



THE UK LGBTQI INTERNATIONAL GIVING REPORT

SEEKING SOLIDARITY

An analysis of UK giving to LGBTQI issues internationally by UK trusts and foundations, government, corporates and individuals.

November 2023



**The Baring
Foundation**

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Foreword

Around the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) people face discrimination, violence, and other serious human rights abuses simply for being who they are. LGBTQI communities are also becoming more visible, organising in new ways and coming together to make their voices heard. Local, national and regional movements have energy, resilience and clear ambitions to make change happen.

The structural and legal barriers to achieve these ambitions are daunting. According to the Human Dignity Trust, 65 jurisdictions criminalise consensual same-sex sexual activity, including 12 that impose the death penalty; while 14 countries criminalise the gender identity and/or expression of trans people. Criminalisation of LGBTQI identities is not just a legacy of countries' colonial past, but present-day politics as we have seen all too distressingly in Uganda, Ghana and elsewhere in 2023.

In the UK, we cannot take progress for granted and must remain vigilant against any efforts to roll back equality. Internationally, the UK has a proud tradition of supporting human rights and marginalised communities, and those defending them.

The UK Government has played a key role in developing the international human rights framework and has ranked among the top ten donors supporting human rights worldwide. Private UK-based donors – trusts and foundations, businesses, and individuals – also have a track record of providing generous support to international development and human rights causes.

Despite this, the UK government and UK-based donors are providing relatively little funding focused on supporting LGBTQI issues internationally - an annual average of **£13.4m** in 2019/20, as this new research reveals.

This research report is an attempt, for the first time, to evidence how much the UK gives collectively across government, trusts and foundations, corporate, and individual philanthropic sources to support LGBTQI communities internationally, especially in the Global South and East.

We hope that by shedding light on the current level of funding, highlighting examples of positive funding practices, identifying some of the barriers to giving, and making recommendations to help donors overcome these obstacles, this report will help catalyse more funding.

Without sufficient funding, it is impossible for LGBTQI groups to defend their communities, tackle inequalities, educate the public to change attitudes, and invest in long term work to overturn discriminatory laws. At the same time, enormous financial resources are flowing to those movements and groups working deliberately to undermine and roll back LGBTQI human rights.

Our call is for funding from UK sources for LGBTQI issues internationally to grow significantly to create a more resilient funding landscape and provide the organisations working to advance equality the resources they need to make real and lasting change.

Rupert Abbott, Executive Director, GiveOut

David Sampson, Deputy Director, The Baring Foundation

Overview of UK Funding to LGBTQI Issues Internationally

Average Annual Total (over 2019/2020)

£13.4 Million

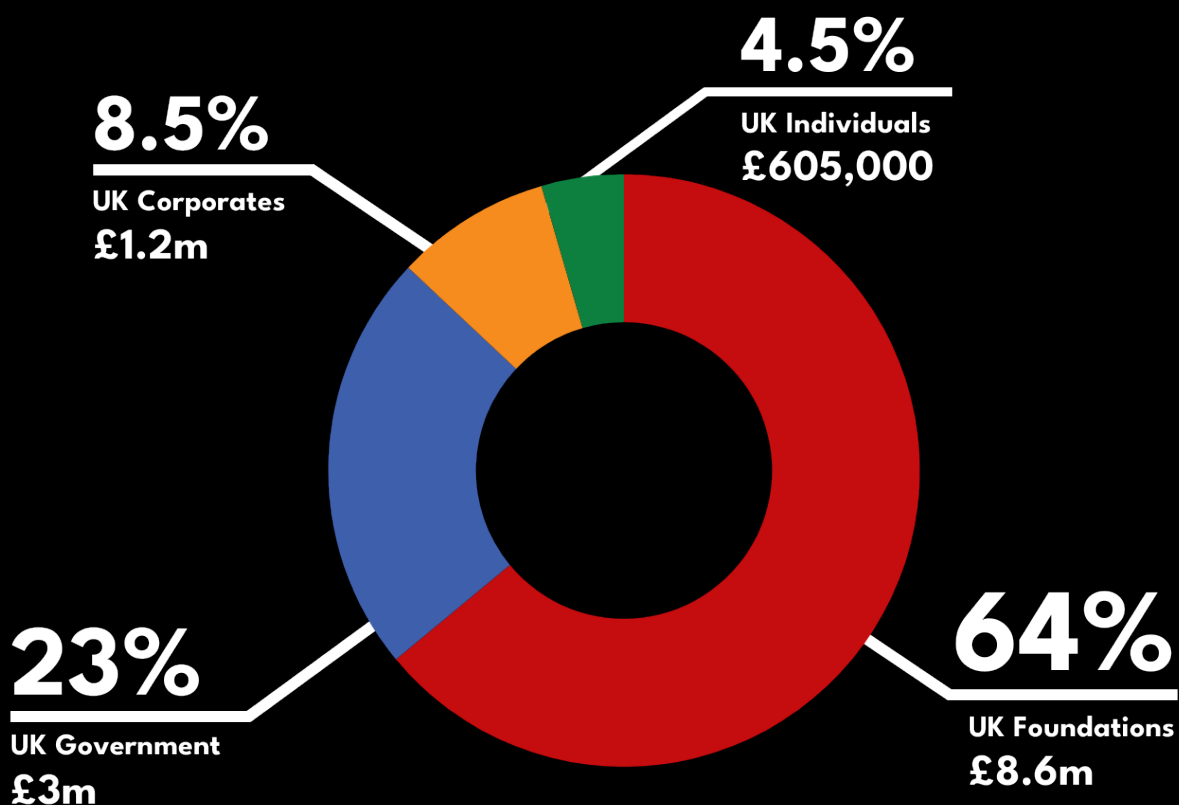
**3p in every
£100**

given to charities in the UK

**Around
5%**

of the annual income of one single
international aid charity

UK Giving to Support LGBTQI Issues Internationally



Key Findings

UK giving to support LGBTQI issues internationally in 2019/20 averaged an annual total of £13.4 million¹, equivalent to around 3 pence in every £100 pounds, or 0.03%, given to charities in the UK²; or around 5% of the annual income of one single international aid charity.³

Despite this, collectively, the UK is one of the largest donors supporting LGBTQI issues internationally, accounting for 15% of the global funding, which further demonstrates the paucity of funding. Without vital resources, LGBTQI organisations struggle to advance equality and defend their communities, in the context of well-funded efforts to roll back LGBTQI rights.

How much does the UK give to support LGBTQI issues internationally?

For this report, we have separated sources of funding for LGBTQI organisations working internationally into four categories:

- Foundation funding: donations received from UK-registered grant-making trusts or foundations.
- Government funding: donations received from the UK Government via government departments.
- Corporate funding: donations received from UK-based companies, UK corporate foundations, or companies giving through their UK office.
- Individual Philanthropic funding: donations received from individuals.

Using new analysis of existing data, from Global Philanthropy Project's Global Resources Report (GRR) for 2019/20, and supplementing this with additional data by analysing the accounts of intermediaries and canvassing advisers and those with the potential to fund in this space, we were able to build up our understanding of how much in total UK-based donors give to support LGBTQI work internationally. In this report, "Internationally" refers to all giving focussed on the Global South and East, and including "international" donations, which comprise cross-border giving in areas such as the Commonwealth, within our figures (see Methodology).

The figures presented in this report demonstrate that from across the UK spectrum of funders very little is going towards supporting the LGBTQI movement

internationally, the equivalent of around 5% of the annual income of one UK international aid charity, and yet despite this the UK is one of the larger funders in the world, demonstrating just how poorly resourced LGBTQI issues are.

