-Tawjid Juma Circle's Unity Mosque has a partnership with The Inner Circle in Cape Town, which supports LGBTI Muslims around the world.
- The United Church of Canada translated a study guide documenting its journey towards LGBTI inclusion into Spanish. The guide has been shared with partner congregations in Latin America.

HOW CAN CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS HELP:

- Develop conferences or symposia that involve LGBTI activists from around the

world and dedicate funds to subsidize their attendance.

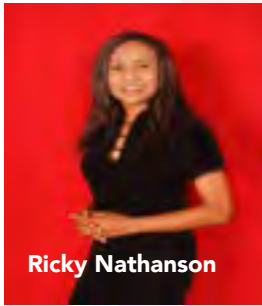
- Reach out to some of the organizations mentioned above in order to learn from their experiences and to inquire about opportunities for collaboration.
- Reach out to global initiatives that are engaged with this work, such as the Council for Global Equality (a US-based council that regularly brings together international human rights activists and LGBTI leaders) or the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum (an annual global convening of international LGBTI activists from human rights, legal, artistic and religious backgrounds), to

inquire about opportunities for collaboration or support and to inquire about opportunities for collaboration.

- Consider putting resources towards online resources, including videos, reports



PanAm Games Pride House at The 519 Church Street Community Centre, Toronto (Credit: The 519 Community Centre)



Ricky Nathanson

“FUNDING IS A CRUCIAL COMPONENT OF THE WORK DONE BY ACTIVISTS. PASSION, DETERMINATION AND COURAGE ARE CRUCIAL IN OUR FIGHT, BUT WITHOUT MONEY NOTHING CAN BE ACHIEVED. DONORS SHOULD LOOK BEYOND FINANCING ONLY PROJECT ACTIVITIES, BUT ALSO LOOK AT ASSISTING WITH CORE FUNDING, WITHOUT WHICH ORGANIZATIONS CANNOT EXIST. ACTIVISTS CANNOT SURVIVE ON PASSION ALONE.” -RICKY NATHANSON, BOARD MEMBER OF THE SEXUAL RIGHTS CENTRE, MEMBER OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN TRANS* FORUM, MEMBER OF THE ALL AFRICA TRANS COMMITTEE AND FOUNDER OF TRANS RESEARCH, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND TRAINING (TREAT)

and podcasts. Social media is also a way to engage and connect with global LGBTI activists.

II. FUNDING

38% of global organizations underscored the importance of financial support for core organizational needs, projects, emergency response mechanisms and/or advocacy work. Surprisingly, only 12% of Canadian survey respondents identified funding as a role for Canadian organizations to play.

Financial support can be a critical way for Canadian civil society to support global efforts to advance the human rights of LGBTI people. However, finding effective and efficient funding channels can be challenging.

Several global LGBTI organizations who had worked with Western donors in the past discussed the need for more flexible, time-sensitive funding with less onerous reporting requirements. In the words of one Indonesian organization, “most grants require an amount of bureaucracy and time that prevents us from acting quickly on very urgent human rights.”

Several Canadian survey respondents highlighted the difficulties in offering financial support to global LGBTI organizations. For example, Canadian organizations that are interested in fundraising to support international organizations’ work may not have an ability to verify global organization’s financial accountability or programming. Many emergent LGBTI initiatives are not registered charities in their countries of origin, which can complicate accountability and can sometimes compromise overseas donors’ ability to receive tax receipts for donations.⁴

In a recent report, the US-based Council for Global Equality also noted how overseas funding can sometimes complicate the dynamics of local organizing. More specifically, overseas funding can (a) increase local misperceptions that advocacy for the human rights of LGBTI people is a Western imposition, (b) create resentments within LGBTI movements and within a country’s general public in response to who has and has not received funding and finally, overseas funding can (c) impose donor priorities onto the agenda of grassroots LGBTI movements.⁵

In light of these many complex dynamics, it can be difficult to navigate the best methods through which to financially support LGBTI organizations abroad.

HOW HAVE CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS INITIATIVES?

- The MATCH International Women’s Fund, Canada’s oldest grant-making agency for women’s rights, has provided several grants to LBT women’s organizations in Georgia, Namibia and Uganda.
- The Dignity Initiative has launched a Call to Action and will be holding a roundtable with civil society and government regarding Canada’s foreign policy and immigration policy towards LGBTI people. One of the central recommendations of this effort relates to expanding government-sponsored funding opportunities for local LGBTI activists.
- International development organizations such as Equitas International and Oxfam Canada have worked in partnership with local organizations overseas in



Some of the international partners and staff from Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights meeting in Toronto. Credit: Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights

developing LGBTI programming and funding local organizations.

- Envisioning Global LGBT Rights, a five-year research and documentary film project, dedicated a third of its CAD 1,000,000 budget to funding for partners in India, Africa and the Caribbean in developing local community projects/research.
- Fierté Canada Pride, a network of most Canadian Pride event organizers, is part of the global Inter-Pride network. Through this network, donations from Canadian Prides support the development of Pride events in dozens of countries around the world where there is little financial support.

HOW OTHER CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS CAN HELP:

- Reach out to grant-making organizations such as the MATCH Fund to inquire about supporting the work of LGBTI activists around the world as a donor.
- Promote the Dignity Initiative's Call to Action by writing to your local MP and articulating that you believe overseas development assistance should be expanded and should integrate LGBTI rights programming.
- Connect with local Pride organizations around contributing donations to support Inter-Pride's Global Solidarity Fund.

III. CAPACITY BUILDING

Eight of the 21 global survey respondents highlighted the value of capacity building in a broad range of areas, including legal engagement, leadership

development, HIV/AIDS interventions, research, grant writing, monitoring and evaluation and advocacy.

The diversity in the kinds of capacity building discussed above suggests that "one-size-fits-all" trainings or programming are unlikely to adequately address the specific needs and wants of specific organizations. Further research is required in order to better understand what different organizations mean by "capacity building" and how would organizations prefer to engage in such capacity-building initiatives.

HOW HAVE CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN CAPACITY BUILDING IN SUPPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBTI PEOPLE?

- Egale Canada Human Rights Trust has shared their experiences of addressing violence towards LGBTI people in Canada with officials in

the Balkan and Baltic States. Egale has trained police services, social workers and educators in these regions, and partnered with the Williams Institute (UCLA) and the Government of Montenegro to develop a series of education and training programs for the Western Balkans.

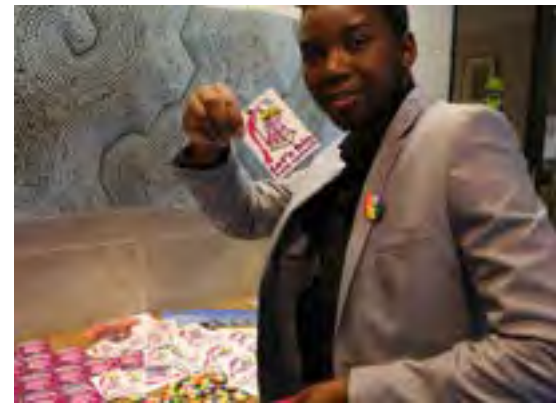
- ARC International has supported LGBTI organizations from around the world in learning how to navigate and effectively engage with UN agencies and institutions, including the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review process in which states’ overall human rights performance is reviewed by other states who raise questions and make recommendations.

“IN CANADA, HUMAN RIGHTS FOR LGBT PEOPLE ARE RESPECTED ON A HIGH LEVEL. IN UKRAINE WE ARE STILL FIGHTING FOR BASIC RIGHTS FOR LGBT PEOPLE. TODAY CANADA AND CANADIANS CAN SUPPORT PROGRAMS WE RUN IN UKRAINE; WORKING WITH AUTHORITIES, LAW MAKERS, MEDICAL SPECIALISTS AND THE PUBLIC TO HELP DEVELOP THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING THE EXISTING LEGISLATION ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY ISSUES. CANADA AND CANADIANS HAVE A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCE TO SHARE. WE CAN MAKE CHANGES TOGETHER.” – OLENA SEMENOVA, CO-CHAIR UKRAINIAN LGBT ASSOCIATION LIGA AND CO-FOUNDER OF KYIVPRIDE CANADA

- Through its partnership with the Sexual Rights Initiative, Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights has collaborated with over 150 local and regional activists to raise sexual rights in stakeholder submissions at the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, published an online UPR toolkit for sexual rights advocates, and developed innovative web based tools to assist activists and government officials in their sexual rights research and advocacy strategies.
- The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network has conducted police training initiatives in several Caribbean countries.
- International development organizations and grant-making agencies like Equitas International, MATCH International and Oxfam Canada often integrate various forms of capacity building into multi-year partnerships with global LGBTI organizations.

HOW OTHER CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS CAN HELP:

- Reach out to some of the organizations noted above to learn more about their work and to inquire as to whether financial, material, or in-kind resources could be utilized
- If your organization has relationships with LGBTI activists from outside of Canada, identify whether there are particular areas in which they are interested in



Mojalife Mokoete, from Sexual Rights Centre in Zimbabwe (an Oxfam Canada partner), sharing their organization’s campaign “Let’s Bin Hate Speech.” Credit: Oxfam Canada

developing greater capacity. Next, research if other Canadian organizations would be well positioned to provide such insights and assess whether any opportunities for learning from other non-Canadian organizations might exist.