Funding from grant-making foundations accounts for 64% of the UK's total funding for LGBTQI causes internationally, with Government funding accounting for nearly one quarter (23%), corporate funding making up around one tenth (8.5%), and individual philanthropic donations 4.5%. Collectively, support for LGBTQI issues internationally from UK funders is equivalent to just 0.03% of all UK giving.

This lack of funding creates a fragile financial ecosystem supporting grassroots LGBTQI organisations around the world, depriving them of the vital resources they need to protect LGBTQI communities, advocate for change and promote LGBTQI inclusion.

In this report we have identified some of the barriers preventing more funding going towards LGBTQI issues internationally, and made recommendations on how these can be overcome to properly finance a movement that will ensure more LGBTQI people are able to enjoy their human rights, be protected from harm, and live their lives freely and openly.

UK Trust and Foundation Funding

Average Annual Total (over 2019/2020)

£8.6 Million

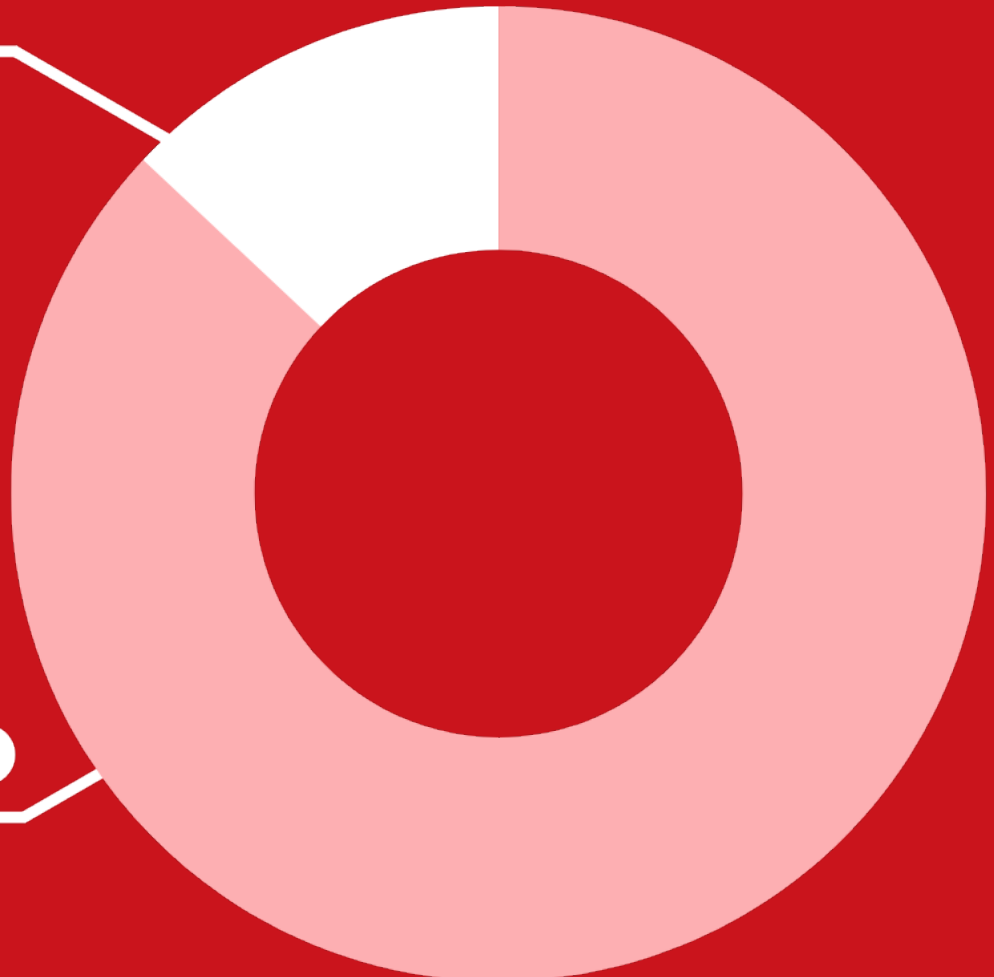
UK Foundation Funding as a Proportion of Total Foundation Funding for LGBTQI issues Internationally

13%

UK foundation
funding

87%

All other foundation
funders worldwide



UK trust and foundation funding equates to

26p in every £100

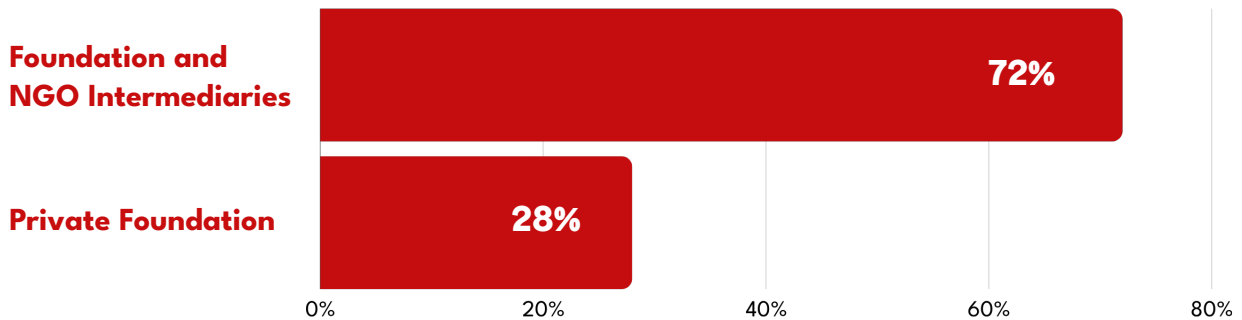
of UK foundation funding

UK trust and foundation funding accounted for

64%

of the UK's total funding to LGBTQI issues internationally

UK Foundation Funding for LGBTQI Issues Internationally by Source



UK trusts and foundations play a significant role in funding LGBTQI organisations; grant funding to support LGBTQI issues internationally from UK-based grant-making foundations averaged **£8.6 million**⁵ annually in 2019/20. This still only equates to **26 pence for each £100** of all UK foundation funding (or **0.26%**)⁶.

UK trust and foundation funding accounted for **64%** of the UK's total funding to LGBTQI issues internationally⁷, and **13%** of the global total for grant funding in this area⁸. 18 UK-based foundations were identified as giving significantly in this area, less than a third of the number giving to LGBTQI issues in the UK⁹.

The majority (87%) of UK foundation funding went to support LGBTQI issues in the Global South and East, with 13% supporting internationally¹⁰.

The vast majority of funding from UK foundations to support LGBTQI issues internationally comes via intermediaries, including public foundations, which fundraise from public sources, such as the Elton John AIDS Foundation; intermediaries which fundraise from

public sources to operate grant-making programmes, such as GiveOut; and NGO intermediaries, non-governmental and/or civil society organisations operating a range of programmes. This includes the regranting of funds received from other foundations or development agencies to other, generally smaller, civil society organisations and grassroots groups.

The funding coming via all intermediaries accounts for 72% of the UK's total foundation funding in this area. UK-based private foundations (often funded by individuals or families) account for over one quarter (28%) of the UK's total foundation funding going to support LGBTQI issues internationally.

A small number of large UK-based foundations make an oversized contribution. For example, the Elton John AIDS Foundation is the second largest foundation funder of LGBTQI issues globally (excluding funds focused on the US). It is also worth noting that two-fifths (40%) of all UK foundation funding for LGBTQI issues identified in this report is directed towards HIV/AIDS.

UK Trust and Foundation Insight and Analysis

Trusts and foundations are the largest donor group for funding from the UK going to support LGBTQI issues internationally, giving £8.6m, 64% of the total funding from the UK across all funders and 13% of the global total in this area. This highlights how little funding goes to these organisations, both as a proportion of UK grant-making (0.26%), and as a global total.

In addition to the data, we undertook a series of qualitative interviews with foundations to better understand the reasons behind the data, identify the reasons for giving in this area and barriers to more funding, and help develop recommendations to overcome these barriers. Our quantitative and qualitative analysis uncovered a number of ways this impacted the LGBTQI funding landscape, and identified several barriers which prevent an increase in funding from the trust and foundation sector.

Only a small number of UK foundations support LGBTQI issues internationally; these tend to be specialist organisations that have dedicated staff members to work in this field. There is very little support or evidence of grant-making from the wider foundation community, which means that the funding landscape is vulnerable to shifts in funding priorities. One foundation leaving the LGBTQI space could result in a large reduction in the UK's total funding, and have huge repercussions for international LGBTQI issues.

A significant motivation behind some of the highest value grant-making programmes, particularly from private foundations, was a trustee or family member who is part of the LGBTQI community. This creates a hugely limiting factor, restricting funding to LGBTQI issues by luck of birth. Furthermore, it was highlighted that for many established private foundations, much of the strategy is still driven by an older generation who do not necessarily understand or prioritise LGBTQI work, especially if they do not have a personal connection.

As a product of the existing meagre funding landscape, the nature of the LGBTQI civil society landscape also creates additional challenges, preventing investment from the few existing funders in this space. Partly due to a lack of available funding, the vast majority of LGBTQI organisations are small, grassroots groups. There is a limited number of grants that are manageable for most foundations, forcing them to make a smaller number

of larger value grants, which are too large for most grassroots organisations to absorb. This creates a catch-22 situation where LGBTQI organisations do not have enough funding to grow, and therefore cannot scale up to access larger grants. This results in a scarcity of funding at the early stages of an LGBTQI organisation's development, which exacerbates inequity in countries where international support for LGBTQI communities is needed most.

“As a Foundation we use evidence to advocate as to why a particular grant should get funded. That kind of data and showing the gaps really helps to persuade people to come on board with the mission.”

Anna MacDonald, Grants Manager LGBTQ+,
Elton John AIDS Foundation

As well as supporting better funding via existing funders, we must attract new funders to this space if we hope to advance equality, but there are barriers here too. The qualitative interviews suggested non-specialist foundations may perceive the area as too complex and potentially reputationally and operationally risky to support, limiting grant-making to a small number of foundations who have intentionally chosen this as one of the priority areas within their strategy. This risk was both around undertaking due diligence and supporting organisations in areas where LGBTQI organisations are illegal, but also around potentially putting grassroots organisations at risk by funding them, which could expose them to harassment or retribution from authorities.

To overcome these barriers, we make three recommendations

Firstly, those funding in this space should advocate for more foundations to support, encouraging them to explore putting an LGBTQI lens on their existing funding priorities, and experimenting with granting to LGBTQI organisations to help them learn how the movement works and assuring them around risks and complexity. Whilst it would be desirable to encourage more large private foundations, which have more flexibility in directing funding to select LGBTQI rights as a priority area, even encouraging a large number of smaller foundations to make grants in this area would diversify the funding landscape and make it more sustainable.

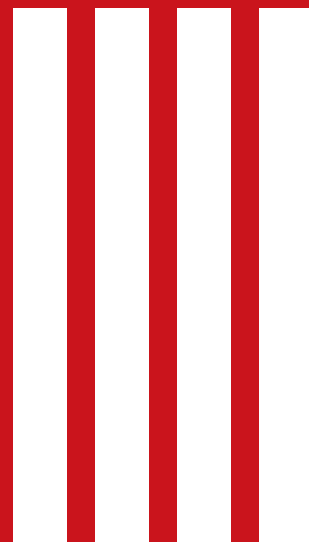
Secondly, for those foundations looking to give, intermediaries can play a vital role in facilitating this. More able to absorb larger grants and redistribute these to smaller, grassroots organisations, they are vital to the funding ecosystem, enabling UK foundations to support a larger number of grassroots organisations sustainably. Many of these intermediaries, especially those positioned internationally, are specialist regional funders, and so effort must be made to support these organisations and identify and fund emerging intermediaries in areas where this infrastructure does not exist. Funding via intermediaries reduces the risk to LGBTQI organisations, as intermediaries are therefore better able to assess risk and facilitate funding in ways that do not expose LGBTQI organisations to potential harm.

Lastly, LGBTQI issues should be mainstreamed across wider charitable activities in areas where funding is more accessible, such as international development, human rights and humanitarian aid. This includes large public foundations employing an LGBTQI lens to ensure LGBTQI work is supported within their grant-making programmes, and other NGOs working in these areas to include LGBTQI issues in their programmatic work.

Foundations are in a position to influence the wider charitable sector to encourage them to build LGBTQI-inclusive programmes to ensure there are more resources and more support available to the LGBTQI movement, particularly in some of the hardest places to be LGBTQI.

“It would be good to have a space where different funders could look at the strengths and where different actors are giving, and how we can best prioritise and mobilise resources, maybe even co-funding or joint granting to increase impact.”

Columbus Ndeloa, LGBTQ+ Portfolio Lead,
Elton John AIDS Foundation



UK Government Funding

Average Annual Total (over 2019/2020)

£3 Million

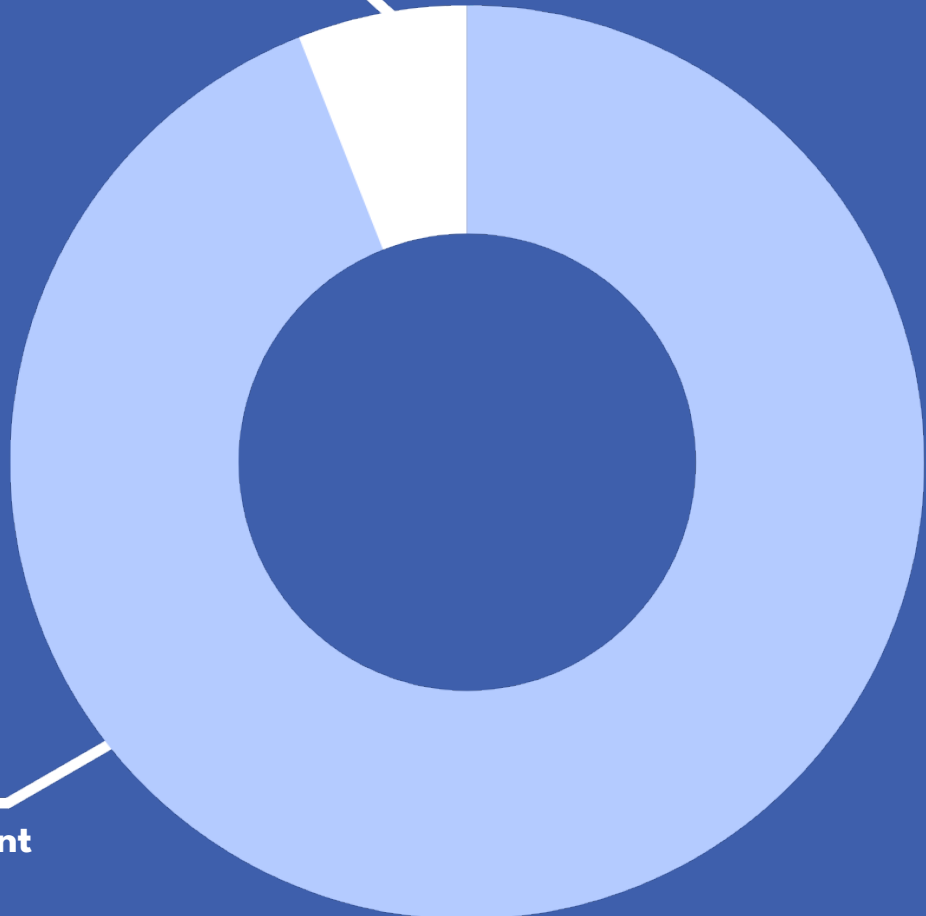
UK Government Funding as a Proportion of Worldwide Government Funding to LGBTQI Issues Internationally