IV. ADVOCACY

Of the 33% of global survey respondents who indicated that Canadian civil society should engage in advocacy work, 14% (approximately half) specified that this kind of advocacy work should be directed towards the Canadian government. More specifically, these organizations articulated an interest in having greater diplomatic and financial support from Canadian High Commissions and Embassies around the world.

It should be noted that not a single organization requested that their government be targeted by Canadian organizations unless such advocacy work was informed by the specific requests, knowledge and insight of local

“STRATEGIC AND MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS LIKE ENVISIONING GLOBAL LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS HELPED GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS LIKE SEXUAL MINORITIES UGANDA (SMUG) BUILD OUR RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION BASE WHICH HAS RESULTED IN LOCALS TELLING THEIR OWN STORIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES THROUGH FILM AND AUDIO. SUCH PARTNERSHIPS OUGHT BE ENCOURAGED AS THEY BUILD THE CAPACITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS AS OPPOSED TO IMPOSING WHAT WOULDN’T WORK IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT”

- RICHARD LUSIMBO, RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION OFFICER, SMUG



activists. Further, when asked, “what strategies do you think Canadian organizations should avoid,” a number of global organizations highlighted how advocacy efforts can be counter-productive and/or unwanted in certain situations.

In other words, while many global survey respondents do believe that advocacy support can be effective in particular contexts, these same respondents are also adamant that foreign organizations refrain from engaging in such advocacy work unless this is done in consultation and partnership with local activists and organizations.

HOW HAVE CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBTI PEOPLE?

- Many Canadian organizations had engaged in effective advocacy work for decades but – following

audits of organizations that were deemed to conduct too much advocacy work under the previous Canadian government – many organizations had distanced themselves from explicitly engaging in advocacy work at a domestic or global level.

- The Dignity Initiative has released a Call to Action, which seeks to expand Canadian foreign policy and refugee policy to better integrate the human rights of LGBTI people.
- The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network has hired a leading gay Jamaican human rights lawyer and provided an administrative home for him to engage in legal challenges and advocacy training back in the Caribbean.
- ARC International has supported LGBTI organizations in conducting their own advocacy work by supporting organizations’ efforts to be seen and heard in the UN system.
- Action Canada has also supported LGBTI organizations in conducting their own advocacy work by supporting organizations’ and activists’ efforts to be seen and heard in the UN system.

- The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association’s (ILGA) North America branch has engaged in global advocacy work through its collaboration with ILGA World. Additionally, Egale’s Executive Director currently sits as one of ILGA’s two International Co-Secretaries General.
- The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention in Toronto, an organization that has many staff and clients born in India, participated in the Global Day of Rage against Sec. 377 of the Indian Penal Code that criminalized homosexuality. The group used social media to amplify their advocacy events and one of their event photos went viral across both Canada and India.
- In keeping with one of its long-standing modes of action, Amnesty International Canada supports letter-writing campaigns in which individuals write to foreign governments to demand the release of LGBTI prisoners of conscience and to speak out against other abuses of international human rights standards directed against LGBTI people.

GLOBAL SURVEY RESPONDENTS' ANSWERS TO "WHAT PRACTICES OR STRATEGIES DO YOU THINK CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD AVOID?"

"SPEAKING OUT WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL CONTEXT."

"DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS/CONFLICT WITH NEUTRAL GOVERNMENTS."

"AVOID FINGER WAGGING TO GOVERNMENT."

"CANADIAN GROUPS SHOULD AVOID AN ARROGANT TONE WHILE TRYING TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO REGIONAL OR NATIONAL PROBLEMS; THEY SHOULD ALWAYS CONSULT WITH LOCAL OR NATIONAL NGOS BEFORE TAKING ACTION."

"CANADIAN GROUPS SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS GROUPS TRYING TO PRESSURIZE THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH POLITICAL PARTIES AS THAT INVARIABLY BOOMERANGS."

"GENERAL DECLARATIONS WITHOUT CONCRETE ENGAGEMENT IN CONCRETE SITUATIONS OF LOCAL LGBT COMMUNITIES."

"WE HAVE SEEN OTHER ORGANISATIONS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHO HAVE COME IN AND NOT COOPERATIVELY ENGAGED WITH THE EXISTING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND UNDERMINED THEIR EFFORTS, EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE."

"INTRUDING IN THE WORK OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES OR POLITICIANS WITHOUT APPROPRIATE ROAD MAPS. THE SITUATION MUST BE STUDIED PROPERLY BEFORE ACTION."

"PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO WITHDRAW AID OR ANY KIND OF SUPPORT BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT COULD BE MISINTERPRETED."



ARC International pictured in an event with Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights. Credit: Envisioning

HOW OTHER CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS CAN HELP:

- Do not speak out or advocate for change in other countries without some assurance that local activists are looking for this particular kind of help.
- Connect with groups like the Dignity Initiative, ILGA-North America, or Amnesty International in order to join broader movements for change.
- Let federal MPs and the Canadian government know you are in favour of carefully considered support on the part of the Canadian government for the work of LGBTI human rights defenders internationally, including financial support to help local advocates and organizations in leading advocacy work on the ground.

V. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

Promoting awareness about global struggles to advance the human rights of LGBTI people can be valuable for several reasons: in addition to making these issues more salient, they can also help quickly mobilize support in instances where financial resources, knowledge-sharing, or advocacy support from Canadian organizations can be well-utilized. Raising awareness can also help dispel certain myths about LGBTI advocacy. For example, effective outreach can not only help draw Canadians’ attention to the fact that consensual same-sex relations are criminalized in 75 countries around the world, but can also showcase how many countries in the Global South have taken on leadership roles in advancing the human rights of LGBTI people locally and internationally.

HOW HAVE CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN EFFECTIVE AWARENESS-RAISING WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBTI PEOPLE?

- Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights, a five-year research and documentary project hosted at York University, amplified the voices of global LGBTI activists and refugees through film-making and through a wide-range of research reports and online materials.
- Through the support of LGBTI coordinators, Amnesty International connects local Amnesty groups with information about LGBTI human rights defenders around the world.
- KyivPride Canada is a grassroots organization that seeks to raise awareness and support of the LGBTI

community in Ukraine. The group has sponsored delegations of LGBTI activists from Ukraine to participate in Canada Pride events.

- The United Food and Commercial Workers' Union (UFCW) has played an important role in supporting awareness-raising opportunities. For example, the UFCW helped to sponsor the WorldPride Human Rights Conference and connected UFCW members with LGBTI human rights defenders like Mariela Castro.
- Centennial College in Toronto developed an LGBTI learning experience program in which 14 students learned about the human rights of LGBTI people through meetings with international NGOs and visiting international LGBTI rights organizations in New York City.
- Fierté Montréal Pride, Toronto Pride and Vancouver Pride Society festivals foster partnerships with global LGBTI activists and profile these organizations' or individuals' leadership during Pride festivals.
- Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto partnered with It's a Freedom Thing Theater to stage the LGBTI-focused play "Just You, Me and the Silence" by

Ugandan playwright Judy Adong. The project brought the playwright to Toronto along with Kenyan author, Binyavanga Wainaina for a discussion and townhall event on how Canadians could support LGBTI rights in East Africa.

HOW OTHER CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS CAN

HELP:

- Review the wide range of online materials that organizations like Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and ILGA have developed.
- Connect with some of the groups mentioned above to learn more about what kinds of resources are available and/or what lessons have been learned in efforts to promote awareness-raising in Canada.
- Consider sponsoring projects and programs that support raising awareness about the global human rights of LGBTI people and communities.



Members of Fierté Montréal Pride marching with members of Kyiv Pride, Ukraine, summer 2015. Credit: Fierté Montréal Pride



Reading of It's a Freedom Thing Theatre's "Just, You, Me and the Silence" by Ugandan playwright Judy Adong, at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Toronto. Credit: Alejandro Santiago.



Students from Centennial College on a study tour to New York City on global LGBTI human rights. Credit: Centennial College, Toronto.

SUPPORTING LGBTI REFUGEES TO CANADA HOW HAVE CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED LGBTI REFUGEES?

One way that many Canadians have worked to support human rights for LGBTI people globally has been through assisting and sponsoring LGBTI refugees to Canada. Grassroots organizations interested in sponsoring refugees have sprung up in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver over the past decade. In 2001, the Rainbow Refugee Committee became active in Vancouver, one of the first such groups. In 2006, a group of activists in Toronto created Rainbow Railroad, an organization that provides direct assistance to LGBTI individuals seeking safe haven from dangerous situations. Rainbow Railroad has provided financial support, information and resources in order to help to find sanctuary for over 130 individuals, primarily from Jamaica, Nigeria and Uganda.

In 2011, the North Star Triangle Project, led by Ottawa refugee activist, David Pepper, conducted a 21-city tour across Canada to raise awareness about how

groups of Canadians could sponsor/support LGBTI refugees. Because of this tour more volunteer-run private sponsorship groups were set up, including the Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia and Reaching Out in Winnipeg.

In recent years, a number of community-based agencies across Canada have also begun to develop refugee settlement programs for refugees already in Canada. AGIR was set up in 2008 in Montreal to provide support to LGBTI refugees and immigrants. In Toronto, several community organizations including the 519 Church Street Community Centre, Access Alliance Community Health Centre and the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, and Egale provide varying forms of settlement counseling and support for LGBTI refugees. In Vancouver in 2014, a charitable fundraising organization called Foundation of Hope was set up to raise private funds for Canadian charities supporting LGBTI refugees and newcomers.