6%

UK Government funding

94%

All other government funders worldwide



UK Government funding equates to

2p in every £100

of international development funding (net Official Development Assistance (ODA))

UK Government funding equates to

23%

of the UK's total funding to support LGBTQI issues internationally

UK Government spending was half the global average of

0.04%

of ODA spending

UK Government funding accounts for nearly one quarter of the UK's collective funding to LGBTQI issues internationally (**23%**), **6%** of global government funding.

The Global Philanthropy Project records international development funding for LGBTQI issues internationally from the UK Government as an annual average of **£3m**¹¹. This equates to **2 pence in every £100** of international development funding (net Official Development Assistance (ODA)), or **0.02%**. This is half the global average (0.04%) and ranked the UK Government 8th out of 17 donor governments worldwide by this measure, behind the Netherlands, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Malta¹².

10% of UK Government funding went specifically to supporting LGBTQI issues in the Global South and East, with 90% supporting international issues. This is largely because a significant proportion of Government funding is earmarked for "Commonwealth countries" which span multiple regions and is therefore marked as international funding rather than to the Global South and East.

The UK Government's funding for HIV/AIDS is not included in these figures, as the proportion of funding specifically focussed on LGBTQI communities is not recorded. There is a significant issue in conflating HIV/AIDS and LGBTQI funding across all donor groups with funding for LGBTQI organisations.

“We need large funders and FCDO and others to come together, to coordinate more and be more strategic.”

Kapil Gupta, Senior Programme Officer for LGBTI Rights, Sigrid Rausing Trust

UK Government Insight and Analysis

In 2018, the then Prime Minister Theresa May expressed her deep regret for Britain's historical legacy of anti-gay laws across the Commonwealth. It prompted a welcome diplomatic focus on LGBTQI rights, particularly through the UK's engagement with the Commonwealth. This has been led by numerous civil society groups, who have done much to expose and challenge this colonial legacy.

Yet in the two years following those announcements, this work did not translate into more substantial development spending. In 2019-20, the UK was the third largest development funder globally, yet it ranked eighth in terms of funding for LGBTQI communities, equivalent to 2p in every £100 of spending.

It is important to note that the UK is not alone in providing very limited funding for global LGBTQI communities. Average government funding is only 4p in every £100 of spending. However, the UK has had a particularly rocky road in developing and implementing programming since 2019.

The Covid pandemic did not help in this regard, and led to an overall reduction in funding for LGBTQI issues internationally. Specifically, the UK Aid Connect Programme which funded the flagship LGBTQI rights initiative – Strong in Diversity, Bold on Inclusion, and accounted for a significant proportion of UK Government funding for LGBTQI rights in the last decade, was suspended and then cancelled altogether.

Limited funding from the UK Government during these years has contributed to the chronic underfunding of LGBTQI civil society around the world. But importantly, it has also meant that programmes that were making a difference have faced uncertain funding and cancellation. The Magna Carta Fund made important grants, often in the most challenging jurisdictions. The Equality and Justice Alliance and the Commonwealth Equality Network (all Government funded) have made meaningful contributions to global LGBTQI organising. They demonstrate that the UK can be an important, innovative partner for LGBTQI communities. However, all these programmes have either been ended or been subject to short term renewal and extension.

Overall aid fell as the percentage of Gross National Income spent on Official Development Assistance

(ODA) was lowered from 0.7% to 0.5%. LGBTQI issues internationally need more funding, and this clear need sits alongside other key priorities for development spending. Balancing these challenges is inevitably more complex with reduced budgets.

Partly as a result of budget reductions, LGBTQI programmes have been supported and delivered by the FCDO in recent years with limited opportunities for long term planning or a clear policy framework. LGBTQI progress is measured in decades, and if the UK Government wishes to see this realised, they also need to plan for this.

We also need more data transparency. Whilst not a barrier to more funding directly, the FCDO's recording system lacks an LGBTQI-specific marker that would enable a more accurate assessment of their support to LGBTQI communities internationally. Similarly, their expenditure on HIV and AIDS programmes does not have any indicator on how much of this funding is focussed on LGBTQI populations, making it difficult to assess the level of underfunding.

Our key recommendations to improve the Government's funding flows to support LGBTQI issues internationally would be to increase the overall FCDO budget by bringing the ODA up to 0.7%, and to ensure a greater portion of this funding is marked for LGBTQI support. This should be delivered alongside a renewed focus and long-term strategy for LGBTQI support and

“The UK's democracy and human rights ... has been significantly affected by budget reductions and the lack of a clear policy framework since 2020”¹³

“Rationally, there’s a very strong case for giving in this area. There are compounding vulnerabilities and risk factors, in terms of lack of economic inclusion and a very poor human rights context for LGBTQI communities in those places, and then you’ve got the marked underfunding within the global philanthropy map.”

Elliot Vaughn MBE, Founder of GiveOut

“Money matters and even a small increase in development spending by the UK Government will make a material difference to LGBTQI communities. But the FCDO also has assets available to no other UK funder – its network of posts and missions, a seat at multilateral tables and an unmatched breadth of development work. With real commitment and a long term plan, supportive governments are critical to protecting and expanding LGBTQI rights.”

David Sampson, Deputy Director,
The Baring Foundation

empowerment, monitored by the creation of an LGBTQI specific marker to help track the increase and stability of the UK Government’s funding in this area.

The UK Government can also use its position to encourage philanthropic giving across all other funders by providing mechanisms to attract more funders to the LGBTQI space and encourage more giving to create a more robust financial landscape for LGBTQI issues. These mechanisms could include ways to attract new funders into this space via supporting existing intermediaries, and promote best practice through funder networks to promote solidarity with the LGBTQI community across funder networks.

Lastly, we would call on all political parties in the UK to unite behind an agreed position for LGBTQI issues internationally, to ensure the movement gets the long term support and investment it needs to advance equality. Continued scrutiny and engagement will be needed to support new Government commitments and to grow the ambition for LGBTQI rights funding amongst ministers and parliamentarians.



UK Corporate Funding

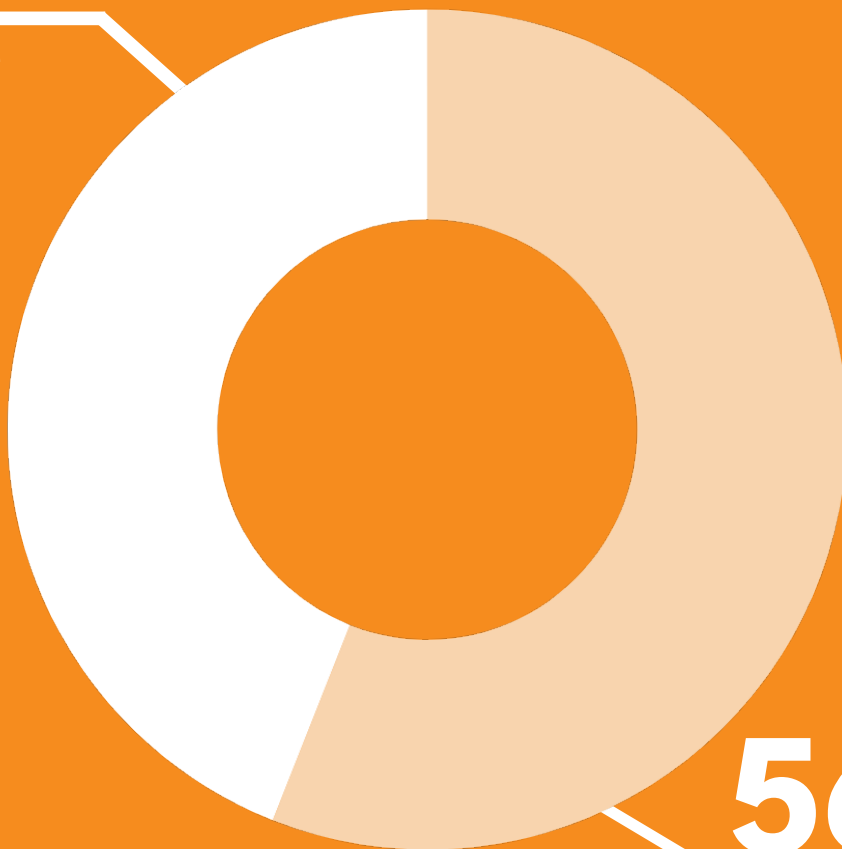
Average Annual Total (over 2019/2020)

£1.2 Million

UK Corporate Funding as a Proportion of Worldwide Corporate Funding to LGBTQI Issues Internationally (Excluding Funding Focused on the US)

44%

UK Corporate funding



56%

All other Corporate funders worldwide

UK corporate funding equates to

6p in
every
£100

of UK corporate charitable giving

Corporate funding accounted for

8.5%

of the UK's total funding to LGBTQI
issues internationally

20

UK-based corporate funders were
identified as giving in this area

Corporates can have significant influence on the societies in which they operate depending on which issues they choose to support, yet few are willing to fund significantly in 'sensitive' areas such as LGBTQI rights. Corporate funding to support LGBTQI issues internationally, including corporate foundations and grant-making programmes at for-profit organisations, totalled **£1.2 million** in 2019/20¹⁴. This equates to **6 pence in every £100** of UK corporate charitable giving (or **0.06%**)¹⁵. Whilst this may seem like corporates are performing well compared to other funder groups, in reality this is a reflection of a small number of specialist funders, and accounts for a very small portion of overall funding to LGBTQI issues internationally.

Corporate funding accounted for **8.5%** of the UK's total funding to LGBTQI issues internationally¹⁶, but accounted for an outsized **44%** of total global grant funding by corporate funders in this area¹⁷ (excluding funding focused on the US).

20 UK-based corporate funders were identified as giving significantly in this area¹⁸. The majority (90%) of UK corporate funding went to support LGBTQI issues in the Global South and East, with 10% supporting international issues. The large proportion of global contributions by UK-based corporates is primarily due to the contribution of ViiV Healthcare, a global specialist in HIV care, whose total global funding was worth an annual average of £979,000.

Many corporates produce specialised ranges of corporate Pride merchandise, which provide an important and growing source of support in the form of visibility and funding for LGBTQI charities. Some corporates, however, appear to fly the flag but not walk the walk, drawing accusations of pink- or rainbow-washing, the promotion of a corporate's LGBTQI inclusivity to downplay or soften aspects of its operations which are considered negative by the public. There is very poor transparency around corporate charitable funding generally, and even more so around LGBTQI funding.

As a consequence, this research was unable to track down many reliable additional figures for corporate giving to support LGBTQI issues internationally, however, extensive research with intermediary organisations and others identified an additional £187,000¹⁹.

UK Corporates

Insight and Analysis

In addition to the data, we undertook a series of qualitative interviews with corporates to better understand the reasons behind the data, identify the reasons for giving in this area and barriers to more funding, and help develop recommendations to overcome these barriers. When comparing corporate support to funding provided by foundations, a very different picture emerges, with unique challenges to overcome. Corporate support for LGBTQI issues in the UK may seem far more widespread than foundations as a whole, it is however much shallower in terms of resources provided, despite the clear business case for it.

Corporates identified similar challenges outlined by foundations, primarily the difficulty in identifying LGBTQI organisations to support and the perceived risks, including inadvertently causing harm to the community they aim to support. But there were some barriers which were specific to this donor group.

“There’s a war for talent going on out there, and every company will only be successful if it has the very best talent in its organisation. Aside from it being the right thing to do, can you afford to be less attractive to between eight and ten percent of the most talented people in your country?”

Deborah Waterhouse, CEO, ViiV Healthcare

One concern raised was the reputational risk for corporates; supporting LGBTQI issues is seen as a political move, one which could play well in one market, but undermine their business in another. Even in more inclusive markets, our research identified that some businesses fear a pushback from LGBTQI communities over charges of “pink-washing”. Businesses may be less likely to allocate additional funding to LGBTQI activities as they do not want to “put their heads above the parapet”, according to one interview, a feeling echoed by others.

A second issue; some corporates do not see a business case for funding LGBTQI issues, particularly when the reputational concern is considered, and therefore do not prioritise it in their corporate philanthropy. We could only identify a small number of corporates which championed LGBTQI organisations through their larger corporate philanthropy budgets, however these were primarily HIV and AIDS focused, rather than providing support specifically for LGBTQI issues internationally.

Instead, corporates direct small amounts of funding to their LGBTQI employee resource groups (ERGs), commonly referred to as an affinity group or a pride network. Whilst this is in theory a noble aim, placing the resources with the group who have lived experience, this actually creates several major barriers to funding for global LGBTQI issues.

Corporates most commonly support via their ERGs where they have a local presence; most corporates who are providing funding have their largest offices and most well-established ERGs in the Global North, which means this is where the vast majority of funding is focused.

Additionally, not all ERGs are equal in many organisations; some ERG budgets are allocated resources based on membership or self-identification in employee surveys. In a recent study, a slim majority of 57% of respondents felt that the budget allocation process for their LGBTQI ERG is fair compared to other ERGs in their company²⁰. Corporates interviewed pointed out that even in visibly pro-LGBTQI organisations, sexual and gender identity is still one of the least represented in employee surveys, as many still do not feel comfortable coming out at work. Common practices such as “code-switching” to fit in with heteronormative behaviours disguises LGBTQI identities in the workplace,

meaning being part of the LGBTQI community is not as visible as say gender or race may be.

ERG budgets also tend to be small; some of the largest budgets uncovered in our research are still in the tens of thousands, and one corporate disclosed they felt their budget was “one of the largest in the UK”. Much of an ERG’s budget is spent on internal activities or on corporate pride activities and sponsorship, which can leave little funding for granting to LGBTQI organisations, especially in harder places to reach. International LGBTQI issues receive barely any funding from corporate LGBTQI expenditure.

Recommendations for increasing corporate support

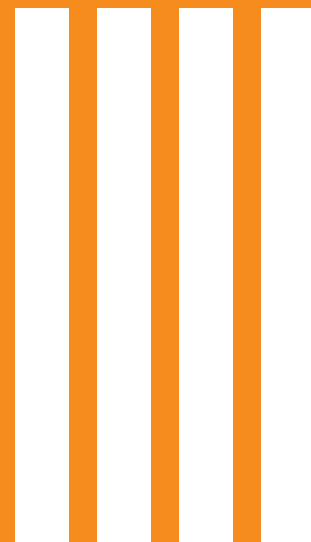
Firstly, more corporates should be encouraged to prioritise funding for LGBTQI issues, partnering with existing intermediaries to help them to build confidence in this area. Corporates can also better integrate their ERG and their philanthropic donations to channel more funding to maximise impact; corporates whose ERGs are connected to their corporate foundations or philanthropic giving are more successful in leveraging funding for LGBTQI issues internationally than those who supported via their ERG only.