“CANADIAN CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS CAN BE IMPORTANT PARTNERS WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN HELPING WITH THE SPONSORSHIP AND SETTLEMENT OF LGBTI REFUGEES. MANY OF US ARE ALSO HOPEFUL THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WILL EXPEDITE WAITING TIMES AND MAKE THE BLENDED PROGRAM PERMANENT, THUS ALLOWING US TO SUPPORT MORE LGBTI REFUGEES TO CANADA.”

–DANNY RAMADAN, LGBTI REFUGEE ADVOCATE.



5. CONCLUSIONS: NEXT STEPS

This report has highlighted the most frequently cited ways in which Canadian organizations can engage in effective advocacy to promote the human rights of LGBTI people around the world. In doing so, several key observations become clear. First, an impressive number of Canadian organizations are already working in collaboration with activists from around the world. Second, an even larger number of Canadian organizations are keen to support global solidarity work, but are unsure of how to engage in this work respectfully and effectively. More communication between Canadian organizations is needed. Finally, global survey respondents repeatedly emphasized that good intentions are not enough: global solidarity work must be done in partnership and in constant dialogue with local activists and organizations. We encourage groups

to not “reinvent the wheel” but to instead connect with existing organizations – in Canada and globally – that are already engaged in this work.

This report has also highlighted several areas for future research and inquiry. For example, several global survey respondents highlighted an interest in engaging more with the private sector in Canada and in other Western countries. This research has also highlighted some of the barriers to supporting global LGBTI movements through fundraising; further research is required in this area in order to better understand whether/how some of these barriers can be removed.

Additionally, survey respondents from Canada and around the world highlighted the importance of research partnerships and engagement with religious organizations. While these areas are not highlighted in depth

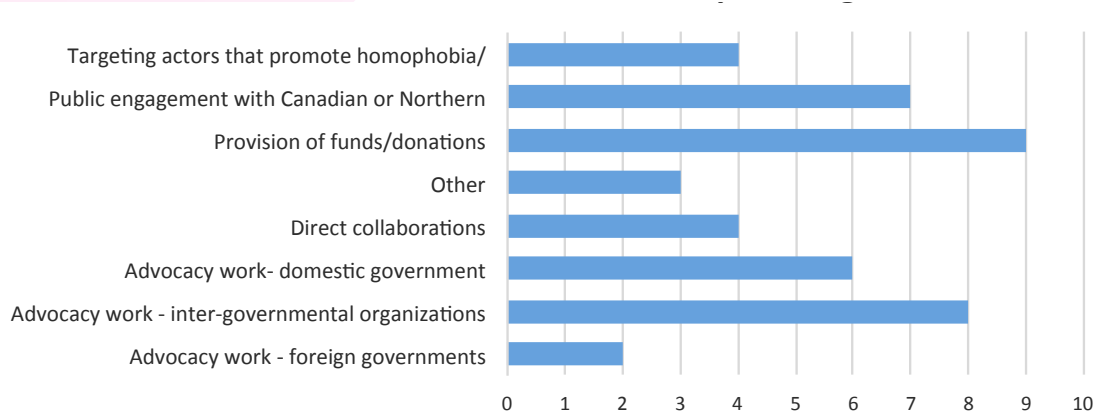
within this report, excellent examples of such research can be found in this report’s accompanying compendium, *Global Solidarity: Canadian Organizations’ Best Practices in Advancing the Human Rights of LGBTI People Globally*. The compendium includes details from civil society organizations on their work related to the human rights of LGBTI people globally.

Our hope is that this report helps build connections across civil society organizations in Canada and abroad that engage in this kind of work. Through strengthened collaboration, coordination and communication, it is our belief that Canadian civil society can and will engage strategically and carefully in advancing the human rights of LGBTI people globally in the years ahead.

Appendix A: Canadian Survey Respondents

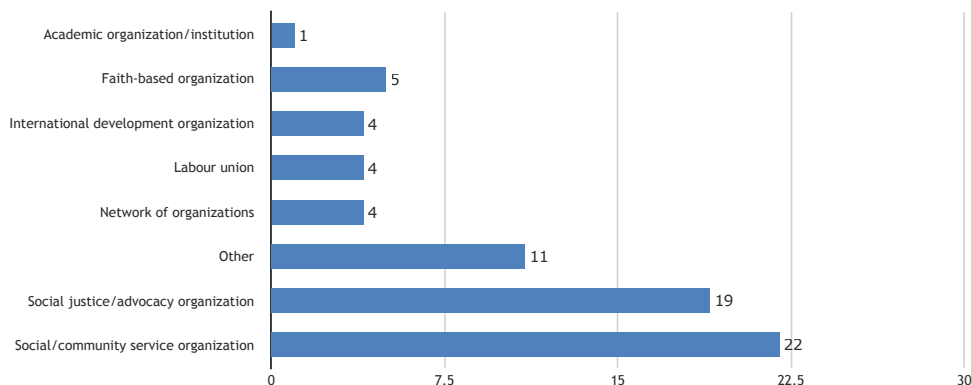
As was discussed in the section, “About This Report,” we received 55 responses to our Canadian survey. The graph below demonstrates the breadth of work that these respondents’ organizations are engaged in (respondents were invited to select as many organizational types as seemed fitting or relevant for their organization).

Nature of Canadian Organizations’ Work to Advance LGBTI Human Rights Globally



Of these respondents, 34 (70.8%) organizations reported that they had previously engaged in work to advance LGBTI human rights globally. The variety of types of organizations has been summarized below.

Organizational Types - Canadian Survey Respondents

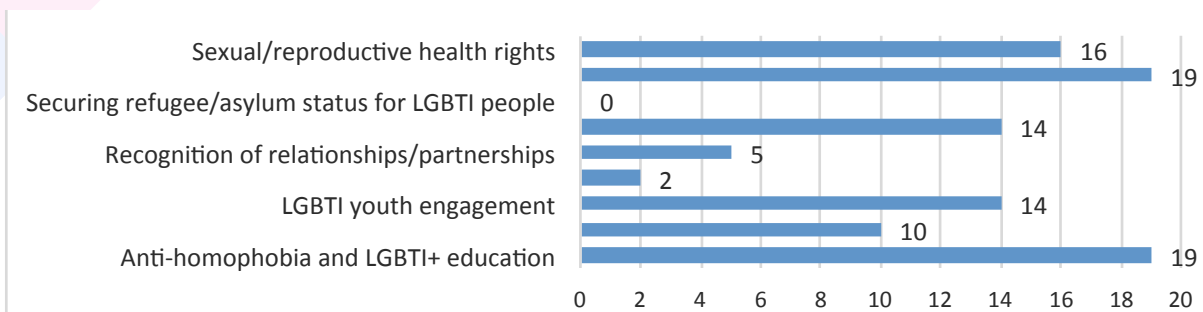


Appendix B: Global Survey Respondents

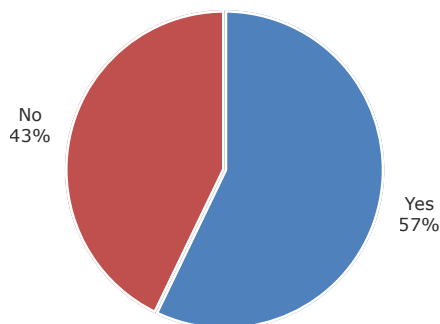
We received responses from local civil society human rights organizations from the following countries or regions:

Bangladesh	India	Trinidad and Tobago
Belarus	Indonesia (2)	Turkey
Central Asia	Jamaica	Uganda
China, Hong Kong and/or Taiwan (3)	Nigeria	Ukraine
Fiji Islands/Pacific Region	Pakistan	Vietnam
Guyana	Russia	
	Thailand	

Global Organizations' Areas of Work



Among the 21 organizations who responded to the global survey, over half (12) reported that they have previously engaged with Canadian or Northern-based organizations.



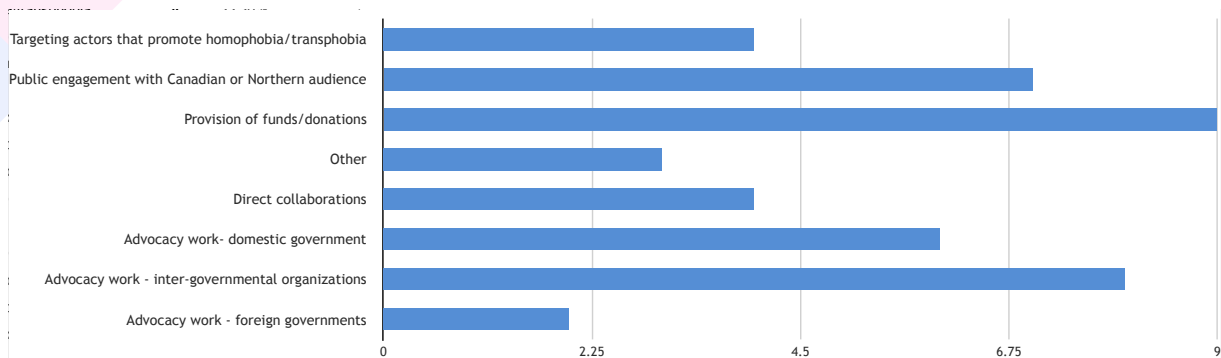
Percentage of global organizational respondents who had previously engaged with Canadian or Western European organizations

Appendix B: Global Survey Respondents

We received responses from local civil society human rights organizations from the following countries or regions:

Bangladesh	India	Trinidad and Tobago
Belarus	Indonesia (2)	Turkey
Central Asia	Jamaica	Uganda
China, Hong Kong and/or Taiwan (3)	Nigeria	Ukraine
Fiji Islands/Pacific Region	Pakistan	Vietnam
Guyana	Russia	
	Thailand	

Nature of Collaboration with Canadian or Western European Organizations



Endnotes

¹ The Amsterdam Network, "[The Amsterdam Network Guiding Principles \(Version 1.1\): A Discussion Paper](#)," November 2013.