Secondly, ERG funding should not be the only way corporates give to LGBTQI issues; we need more businesses to prioritise supporting equality around the world as one of their major philanthropic goals. They should have separate budgets for this work and for their ERGs, which play a crucial role in driving inclusion internally.

Several corporates pointed out the value of inclusivity to attracting, recruiting and retaining talent, and saw their ERGs as key to that. As so few corporates focus on supporting the global LGBTQI community as one of their corporate philanthropic priorities, there is significant space for corporates to grow in this area and see a business and financial return, as well as social, which would enable them to also demonstrate value to shareholders.²¹

“Great companies have a clear purpose. Even greater companies do well by doing good. I totally believe that you can do really well financially for shareholders, and do an enormous amount of good in society. And that in turn is symbiotic. That helps you to do better financially, and then you can do more good.”

Deborah Waterhouse, CEO, ViiV Healthcare



UK Individuals Funding

Average Annual Total (over 2019/2020)

£605,000

UK individual giving equates to

3p in every £100

given to charities in the UK by
individual donors

UK individual giving accounted for

4.5%

of total UK giving to LGBTQI issues
internationally

Individual donors and philanthropists are at the heart of giving to LGBTQI issues and communities. They give through private and public foundations, through NGO and foundation intermediaries, through family businesses and family foundations, via Donor-Advised Funds, and directly to LGBTQI communities globally. While much of this is therefore captured in other sections of the report, this research also set out to look at individual philanthropy in its own right. While this is likely an under-estimate, extensive research with intermediary organisations, advisers to high net worth (HNW) and ultra-high net worth (UHNW) individuals and others working in this space has identified **£605,000**²² donated by UK-based individuals to LGBTQI communities internationally.

This equates to around **3p in every £100**, or **0.03%** given to charities in the UK by individual donors²³, and accounted for **4.5%** of total UK giving to LGBTQI issues internationally in 2019/20.

This compares to an estimated 0.04% of overall voluntary sector income that goes to UK-based LGBTQI voluntary and community sector organisations – 18% of which is estimated to be from individuals²⁴; this highlights a disparity between general public donations

and philanthropy making up almost 20% of UK LGBTQI charitable income, but just 4.5% in the international LGBTQI space.

While data in this area is scarce, some research suggests that civil society organisations in parts of the Global South and East may be seeing growing levels of HNWI philanthropy; increasingly this is home-grown philanthropy, particularly during and since the Covid pandemic²⁵, but this has not yet happened at the scale or volume required for significant change.

From speaking with philanthropy and wealth advisers we get a picture of a very small number of HNW and UHNW individual clients, donors and philanthropists in the UK, who make up under 5% of the portfolio, and whose LGBTQI-specific giving makes up less than 10% of their overall charitable donations, and of that very little to none is donated outside of the UK and US.

The potential for greater giving is huge, however. New estimates put giving to charity in the UK by HNW and UHNW individuals at £7.76 billion annually²⁶, yet LGBTQI issues internationally receive a minute fraction of this.

UK Individuals

Insight and Analysis

Individual philanthropic giving is notoriously difficult to study due to the opaque nature and desire for privacy from many philanthropists. This is exacerbated by the different ways individuals can support; direct giving is one method, but from our understanding and the evidence we could uncover, it is very rare in this area. Far more commonly, HNW and UHNW individuals will give via public or private foundations, through their family corporates or Donor-Advised Funds.

In addition to the data, we undertook a series of qualitative interviews with philanthropists and their advisory community to better understand the reasons behind the data, identify the reasons for giving in this area and barriers to more funding, and help develop recommendations to overcome these barriers. Whilst we have drawn what insights and conclusions we can from the data and qualitative interviews, these are hampered by the lack of UK philanthropy and philanthropists working in this area.

What we have found is that similar to other sources of funding, the donors identifying themselves as part of the LGBTQI community is still the primary driver for supporting LGBTQI issues. This creates a challenge from a funder pipeline perspective as not only will potential philanthropists in this area therefore be created by luck of birth, but LGBTQI people in general have significant systemic barriers in the UK to acquire and sustain the levels of wealth required for philanthropy.

The UK's LGBTQI pay gap, estimated as 16%²⁷, impacts lifetime wealth acquisition, and wealth advisers also report a more risk-averse investment approach from LGBTQI clients, reducing their potential returns. The collective impact of this may go some way towards explaining why there are very few prominent LGBTQI philanthropists in the UK; it is telling how few openly LGBTQI millionaires and billionaires from the UK exist. Few are able to accumulate the levels of wealth required for philanthropic giving, and those who are only give a small portion of their charitable giving to LGBTQI organisations, most of which is then donated domestically. From interviews with advisers, their LGBTQI clients were estimated to give just 10% of their charitable donations to LGBTQI causes, and almost none of these were to support international LGBTQI issues. More disappointing was the lack of evidence of allyship giving from a philanthropic perspective; where

we would hope to see allies filling the funding gap for such an underserved community, sadly we could not identify any allyship giving at a significant level.

There are a number of barriers which are preventing further philanthropic funding, not least a lack of evidence around philanthropic funding flows to organisations working on LGBTQI issues internationally. Very few in the philanthropy sector are aware of just how underfunded the LGBTQI movement is. Our

Very few in the philanthropy sector are aware of just how underfunded the LGBTQI movement is.

understanding from interviews conducted is that because the UK has made significant progress on LGBTQI rights and public attitudes over the previous few decades, that there is not a perceived need for further funding in this area, despite vast sums being invested by far-right movements into anti-LGBTQI and anti-gender movements.

There are additional barriers which restrict philanthropic capital flows to LGBTQI organisations internationally. Some, such as the perceived risks around providing funding and the complexity of identifying organisations and supporting them, are echoed in other funding streams. However, some barriers are unique to individual philanthropy.

There is very little role modelling to encourage other philanthropists to follow suit in funding in the LGBTQI space. One philanthropist pointed to an elder generation decimated by the AIDS crisis, resulting in fewer senior LGBTQI leaders with the wealth available to demonstrate giving. Of the LGBTQI leaders that are out and visible, very few publicly talk about their sexuality or gender identity, particularly in how it intersects with their philanthropy. There is still a stigma associated with LGBTQI identities in some fields, which may limit outspoken LGBTQI philanthropy. Additionally, LGBTQI philanthropists may be keen to ensure they are not solely defined through the lens of their identity, meaning the one group most likely to fund in this area are not publicly giving and raising LGBTQI issues in philanthropic conversations, and only giving a small portion of their philanthropic capital to support these communities internationally.

“I think there’s also a leadership opportunity in this space, there’s an opportunity for committed and interested donors, thoughtful donors to be blazing a trail that others can follow.”

Elliot Vaughn MBE, Founder of GiveOut

Partially as a result of this, LGBTQI giving may not carry the same social prestige as some other causes, despite the clear need. With a dearth in available funding, few organisations in the LGBTQI space, and particularly those in the Global South and East where the funding is scarcest and the need greatest, can recreate the social giving community that supports their efforts. Unlike the US, where there is a strong culture of philanthropy and public giving, the UK is more circumspect. This means that there has not been a strong network of LGBTQI philanthropists to collaborate in this area and encourage others to join them, and the few social opportunities to give in this space, such as galas, have been primarily organised by domestic-focused charities.

There is the additional challenge of the complexity of the LGBTQI movement, in terms of the areas of focus and intersecting priorities. The support required varies greatly between countries and cultures, and even at a regional level. It can be hard, with such a diverse range of needs, to craft a simple, clear and coherent message to attract individual philanthropic capital.

Lastly, there are very few LGBTQI wealth advisers, or those equipped with a depth of knowledge on the subject, who can support the HNW and UHNW community to invest in LGBTQI issues internationally. With more advisers who understand the challenges faced by LGBTQI organisations and the need for more support, conversations with clients could be promoted to support them in making their first forays into LGBTQI philanthropy, whether or not they themselves are LGBTQI.

Our key recommendations are for a sustained focus in philanthropic forums on the lack of funding for global LGBTQI equality to help HNW and UHNW individuals understand the need for more resourcing. This should be coupled with advocacy from the few openly LGBTQI philanthropists in the UK, and ideally accompanied by philanthropic allies who are willing to role model allyship giving in this space. LGBTQI philanthropists need to increase the portion of their charitable giving going towards LGBTQI organisations in the interim, which can then be broadened out by bringing in new philanthropic supporters to this space, including allies. For those allies who have an interest in advancing LGBTQI rights, intermediaries in particular have a role creating a space for them to be supported to learn and explore this topic.

“My giving to the Global South comes through GiveOut because they’re the best at getting it to very difficult places.”

UK-based Philanthropist who asked to remain anonymous.

“We need to make people understand that there is so very little giving in the first place and that’s so totally unfair.”

Antonia Belcher OBE, businesswoman and trans philanthropist

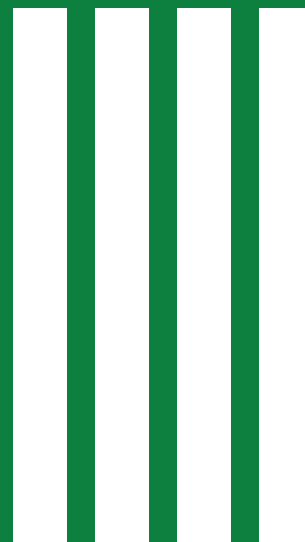
The network of professional advisers supporting HNW and UHNW individuals can be further supported to advise and empower their clients to support LGBTQI issues internationally. The LGBTQI community and those wishing to increase funding flows must work with the advisory community connected to philanthropists and individual funders to highlight the need for more support, the impact their clients could have in this area, and better understand the advisory community’s needs to promote LGBTQI issues as a funding area.

Lastly, intermediaries in particular have a role in building a community of philanthropists in the UK who want to support in this area to come together to pool collective capital, and share their experiences and impact. This will further reinforce the positive impact of role modelling, and encourage others with philanthropic capital to explore funding in this area. GiveOut has made some significant progress in this area in its first five years, though building a culture of LGBTQI philanthropy will take time.

Unlocking individual philanthropic capital, including through increasing allyship giving at a significant level, could be transformational, providing vital and flexible funding to organisations working to advance LGBTQI equality internationally.

“It’s the biggest bang for your buck that you can get in philanthropy. You give to LGBTQI causes internationally and you see countries rolling back decriminalisation laws. In Asia, the Caribbean, across Africa, maybe quietly, but you see real changes. I think that is incredibly exciting for a philanthropist.”

UK-based Philanthropist who asked to remain anonymous.





Conclusions and Recommendations

Donors give for a variety of reasons. Chief among these in the global LGBTQI space appear to be: (1) a personal connection to the cause (either the donor or a close friend or family member identifies as LGBTQI); and (2) the recognition that LGBTQI people face serious human rights abuses in many countries and that the donor could do something about this by giving. For the government there are additional reasons, such as to uphold democratic principles and human rights, and for corporates there are also reputational considerations and opportunities to attract diverse talent.

Cross-funder Barriers to Supporting LGBTQI Issues Internationally

During the course of the research and interviews with donors working in this space, a number of barriers were identified that could stand in the way of more and better funding for LGBTQI communities and causes internationally that were shared by all funder groups:

Social Barriers to Support LGBTQI Issues

We cannot forget that although great strides have been made towards equality in the UK, some LGBTQI people still face social harassment. Supporting LGBTQI issues has been associated with a stigma, where some donors feel that supporting in this area might “out” them if they are not free to be open about their sexuality, or might give the wrong portrayal of a donor’s sexual or gender identity if they are heterosexual and cisgendered. Additionally, some donors may still have religious or moral objections to LGBTQI issues, and therefore choose not to fund in this space. This is not specific to individual philanthropy, and occurs wherever individuals have significant influence over funding flows, such as trustees of foundations. LGBTQI issues have also been increasingly used as a political tool for division in recent times, which puts off funders who do not want to fund “riskier” areas, or want to avoid their philanthropy being co-opted by the current “culture wars”.

An LGBTQI Intersectional Lens is Missing Amongst Funders and Charities

Despite LGBTQI people being some of the most at risk, there is a lack of intersectionality when looking at the funding landscape. The little funds available are largely driven by those who identify as, or have a strong connection with the LGBTQI community and relies primarily on a small number of specialist funders. There is a lack of widespread support, which is also replicated in charitable programmes. LGBTQI organisations are expected to undertake most programme work internationally, despite the personal risk to their health and safety this may cause, rather than larger international organisations building this into their wider programming across international development, human rights and humanitarian assistance, to name just a few.

Risk to Funders and Grant Partners

As being LGBTQI is illegal in many countries still, there are restrictive laws and policies which must be considered by potential funders. Some funders are restricted in only being able to donate to legally registered charities; in many countries it is illegal to register an LGBTQI organisation, which creates legal

or governance issues. They must also consider the risk that in donating to these grassroots organisations they could be putting the grant recipients at risk by identifying them as LGBTQI to the authorities. Funders also face the risks inherent in funding in a “sensitive” area. Not all funding efforts will be successful and more risk-averse funders are put off by this.

Lack of Data and Evidence

LGBTQI work is significantly underrepresented in terms of data, evidence and research. Linked to this is the perception that the struggle for LGBTQI rights and inclusion has been “won” in the Global North. Without being able to evidence the lack of funding available, and the harmful impact this has on the global push for equality, funders are not equipped with the tools they need to invest their philanthropic capital to maximise their impact.

Conflation with HIV & AIDS Funding

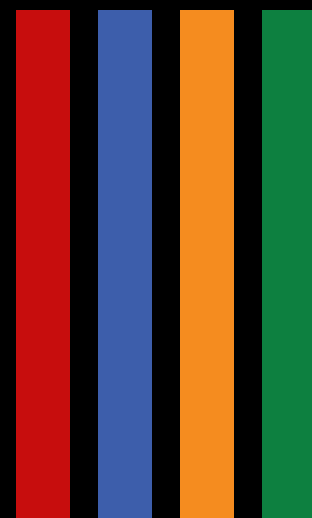
Whilst HIV and AIDS is a very important area to fund and there is a large overlap between HIV and LGBTQI communities, it is often conflated with LGBTQI funding, despite it being an investment in healthcare, education and prevention programmes for all those afflicted or at risk, including non-LGBTQI populations. This can significantly inflate the headline figure for LGBTQI funding unless it is accounted for (such as in this report); one major HIV/AIDS funder in this area disclosed that just 20% of their funding was specifically for LGBTQI populations, while 40% of UK foundation support for LGBTQI issues in this space was for HIV/AIDS organisations or programming.