² For example, over half of the world's laws criminalizing "sodomy" or "buggery" are vestiges of British colonial legislation. A. Gupta, A. [This Alien Legacy: The Origins of "Sodomy" Laws in British Colonialism](#). Human Rights Watch, 2008.

³ For a more in-depth discussion on this topic, please see the Dignity Initiative's other report, "[Advancing Dignity: Assessing Canada's Global Action on Human Rights for LGBTI People](#)," Dignity Initiative, May 2016.

⁴ Under Canadian law, registered charitable organizations can raise funds, for which tax receipts are issued, to support international work; however, that international work must be "charitable" in nature – which can include some forms of human rights advocacy but also comes with some restrictions. And while the Canadian organization issuing the tax receipts for charitable donations can certainly collaborate and work through local organizations to carry out those charitable activities, it must be able to demonstrate some degree of involvement and control over the activities to ensure they comply with the requirements that apply when tax receipts are issued to donors. If funds raised are not to be receipted as donations for charitable activity, then there is more flexibility.

⁵ Council for Global Equality. "[Conference to Advance the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex \(LGBTI\) Persons](#)," November 2014.

Global Solidarity: Canadian Organizations' Best Practices in Advancing the Human Rights of LGBTI People Globally

A Compendium to the Dignity Initiative Report "Solidarity for Dignity: Insights for Canadian Organizations Working Globally to Support the Human Rights of LGBTI People."

Academic Institutions:

- Centennial College
- Envisioning Global LGBT Rights
- WorldPride Human Rights Conference & Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies

Arts, Culture & Sports:

- Fierté Montréal Pride
- It's a Freedom Thing Theatre & Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
- Pride House

Community Service Organizations:

- Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention
- Comité de Solidarité Trois-Riveres
- Rainbow Railroad
- Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia

Faith-Based Organizations

- El-Tawhid Mosque
- Metropolitan Community Church Toronto
- United Church of Canada

Human Rights and/or Development Organizations

- Amnesty International Canada
- ARC International
- Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
- Equitas
- MATCH International
- Oxfam Canada

Unions

- UFCW

NOTE: if you think that any additional organizations should be profiled in this compendium (including your own organization), please contact erin.m.aylward@gmail.com." Revised versions of this compendium will be uploaded online on a quarterly basis.

Academic Institutions

- Case study: Centennial College
- Case study: Envisioning Global LGBT Rights
- Case study: World Pride Human Rights Conference/Bonham Centre

Case Study – Envisioning Global LGBT Rights

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Description of Project:

Launched in 2011, Envisioning was a five-year research and documentary film project that researched and documented contemporary movements seeking to remove British colonial laws criminalizing LGBTI people in eight countries. It was a partnership of 31 organizations internationally and in Canada, with research teams in the Caribbean, Africa, India and Canada. The project held international and regional meetings to bring people together from these various movements. Some of the many outputs from this project included documentary films such as *No Easy Walk to Freedom* (India, 90min. 2014), *The Time Has Come* (International 30 min. 2013), *And Still We Rise* (Uganda, 70 min. 2015), many participatory video shorts, research papers and community information handouts. An Envisioning anthology is being compiled for publication by the University of London in 2016.

Rationale for Project:

Since LGBTI human rights are an international struggle, this project sought to bring a cross-border partnership model to issues that are faced by many LGBTI movements in regions where anti-homosexuality laws were imposed under British colonial rule. Envisioning was also premised seeks to share lessons from movements resisting these laws and working to advance LGBT human rights.

Project Logistics:

The project is funded by a CAD 1,000,0000 Community University Research Alliance grant through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The project is housed at the Centre for Feminist Research at York University. Roughly a third of the grant was used to fund international partners' project-related research and documentation, another third of the budget was dedicated to research and knowledge mobilization and the final third of the budget covered staffing costs.

Lessons Learned:

- People on the ground are in the best placed to know local conditions, to research and document these movements and to ensure the safety and security of participants. It is important to involve community partners in all aspects of the work and to foster ownership of the work. This includes collaborating in establishing research goals and methodology, conducting research and documentation, community building, and creating public educational resources. This also includes encouraging dialogue and ensuring that partners and participants are recognized for their contributions and authorship. Further, this requires funding, support and capacity enhancement to local partners.
- Given structural inequality, research should adopt an intersectional approach that incorporates issues of race, gender and class, and should incorporate critical perspectives on neoliberalism/imperialism.
- Where there are security risks, it is important to work with partners on the ground to ensure that research is secure and if necessary taken out of the country.
- It is important to work with partners who have capacity to sustain a partnership and who are recognized leaders in their region.

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Case Study – Centennial College

Project: Global Citizenship WorldPride Project and LGBTI Human Rights Study Tour

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Description of Project:

Centennial College is one of the largest post-secondary colleges in Canada for international students. The college runs a Global Citizenship and Equity Learning Experiences program where groups of students are given the opportunity to participate in service-learning educational trips abroad. About 10-15 trips are organized each year to various parts of the world on various educational themes. In 2013, for the first time, one of these trips was designed around the theme of human rights for LGBTI people around the world. The project involved 14 college students from various disciplines, including 10 Canadian students and four visa students from Venezuela, India, Russia and Nigeria. The students received orientation and training on international LGBTI issues from the Bonham Centre at the University of Toronto, and then spent three days in New York City visiting and interviewing various human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch's LGBT Program, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (now OutRight Action International), and the United Nation's Free and Equal Campaign. Students were given assignments that included blogging and creating videos in order to document their experiences and learning. Upon their return to Toronto, students hosted a Google Hangout online townhall with a dozen LGBTI activists from around the world in May 2014 and also volunteered at the WorldPride Human Rights Conference in June 2014.

Rationale for Project:

Centennial College strongly emphasizes global citizenship and equity. Noting an increased interest in the human rights of LGBTI people, the college saw WorldPride 2014 in Toronto as an opportunity to design an equity learning experience around this theme.

Project Logistics:

This project cost CAD 20,000 and was provided by the college's Global Citizenship and Equity Office. The College also provided staff support for the eight months of the project.

Lessons Learned:

- Ensuring adequate timing for planning and scheduling of the program is critical. This includes investing the time and resources into the development of appropriate partnerships.
- It is important to connect with as many organizations working locally or globally on these issues as possible at the design stage of the project; academic institutions should take direction from people on the ground who are experts in the field and should be respectful of others' knowledge.
- It is important to create an inclusive and safe environment for students.

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<http://www.centennialcollege.ca/programs-courses/centres-institutes/institute-for-global-citizenship-and-equity/>

Case Study – WorldPride Human Rights Conference (Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies and Pride Toronto)

Location: Toronto

Description of Project: The WorldPride Human Rights Conference was held in Toronto in June 2014. The event was organized by the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto and was a partnership with Pride Toronto, the host organization for WorldPride (a broader 10-day cultural LGBTI festival). The conference was held over three days and brought together over 500 LGBTI activists from 52 countries. The event included dozens of sessions and workshops on a range of topics, including religion and homophobia, workplace human rights, education and youth issues, HIV criminalization, legal issues and sex worker rights. The event also included three major public plenaries attended by over 2000 people. These plenaries included leading global voices on human rights for LGBTI people including Frank Mugisha and Richard Lusimbo from Uganda, Tamara Adrian from Venezuela, and Edith Windsor from the United States. A special reception was held for conference delegates hosted by Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor David Onley with a welcome from Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne. The conference received major local and national press in Canada.

Rationale for Project:

The goal of the project was to provide a venue for people from across Canada and around the world interested in human rights for LGBTI people to network, share ideas and strategies, and build relationships. The organizers decided not to prescribe a specific theme or goal for the event, but instead provided an open call for session ideas and created an open space for discussion and networking.

Project Logistics:

The event was a significant undertaking of staff and volunteer resources, with planning starting two years in advance. Funds were raised from external sources, including private corporations, unions and individual donors. The entire cost of the event was approximately \$200,000, with about 50% of that cost dedicated to travel bursaries for about 60 international delegates and presenters. The conference was led by a volunteer steering committee and employed the staff resources of the Bonham Centre for 2 years, including a significant amount of time of the Director of the Bonham Centre and a part-time conference organizer for two years and several part-time staff in the immediate lead-up to the event.

Lessons Learned:

- There were some challenges with Canadian visas for delegates from certain countries; it is critical to build such challenges into timelines for events involving international guests.
- There is tremendous value in convening people together to create personal connections and relationships
- Opportunities for international delegates to attend and participate in other events outside the conference were encouraged and this allowed for more people to meet them

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ARTS & CULTURE & SPORTS-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- Case study: Fierté Montreal Pride
- Case study: It's a Freedom Thing Theatre and Buddies in Bad Times
- Case study: Pride House

Case Study – Fiérté Montréal Pride (FMP)

Project: International Sponsorship and Exchange Program

Location: Montréal, Québec

Description of Project:

Founded in 2007 as an initiative of Montréal's LGBTI communities, Fiérté Montréal Pride (FMP) is now the largest LGBT gathering in the Francophone world. Each year, FMP attracts close to 400,000 local and international visitors during a week of cultural and Community activities, including the Pride Parade and Community Day.

Every year, FMP supports another Pride in a more hostile environment (for example, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine, and Cameroon) by attending their Pride celebration and inviting activists from these regions to Montréal as parade Grand Marshals. Montréal organizers have found that being present at these events brings an increased level of protection. For example, the local Canadian Embassy or High Commission may help with security. The exchange also brings additional visibility to the selected community and its struggles and successes. During Pride in Montréal, the organizers present movies, panel discussions, etc. to educate the local community and to build support for the international Pride. In 2015, FMP organizers marched in Kyiv Pride in Ukraine. In 2016, organizers travelled to participate in Mumbai Pride in India and then hosted LGBTI leaders from India in their festival. In 2017, FMP will host the inaugural Canada Pride, in celebration of Canada's 150th Birthday and will also host a major human rights conference.

Rationale for Project:

FMP recognizes how fortunate LGBTI Canadians are in having achieved a certain level of human rights and thus believes there is a need to share their experience and to support international Pride events in regions where these rights have not yet been secured. Their interest in global solidarity work was also influenced by a desire to build on the legacy of the 2006 Outgames in Montréal, which included the four-day International Conference on LGBT Human Rights and the Declaration of Montréal on LGBT Human Rights (which was submitted to the United Nations).

Project Logistics:

The sponsorship and exchange program costs roughly CAD 15,000 per year and is funded solely by FMP. FMP is funded primarily by private sponsorships and to a lesser extent by government grants.

Lessons Learned:

- In some countries, support is difficult or impossible to provide.
- The visibility brought to international Pride organizers and participants can put lives in danger, e.g. where they are Grand Marshals in Montréal.
- Canadian organizations should be working together and establish national guidelines for greater impact.

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<http://www.fiertemontrealpride.com/en/pride/grand-marshals/>

Case Study – It’s a Freedom Thing Theatre & Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

Project: Just You Me & the Silence

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Description of Project:

It’s a Freedom Thing (IFT) Theatre collaborated with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, the world’s longest running and largest queer theatre to put on a stage reading of the play *Just You, Me and the Silence*, by Ugandan playwright ADONG Lucy Judith. The play, about the new anti-gay laws and the American evangelical movement in Uganda, was directed by Mumbi Tindyebwa of It’s a Freedom Thing Theatre. The event also included a post-play panel discussion that included renowned Kenyan writer, Binyavanga Wainaina. The theatre groups collaborated with Pride Toronto to bring Adong to Toronto from her home in the United States and Wainaina from Kenya. The event was a major success, selling out seats and creating an important dialogue at Pride around the role of the west in exporting homophobia to Uganda.

Rationale for Project:

It’s a Freedom Thing Theatre has a commitment to highlighting voices from African and Black communities in its productions. Given the awareness of the political issues in Uganda, the theatre thought that this would be an ideal play to bring to Canada. Buddies in Bad Times has a long history of questioning sexual and cultural norms in culture. They believe that social change happens in culture and that art is an important aspect of this change. The goal of the project was to create a space for discussion around politics and transnational dialogue.

Project Logistics:

The project was a partnership between It’s a Freedom Thing Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, Buddies In Bad Times Theatre and Pride Toronto. The partners put in funds collectively to cover salaries for artists, travel, accommodation and production costs. The total cost was approximately \$20,000.

Lessons Learned:

- Essential to partner with the organizations close to the community and that engage with the communities you want to connect with. Look to partners outside of the Arts Council circles.

- Access funding in advance – we had to scramble to get money, would have been better to have money in advance.
- And there were last minute Visa issues.

Contact Information:

Mumbi Tindyebwa, It's a Freedom Thing Theatre

<http://www.ifttheatre.com>

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Quote: "Canada cannot remain so isolated given that it is made up of people from all over the world. It feels that we need active conversations and dialogues because its who we are. How do we as a society, how do we make it possible for these collaboratives to happen? – Mumbi Tindyebwa, It's a Freedom Thing Theatre

Quote: "It was an absolutely fascinating and unexpected evening. The play was a satirical, bit-ingly funny play about politics in Uganda, American evangelicals and the way the anti-gay law was used. Judith Adong was amazing and she dispelled a lot of myths that people might have about Uganda. The conversation afterwards was amazing and it felt like an authentic cultural encounter. And the place was packed!" – Brendan Healey, Artistic Director, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

Case Study – Pride House

Location: Vancouver (2010) and Toronto (2015)

Description of Project:

Pride House is a venue for welcoming LGBTI athletes, spectators and their allies during international sporting events. Each Pride House is organized locally with its own partnerships and programs. They are welcoming places to view competitions, build relations with mainstream sport, learn about homophobia as well as LGBTI involvement in sport. Canada has taken a leading role in the development of the international Pride House movement. The first Pride House was organized in Vancouver/Whistler for the 2010 Olympics. Toronto's PanAm & ParaPanAm Games also hosted a Pride House in 2015. Pride House seeks to promote LGBTI equality in and by sport during international sporting events. The Pride House movement has also focused on international solidarity action and visibility at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics and has advocated for longer-term change in international sporting movements.

Rationale for Project:

The Pride House model is premised on taking existing structures and symbols from historically discriminatory multi-sport games in order to make them LGBTI-inclusive. Pride Houses have developed with several goals in mind around advancing LGBTI inclusion in multi-sport environments. Knowing that there would be public excitement around a major sporting event was an opportunity to engage the broader public as well in a discussion about LGBTI inclusion.

Project Logistics:

Each Pride House has been organized by a local host organization, and has consequently been adapted with each event and city. In Toronto, a local nonprofit, the 519 Church Street Community Centre, was the financial and administrative host of the project and had dedicated staff for the initiative. There was a broader multi-organizational steering committee. The Toronto Pride House had a multi-year budget of CAD 1.2 million; the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto, CIBC, and Ontario Trillium Foundation were major funders.

Lessons Learned:

- Working within the system of big sporting or cultural events can advance change and inclusion.
- There can be a strong value-add in bringing organizers of future Pride Houses to expe-

rience contemporary Pride Houses. Organizers from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tokyo, Japan and PyeongChang, South Korea came to Pride House TO, shared ideas, and left with a richer set of ideas on how to organize their own Pride Houses.

Contact Information:

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COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- Case study: Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention
- Case study: Comité de Solidarité Trois-Rivières
- Case study: Rainbow Railroad
- Case study: Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia

Case Study – Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP)

Type of Organization: Community Service

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Description of Project:

The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP) provides HIV/AIDS, sexual health and support services for South Asian communities in the Greater Toronto Area. ASAAP's mandate is local, but it recognizes that what happens in countries of origin affects diaspora communities in Canada. ASAAP is aware of the different movements in South Asian countries to further the rights of LGBTI people and participates in these movements when possible by signing petitions, offering support, etc.

For example, in 2013, following the Indian Supreme Court's decision to set aside Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, effectively recriminalizing homosexuality, ASAAP participated in the Global Day of Rage against this decision—held in 46 different cities around the world—by leading the local rally with other organizations, including Voices Against 377.

In addition, during WorldPride 2014 Toronto, ASAAP raised awareness by hosting an event with community members and delegates from South Asian countries.

Rationale for Project:

ASAAP believes that being aware of LGBTI issues globally and taking a stance is very important. As an organization that works with Toronto's South Asian population, many of its members have connections with family and friends in a borderless sense, often taking cultural and societal norms and views from home countries, with the result that laws elsewhere affect populations here.

Contradictions in narratives of colonialism can reinforce oppression. LGBTI-affirming movements in South Asia help some members of the diaspora in Canada by providing positive examples from "back home," which can help challenge beliefs that "only white people are gay" or that LGBT rights are a "Western project." ASAAP aids communities in challenging homophobic and transphobic views by building connections and momentum with efforts to challenge these views or laws across South Asia.

Project Logistics:

There is no specified budget allocation or project designation for this work. The organization itself is funded by various levels of government and private foundations.

Lessons Learned:

There is a violent history of social justice work imposed in countries which does not benefit local people and which can take on neocolonial tensions. These kinds of projects must be avoided. Instead, ASAAP prioritizes education/awareness raising about what is going on in South Asia and making connections in order to better understand the political framework/climate of a local region.

Contact Information:

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Case Study – Comité de Solidarité Trois-Rivières –Youth Solidarity and HIV Prevention

Type of Organization: Community service organization

Location: Trois-Rivières, Quebec

Description of Project:

The project was a youth solidarity project between the Comité de Solidarité Trois-Rivières and Centro Provincial de Prevención VIH/sida de Granma, Bayamo, Cuba. The goal was to create dialogue and awareness between organizations interested in LGBTI issues in both Trois-Rivières and Bayamo. A group of eight youth from Quebec Province went to Bayamo and spent two months interning with a local HIV-prevention organization and assisting with outreach on sexual diversity and the rights of people, with a particular focus in rural communities and in working with “self-help” LGBTI groups. Afterwards, the Cuban partner organization sent a representative to Trois-Rivières to meet with HIV/AIDS service organizations working with sex workers, including Sidaction Mauricie.. The local partner was successful in positively impressing higher officials of the Ministry of Public Health for managing this international project, which translated in an official recognition and funding for their work with LGBTI self-help groups as a way of preventing HIV/AIDS.

Rationale for Project:

The goal of this project was to build interpersonal relationships between people and organizations interested in LGBTI issues in both Trois-Rivières and Bayamo. The project was also designed to develop the skill sets and expertise of the participants in both countries, strengthening their commitment towards LGBTI human rights.

Project Logistics:

The organization applied to the Quebec Without Borders program, which has funded international exchanges for Quebec youth on a range of social justice and development issues. This year-long project received \$50,000 in funding. A second edition of this project is currently under study for funding approval.

Lessons Learned:

- It took time to work with local Cuban officials to explain/develop this project.
- Being a youth exchange project, it also took time for participants to deal with culture shock. There needs to be time built into supporting participants who want to help but also need to learn.

Contact Information:

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Case Study – Rainbow Railroad

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Description of Project:

Rainbow Railroad has been operating as a volunteer-based registered charitable organization that provides support to LGBTI individuals seeking a safe haven from state-sponsored or enabled violence. This includes airfare and financial support for travel related costs, including costs immediately before and after travel. Beyond direct financial assistance, Rainbow Railroad provides information and resources on how to make an asylum claim directly in safer countries or through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) resettlement process.

Since its founding in 2006, Rainbow Railroad has funded travel for over 130 asylum seekers from around the world. Most of these cases have involved LGBTI asylum seekers from Jamaica, Nigeria and Uganda, but requests for help are increasingly coming from other regions of the world where the organization has few contacts and less expertise.

Rationale for Project:

In many countries around the world, LGBTI individuals are at risk of experiencing violence or persecution on account of their sexual orientation or gender identity. In light of this persecution and lack of state protection, Rainbow Railroad believes it is vital to help persecuted LGBTI individuals get to safety.

Project Logistics:

Rainbow Railroad's 2016 budget of CAD 585,500 was raised without government funds. Rainbow Railroad has a U.S. fundraising wing (American Friends of Rainbow Railroad), and a major gifts campaign called "All Aboard!" The organization increased the budget for travel support by 150% between 2013 and 2015. The 2016 budget further increases travel support by 140%

over 2015 and the organization already funded more travel in the first 4 months of 2016 than it did in the previous 16 months. Plans are underway to hire additional staff. The administration of this volume of work and the complexity of cases has grown faster than the organization has been able to hire staff, build expertise, and train and support volunteers.

Lessons Learned:

- Creating expectations to help must be balanced with financial capacity to help.
- The plight of LGBTI refugees resonates deeply among the Canadian public.
- Effectiveness is increased through the development of international networks.
- Staff greatly increase organizational strength and effectiveness.
- Assisting LGBTI refugees can vary significantly from one context to another; requests for help require significant regional expertise, which can mean that organizations like Rainbow Railroad may find that requests from high-risk countries might outpace an organization's ability to develop such expertise.

Contact Information:

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Case Study – Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia

Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Description of Project:

Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia (RRANS) is an entirely volunteer-run organization formed after a visit to Halifax by David Pepper of the North Star Triangle Project in 2011, aimed at mobilizing members of Canada's LGBTI communities to sponsor people who were being persecuted in other countries for their sexuality or gender identity. Their main purpose is to sponsor refugees,, which has led to some advocacy activity within Canada in support of refugees as well—particularly when funding programs for refugee sponsorship have been jeopardized.

Since 2013, RRANS has sponsored five refugees and has supported six government-sponsored refugees who otherwise would not have gone to Halifax. Of those 11 refugees, eight are from Iran, two are from Somalia, and one is from Gambia. RRANS is financially responsible for supporting the refugees for one year.

RRANS has also garnered significant media attention on issues facing LGBTI refugees. It has brought awareness of the specific needs of LGBTI refugees to local settlement agencies, where this knowledge had previously been lacking. Additionally, it has brought awareness of the complexity of international issues and the importance of supporting refugees to Canada's LGBTI community.

In the future, RRANS aspires to not only continue its work in sponsoring refugees, but also to assist in creating housing and transitional housing for them, and to work with refugee clinics on appropriate supports that are currently lacking. Additionally, work can be done to create country-based networks across Canada and to build international connections.

Rationale for Project:

RRANS recognizes the need for sponsorship of LGBT refugees from hostile environments and fundraises in order to help address this need.

Project Logistics:

RRANS' annual budget is between \$12,000 and \$22,000. It is funded through its networks, through the "Don't Be Afraid" campaign, and through some help from funding sponsorships (six months of funding comes from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Most of the funding is spent on sponsorship, with some basic administrative costs. There are no paid staff.

Lessons Learned:

Media profile and exposure can create safety concerns for refugees, as when media show up to document arrivals at the airport. There has been some criticism for sponsoring only gay men, but these are the profiles that RRANS has received from the Visa Office-Referred (VOR) program. The VOR significantly speeds up the process of sponsorship, helping to build credibility in the community, as results can be demonstrated more quickly.

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Faith-Based Organizations

- Case study: El-Tawhid Mosque
- Case study: Metropolitan Community Church Toronto
- Case study: United Church of Canada

Case Study – el-Tawhid Juma Circle Mosque

Location: Toronto

Description of Project:

El-Tawhid Juma Circle is an umbrella of inclusive mosques in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Boston. The Circle has also supported the development of inclusive mosque spaces in other cities such as Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Cape Town, South Africa and London, UK. The el-Tawhid Juma Circle Mosques are gender-equal, LGBTI-affirming, intra-Muslim spaces; they are also open to people who do not identify as Muslim but who are interested in Islam. Activities include Friday congregational service and prayers, spiritual care, education, support around mental health and sexuality issues, and services such as marriages, birth ceremonies, and funerals. The El-Tawhid Juma Circle has been doing solidarity work with The Inner Circle, the oldest and largest human rights organization in the world that focuses specifically on Islam, and sexual/gender diversity. As part of the Global Queer Muslim Network, this involves sharing information; developing supports for LGBTI Muslims and creating egalitarian Muslim worship spaces. In the future, one of the goals of the organization is to explore more joint projects with Muslim groups in other countries through the Global Queer Muslim Network.

Rationale for Project:

El-Tahwid Juma Circle was set up as a social justice initiative to counter the dominant narrative around religion and gender/sexual diversity. While the project started in Toronto in 2009, it has worked to support communities across Canada interested in creating inclusive mosque spaces. The Circle also works to build connections outside of Canada because there is a global need for networking around healing and support. The organization also works to address Islamophobia and to counter narratives of homophobia in Islam.

Project Logistics:

El-Tawhid Juma Circle is a registered nonprofit and was founded in 2009 by a group of activists in Toronto. The organization supports a number of unity mosques in different cities through a network of support and has relationships with groups outside Canada around information sharing and joint projects. The organization has received some small grants to build its website and online support services.

Lessons Learned:

- Learning can and should work in two ways; organizations in Canada have just as much to learn from groups outside of Canada as they have to offer..
- Creating safe spaces for faith is necessary and saves lives. Organizations need to be able to respond to the intersectional needs of LGBTI youth.
- There is a role for Canadian Muslims to help share what they have learned and done to support Muslim sexual and gender minorities in other countries where it may be more difficult to organize.

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Case Study – Metropolitan Community Church Toronto (MCCT)

Project: Online Weekly Broadcasts

Location: Toronto

Description of Project: Metropolitan Community Church Toronto broadcasts its weekly Sunday services around the world. The project began in 2008 and has continued weekly ever since. MCCT is an LGBTI-positive church with a predominately LGBTI congregation. It is led by Rev. Brent Hawkes, one of Canada’s well-recognized leaders in advancing the human rights of LGBTI people. The services are live streamed and also recorded. Many of the service themes are around inclusion of LGBTI people and how to reconcile Christian teachings with sexuality. Each week hundreds of people from dozens of countries log on and watch the services. To date, the broadcast has had viewers from 136 countries, and some of the major sources of visitors include Poland, China and India. The church has also created videos about sexuality and the Bible and is planning to translate these videos into Spanish, French, Russian and Chinese.

Rationale for Project: MCCT has a long history of fighting for the rights of LGBTI people in Canada. It is part of an international Christian denomination of LGBTI inclusive churches.

Project Logistics: The project is run by church volunteers and funds have been raised through the congregation in order to support the technological improvement necessary to do the proper filming and broadcasting. The Church is exploring how to make the engagement a ‘two-way’ street so that viewers can interact more with the Church online.

Lessons Learned:

- It is important to engage with local folks in order to understand what the context is in a particular country and what will work and will not work in that context. What seems to work in Canada may not work in other parts of the world; it is important to be respectful of other cultures.
- Similarly, the experiences of LGBTI people in big cities, be it Toronto or any other large city around the world, may not correspond to the life experiences of individuals in rural areas.

Contact Information:

Metropolitan Community Church Toronto
Senior Pastor Rev. Brent Hawkes
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Case Study – United Church of Canada – Opening Space for LGBTI Religious Inclusion

Location: National (headquarters in Toronto), with partners in 30 countries around the world

Description of Project:

The United Church of Canada (UCC) has been increasingly welcoming of LGBTI people since the late 1980s. In 2012, the church elected Rev. Gary Paterson as its Moderator, an openly gay man married to Rev. Tim Stevenson, the first openly gay man to be ordained as a UCC minister. The church's current moderator, Rev. Jordan Cantwell is the first lesbian Moderator. Since 2000, UCC developed a study guide document called *Moving Toward Full Inclusion*. This document tells the story of the church's move towards acceptance and creating more affirming congregations. The guide has been translated into Spanish and used in UCC's partnership work. In Colombia, UCC worked with the national Methodist Church. This spun off into an ecumenical group, Jesus Arco Iris (Rainbow Jesus), in Bogota, which includes 20 people in eight different churches, and which draws from some of the UCC's material. UCC members, including Moderator Gary Paterson, Tim Stevenson and staff of UCC have taken trips to Colombia to meet with these ecumenical groups and have assisted partners with workshops in both Colombia and Cuba.

Rationale for Project:

UCC believes in solidarity and partnerships. Solidarity means moving towards full inclusion. In places, like Colombia, where UCC has partner churches, LGBTI people have often been victims of the conflict and UCC tries to support their partners dealing with these challenges.

Project Logistics:

UCC has a team that coordinates global partnership work that includes work with 100 organizations in 30 countries. One of the issues in partnership dialogue is different global perspective on sexual and gender diversity. UCC is also working with partners on LGBTI inclusion in South Korea, Philippines, the Caribbean and East Africa.

Lessons Learned:

- In Latin America, it has been very important to use locally relevant words and concepts;, being very conscious that different countries have different expressions of gender diversity and sexual orientation is important.
- There is a tremendous amount that can be learned from partners, such as (in the case of UCC) leading theologians from Latin America, The United Church Emmanuel College

at the University of Toronto has invited leading gay theologians from South America to Toronto in order to learn from and engage in dialogue with these leaders.

- In many countries, this work has evolved or sprung from HIV/AIDS work; the UCC believes that this model has worked well.

Contact Information:

Jim Hodgson, Coordinator, Latin America and Caribbean, United Church of Canada (jhodgson@united-church.ca)

Moving Toward Full Inclusion: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the United Church of Canada: <http://www.ucrdstore.ca/moving-toward-full-inclusion-2nd-edition-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-in-the-united-church-of-canada.html>

Human Rights and/or International Development Organizations

- Case study: Amnesty International Canada
- Case study: ARC International
- Case study: Canadian Legal HIV/AIDS Network
- Case study: Equitas
- Case study: MATCH International
- Case study: Oxfam Canada

Case Study – Amnesty International Canada – LGBTI Coordinators

Location: Two secretariats, English-speaking in Ottawa and French-speaking in Montreal, plus local groups across Canada

Description of Project:

Amnesty International (AI) Canada is part of a global movement that works to protect and promote human rights. Amnesty International (AI) Canada has developed the role of LGBTI Coordinators who work with staff and local groups in order to build awareness of LGBTI human rights issues. These coordinators connect local groups to research and to specific actions such as petitions in support of LGBTI human rights and/or LGBTI human rights defenders around the world. The coordinators also support local groups to raise awareness of Amnesty International's work within Canadian LGBTI communities. One key tactic has been the development of a Pride Toolkit related to human rights for LGBTI people. The toolkit includes template for posters, banners and materials for solidarity actions that can be downloaded and used by any Amnesty group in Canada. Amnesty groups have raised awareness of global human rights issues during Pride Festivals, including in Toronto, Montreal, Victoria, Regina, New Glasgow NS, and Prince George, BC.

Rationale for Project:

Amnesty International has a mission to support human rights around the world. Amnesty International works to protect the rights of LGBTI people by shining a light on rights abuses, calling for policy change and working to protect LGBTI human rights defenders. Amnesty International considers anyone imprisoned solely because of homosexuality to be prisoners of conscience who should immediately and unconditionally be released.

Project Logistics:

Amnesty International Canada has two LGBTI coordinator volunteer positions who work closely with Secretariat staff. The coordinators support local Amnesty groups across the country. AI Canada also has a small activist fund where AI member groups can access small amounts of funding (\$300-\$500) to cover costs of participation in local Pride events.

Lessons Learned:

- It is important to be aware of the potentially negative impact that public campaigning here in Canada could have on activists in certain countries. It is important to 'do no harm' and to connect directly with groups overseas in order to ensure strategies do not result in problems or harm.

- As Canadians, it is important that groups do not speak for the people that they are campaigning for; instead, groups have to work with them and enhance their voices.
- Groups in Canada who want to do more international solidarity work should do their homework and find out if work is already being done on their issue or country of interest. Groups should look at what their value-add would be and how it would support the cause.

Contact Information:

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For more information about Amnesty International Canada's work in advancing LGBTI human rights, please see: <http://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/issues/lgbti-rights>

Amnesty International's Pride Toolkit: http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/default/files/ai_canada_pride_toolkit_2015.pdf

Case Study – ARC International

Location: Geneva, Switzerland, with some staff based in Halifax, Canada

Description of Project:

Since 2003, ARC International has worked as a global leader in facilitating strategic planning around LGBTI issues internationally, strengthening global LGBTI networks, and enhancing organizations' access to UN mechanisms. Initially, ARC International engaged in a fair amount of direct advocacy work within the United Nations as the only LGBTI organization with a full-time presence in Geneva. Over time, as LGBTI organizing has expanded globally, ARC International's role has shifted to reflect these developments by playing a supporting and facilitative role in building organizations' capacity to engage globally. ARC International was actively involved in the crafting of the Yogyakarta Principles and also plays an active role in enabling international human rights mechanisms to become more responsive to LGBTI human rights.

Rationale for Project:

ARC International was founded in response to many UN Bodies' and member states' lack of leadership in advancing the human rights of LGBTI people globally. ARC International believes that all humans have the right to celebrate who they are with freedom, dignity, and respect, and exists in order to help organizations and entities work towards these goals.

Project Logistics:

ARC International's yearly programming is largely determined by the requests and needs that grassroots LGBTI organizations articulate. The organization consists of just a few staff members, which has allowed ARC International to remain fairly nimble in adapting to changes in the LGBTI advocacy landscape.

Lessons Learned:

- Working through coalitions and partnerships is critical to achieving long-term results: here in Canada and around the world, initiatives that have invested heavily in developing and strengthening partnerships are most likely to be effective.
- The importance of the principle "do no harm:" as a Western-based organization, ARC International strongly believes that its projects and principles have to be driven and/or informed by local grassroots organizations.
- Negotiating one's relationship between government and civil society is complex and also important: when collaborating with UN bodies and/or state governments, organizations may sometimes face a trade-off between gaining access to certain spaces and keeping

the autonomy or space that can be necessary in order to remain neutral and/or in order to express criticisms.

Contact Information:

For more information about ARC International's work in advancing LGBTI human rights with partners, please see <http://arc-international.net/about/>

Case Study – Canadian HIV/ AIDS Legal Network

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Description of Organization:

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network was formed in 1992 to ensure that the human rights of people living with HIV and communities particularly affected by HIV are respected. In 2000, it obtained Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which has been useful in its international work supporting the human rights of LGBTI people (among other HIV-related human rights work). In 2015 the Legal Network registered with the Organization of American States (OAS) with a view to promote the rights of LGBTI people through this forum. The Legal Network has used its access to these forums to accredit developing country activists as its representatives to lobby member states. This organization also supports advocacy groups in various countries with projects such as strategic litigation (for example, in Jamaica), police training in the Caribbean and support to an emerging network of MSM groups in Eastern Europe.

Domestically, the Legal Network has provided some international LGBTI rights activists with opportunities to engage with the Canadian government. It has also joined with other domestic and international organizations to advance better protection for the human rights of LGBTI people in national and international law. For example, the Legal Network circulated an open letter, endorsed by dozens of Canadian organizations, to relevant stakeholders in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, calling for action in response to ongoing attacks on the rights of LGBTI people in Russia. The Legal Network also aims to build opportunities for clear, coordinated, and strategic collaboration among civil society groups, hence its role in helping to found the Dignity Initiative. The Legal Network recognizes there is “unfinished business” in Canada, such as trans rights; credibility in advocating for rights globally depends in part on respecting and protecting rights at home.

Rationale for Project:

Effectively responding to HIV requires protecting the human rights of those most affected, which includes LGBT communities. The Legal Network sees all communities as part of a global ecosystem of rights, such that securing rights in any country, and building support country-by-country for universal LGBTI rights, is ultimately a global good.

Project Logistics:

The current budget for the Legal Network’s global initiatives on LGBTI rights is roughly \$100,000 per year for a full-time lawyer and other related expenses, sometimes augmented by resources from partner organizations. Most of the funding for these initiatives currently comes

from a collaboration with AIDS-Free World, the MAC AIDS Fund, and private fundraising.

Lessons Learned:

- Building a common civil society platform takes a lot of work, time and resources.
- Advocacy strategies must be informed by discussions with local advocates in a given country (and ideally engage relevant diaspora communities in Canada) in order to maximize potential impact and minimize the risk of harm to individuals and to the movement.

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Case Study – Equitas International Centre Human Rights Education

Location: Montreal, Quebec

Description of Projects:

Equitas provides capacity building in human rights in order to support social change. One of its key programs, the annual International Human Rights Training Programs (IHRTP), brings 90-100 human rights defenders from around the world to Montreal for an intensive three week training program.. Applicants come from a range of backgrounds (e.g. journalists, civil society leaders, lawyers), and many focus on different kinds of human rights challenges; each year about 10% of participants work on the human rights of LGBTI people. Equitas seeks to mainstream LGBTI considerations into its entire programming, including its Canada-based programming.

Since 2007, Equitas has been working with some Haitian alumni from the IHRTP who were interested in adopting a rights-based approach to community engagement. With the support of American Jewish World Services (AJWS), Equitas has worked to create linkages between mainstream human rights groups and LGBTI human rights groups in Haiti. This work highlighted how Haiti's fairly new LGBTI movement still faces limited capacity, which prompted the development of a new three-year project with the AJWS and with the local organization KOURAGE, focused on capacity building, strengthening connections within Haiti and across the Caribbean, raising awareness about LGBTI issues, and documenting human rights violations.

Rationale for Project:

Equitas believes that its IHRTP is one of the most unique human rights training programs in the world, and believes that supporting human rights defenders through participatory approaches, in-depth reflection, and networking is key. Equitas' work in Haiti stems from its desire to support alumni and from its understanding of the challenges facing LGBTI human rights defenders in Haiti.

Project Logistics:

The IHRTP costs between CAD 600,000-700,000 (including full bursaries for 55-60 of participants). Global Affairs Canada's Partnership Branch supports basic development of this program. Equitas' 3-year project in Haiti is funded by the EU and has a budget of approximate CAD 1.1 million.

Lessons Learned:

- Adopting a human rights framework provides a great tool in critical reflection and in addressing issues of discrimination and inclusion, which allows for integration of LGBTI issues.

- It is important to build bridges between human rights actors (e.g. connecting mainstream human rights groups with LGBTI groups).
- Change starts from within; providing time and space to reflect internally on how an organization's work and culture have worked to integrate the human rights of LGBTI people is important. Equitas engages in this kind of reflect and acts as a catalyst for some partners to do the same.
- Changing values and attitudes takes time and requires community-level commitment.

Contact Information:

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Case Study – The MATCH International Women’s Fund

Location: Ottawa, Ontario

Description of Project:

The MATCH International Women’s Fund is Canada’s only international fund for women. It has provided funding and resources to grassroots women’s rights organizations around the world since 1976. Currently, The MATCH Fund is supporting the Ugandan-based organization FEMA in order to help LBT people access healthcare and challenge discrimination. In Georgia, The MATCH Fund has provided a grant to the feminist media organization, StudioMobile- Accent on Action, to harness television as a tool for social change for LBT persons, ethnic minorities, and women with disabilities. Finally, in Namibia, The MATCH International Women’s Fund is supporting the work of Y-Fem, an organization that advances young women’s leadership, with a special focus on leadership development within the LBT community.

Rationale for LBT support:

Human rights violations against LBT people remain a source of serious concern in many countries around the world. As a women’s fund with a rights based approach, The MATCH International Women’s Fund supports efforts that challenge and transform patriarchal systems to achieve gender justice. Connections between women’s rights and LBT rights are evident, since patriarchy oppresses and discriminates against those whose expressions of gender and sexuality disrupt dominant societal norms. In order for feminist movements to be responsive and relevant, inclusivity and diversity have to be central in achieving transformative change. One of The MATCH Fund’s goals is to support movement building and strengthening within grassroots women and LBT led organizations.

Project Logistics:

Every year, The MATCH Fund provides grants between CAD 10,000-20,000 to approximately 25 women’s rights organizations around the world. Grantee partners are chosen through a rigorous selection process that involves The MATCH Fund’s Board of Directors, Advisory Council and staff. The MATCH Fund turns donations into grants that are given directly to the women’s and LBT organizations that need support. The MATCH Fund believes that this provides the most direct route between supporters and community organizations overseas.

Lessons Learned:

- When working with marginalized groups such as LBT-led organizations, funders have to build relationships based on trust. This includes creating ongoing dialogue and robust agreements. Flexible, responsive practices that prioritize the ideas and interests of LBT human rights defenders is also essential, since these partners are best positioned to understand their own solutions challenges, and opportunities.
- Relatedly, The MATCH Fund has learned to use monitoring and evaluation as a mechanism to foster reciprocity and accountability by balancing the need to report on partners' results, while actively receiving feedback from partner organizations about how the MATCH Fund can improve.
- The MATCH Fund offers core and project funding support. But financial resources are only part of the needed support. Opportunities for capacity building, networking and knowledge sharing add significant value to LBT rights-based grassroots organizations.

Contact Information:

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<http://matchinternational.org/grantee-profiles/>

Case Study – Oxfam Canada

Location: Ottawa, Ontario

Description of Project:

Oxfam Canada is one of 17 Oxfam affiliates that works to advance social justice and challenge inequality through work with local partner organizations in over 90 countries. Advancing sexual rights is a core dimension of Oxfam Canada's work. Recently, Oxfam Canada implemented the Sexual Diversity Program, a 4-year initiative in which five NGOs from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Pakistan, collaborated to innovate and share best practices on LGBTI movement building.

The Sexual Diversity Program sought to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations and networks of LGBTI persons so that individually and/or collectively, activists could speak out against infringements of their human rights on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. To that end, each of the five affiliated organizations received between \$100,000-\$150,000 in funding to fund staff, core organizational activities, and grassroots organizing work. Perhaps just as importantly, this program provided opportunities for these diverse organizations to come together in order to share experiences, reflect on lessons learned, and to strategize on how best to mobilize for social change.

Rationale for Project:

Oxfam Canada supports partner organizations in advancing LGBTI organizing because LGBTI individuals face disproportionate levels of discrimination and human rights violations. Moreover, informed by its partner organizations' insights, Oxfam believes that addressing the root causes of gender inequality necessarily involve addressing homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia.

Project Logistics:

The Sexual Diversity Program was made possible through a four-year grant provided by the Dutch government.

Lessons Learned:

- Using the label "LGBTI" suggests the existence of a single, unified group, when in fact there is substantive diversity and inequality.
- More space needs to be created for women, trans, and intersex organizing within and

across LGBTI movement-building.

- Effective collaboration requires building long-term relationships with partner organizations that extend beyond a single grant or project. Social movements take a long time to develop, and it is important to foster long-term partnerships.
- Local organizations are engaged in innovative and courageous work; more work needs to be done in order to support collaboration and sharing between activists from around the world.

Contact Information:

For more information on Oxfam Canada's work in advancing LGBTI human rights with partners, please see <http://www.oxfam.ca/lgbti-rights-worldwide>

Unions

- Case study: UFCW

Case Study – United Food and Commercial Workers of Canada

Location: Across Canada

Description of Project:

Both at home and abroad, the UFCW's approach to advancing LGBTI human rights is founded on the power of numbers. Rather than going out and launching its own separate, stand-alone projects, the UFCW invests considerable time into trying to better understand who is already engaged in this work and in trying to assess how/whether collaboration might be possible. To that end, the UFCW sponsored the 2014 WorldPride Human Rights Conference and hosted an event featuring Cuban LGBTI activist and politician, Mariela Castro, during WorldPride. Around that same time, the UFCW took part in the first ILGA-North America Summit and has been actively engaged in conversations regarding how to integrate the labour movement into ILGA's work. As a fully registered member of ILGA, the UFCW has also engaged in global advocacy work such as the endorsing the WHO Consensus on LGBT Health in 2012 and submitting a joint statement to the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2015.

As a union representing 250,000 members across in Canada and forming part of the larger UFCW International Union representing 1.3 million members between the US and Canada, the UFCW's approach to advancing LGBTI human rights has started with local and/or internal initiatives, which has included widespread participation in Pride events across the country, extensive research about trans healthcare coverage across Canada, the creation of an international OUTreach Constituency, and a three-year, multi-level training initiative regarding diversity and inclusion for staff and union members nation-wide.

Rationale for Project:

The UFCW supports unions in coming together for social and economic justice for all, regardless of race, range, gender, creed, sexual orientation or gender identity. Because inequality and prejudice affect LGBTI members' ability to be their authentic selves in their workplaces and communities, working to advance LGBTI human rights is consequently of vital importance to the union. Supporting LGBTI advocacy at a global level is also resonant with many UFCW members in light of members' connections to other countries.

Project Logistics:

The UFCW's work in advancing LGBTI human rights domestically and abroad is coordinated through the UFCW Canada Human Rights, Equity, and Diversity Department.

Lessons Learned:

- Engaging with LGBTI rights internally and domestically is critical for effectively engaging in global LGBTI work.
- Leveraging the power of numbers and the strength of collaboration is vital to conducting effective and sustainable solidarity work; rather than taking the lead, the UFCW therefore plays a supporting role in advancing pre-existing LGBTI initiatives and organizations globally.
- Intersectionality: the UFCW's members, like all humans, represent many different and diverse identities, and the UFCW works to ensure members are treated fairly and equitably at work.

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