A Fragmented UK Funding Landscape

One common barrier identified in our research was a lack of coordination between funders and limited giving infrastructure. Due to a lack of funding, most LGBTQI organisations working internationally are small and many are volunteer led. Many cannot register as LGBTQI organisations in their own countries due to legal barriers criminalising LGBTQI groups and identities. It is important to recognise and celebrate that community-led funders are a key part of this landscape. That is unusual and speaks both to solidarity and the resilience of local communities, but also should not prevent them from accessing support beyond LGBTQI communities. It is difficult for funders to get resources to these organisations, and most are too small to absorb significant funding. Many larger charities based in the Global North which do work in areas such as international development, do not undertake programmatic work with an LGBTQI lens, despite the need.

“Overall, I think it is important to maintain a positive outlook. But on the other hand, of course, we know that the anti-gender movement is very well resourced and we have seen significant rollbacks in many regions, including Europe, where we had hoped the most important battles for LGBTQI equality had been won. There’s increased need for resources to connect, and push back against regression on rights.”

Nina Spataru, Programme Officer,
International Human Rights Programme at
Oak Foundation



The Crucial Role of Intermediaries

In a complex ecosystem of mainly smaller LGBTQI organisations working in different jurisdictions with varying barriers and challenges, intermediary funders play a vital role in using their local or specialist knowledge to redistribute grant funding. This is even more important in the Global South and East where there are greater barriers to giving to LGBTQI communities than in the Global North. UK funders provide support via UK-based intermediaries such as GiveOut and the Kaleidoscope Trust, and through intermediaries based in the Global South and East, such as East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative (UHA! EASHRI), Initiative Sankofa d’Afrique de l’Ouest (ISDAO) and The Other Foundation.

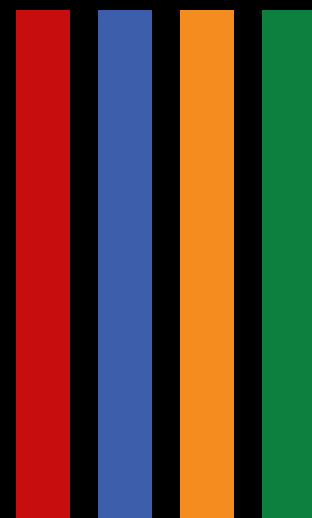
Intermediaries are vital to overcoming several barriers to increasing funding in the international LGBTQI space. One key barrier identified by some funders was their limited ability to manage grant partner relationships, forcing them to give a smaller number of higher value grants, meaning smaller organisations who cannot absorb this level of funding are unable to access it at all. Intermediaries overcome this challenge by being able to absorb significant donations from such funders and re-grant this to a larger number of sub-grantees, including grassroots organisations, enabling these funders to reach and support a larger number of organisations.

Intermediaries also overcome risk and local knowledge barriers by being embedded in, and working with, the global LGBTQI movement to ensure they can identify and support smaller organisations who know the local context best, and can work with them to ensure they are supported without being put at risk. To further support local communities, many intermediaries can and do operate through participatory grant-making models, ensuring those with a lived experience can share their expertise and insight to maximise the impact of funding.

Lastly, intermediaries play an important strategic role advocating to increase funding and supporting the capacity development of local organisations to enable a more resilient and sustainable movement.

“As a small foundation with limited staff , we end up having to give larger grants to fewer organisations, including to intermediary partners who help us reach grassroots organisations we can’t fund directly.”

Nina Spataru, Programme Officer,
International Human Rights Programme at
Oak Foundation



How We Can Work Together to Create a More Resilient Funding Landscape for LGBTQI Issues Internationally

Whilst we have addressed funder-specific barriers and recommendations within each subsection of this report, we have created a series of recommendations that will help all funders to work together to create a better funding landscape for LGBTQI organisations working to advance equality internationally.

The catch 22 of LGBTQI equality internationally is that if there were more funding available, more organisations working on LGBTQI issues would be able to do more; however, without the funding available, grassroots organisations cannot grow to meet the demands of Global North funders. This lack of funding may also limit the involvement of other charities with a significant presence in-country, such as international development organisations, in including an LGBTQI lens to their mainstream programmatic and funding areas, including human rights, international development and humanitarian assistance.

This leaves small, grassroots organisations to undertake significant advocacy, legal and campaigning work, without the connections, influence or resources of larger organisations and lacking access to the same funding opportunities. If funding were more abundant, it could facilitate more large NGOs to apply an intersectional LGBTQI lens, and work to support these grassroots organisations and activists as specialists in a wider national programmatic framework. So how can we create a more resilient funding landscape?

Advocate for More Funders to Support International LGBTQI Issues

The simple fact is that if we want to advance LGBTQI equality and support communities internationally, especially against well-funded anti-LGBTQI movements, we need more funders willing to invest in this area. We need more philanthropists, foundations and corporates to include an LGBTQI intersectional lens on their funding.

Perhaps unfairly, the initial burden will likely lie with LGBTQI people and existing funders to encourage additional funding in the short term to halt the erosion of LGBTQI rights. But we also need longer term philanthropic advocacy work to empower new funders to take their first steps in prioritising this area, including attracting allies in all donor groups who are willing to fund the advancement of equality. This will help these new funders understand the importance of LGBTQI funding better and help them accept and take more risk with their funding, within a supportive environment and framework.

To facilitate this, those seeking to grow investment in this area must provide attractive mechanisms to encourage new funders, support them to understand the needs of the LGBTQI movement and take their first steps in funding international LGBTQI issues so they are able to apply their philanthropic capital for the maximum impact and greatest social returns.

Peer to peer discussions and advocacy from existing funders to encourage others in their funding groups to begin this journey would build new funders' expertise and confidence and grow the available resources, creating a more sustainable and resilient funding landscape for LGBTQI communities.

Provide Support for the Long Term

There are so few significant funders of international LGBTQI issues, which means that the funding landscape is subject to changing priorities and strategies. This creates a fragile funding ecosystem where just one funder changing their priorities could have a significant impact across the sector. This makes planning for the long term difficult; some work such as changing cultural perspectives on LGBTQI issues may take decades of sustained work to realise. To work towards the advancement of equality, organisations require long term funding strategies to provide the stability and investment needed to undertake this type of work. We need the UK Government, foundations, corporates and individuals to prioritise LGBTQI funding and develop long term strategies to facilitate success.

“Charitable giving is a very common but largely private matter in the UK, rather than something discussed openly and frequently. This creates problems for establishing giving as a social norm and for creating opportunities to ask each other to support our favoured causes.”

Beth Breeze, Global Philanthropy Project, Global Resources Report, 2022

More Collaboration Between Funders

Existing funders can collaborate better to maximise our collective impact, and attract new funders into the international LGBTQI space. Peer to peer networking and discussion could create new funding opportunities and share best practices across all funders. It could help new funders to take their first steps into LGBTQI funding by using existing foundation and philanthropy networks, and in the corporate space, DEI specialists and ERG leads can support their organisations to become better allies. It would also help facilitate a culture of philanthropy in the LGBTQI community and allies, ensuring that funding in this space becomes a well-networked, engaging and empowering area which enriches philanthropic culture and builds a strong relationship between the global LGBTQI community and those who can provide the resources to support advancing equality.

Reform Corporate LGBTQI Philanthropy

Most large corporates support LGBTQI issues, primarily through ERGs with small budgets, much of which is spent on promoting LGBTQI identities in the workplace and domestic support for local LGBTQI issues in the Global North. Supporting them to reform their corporate philanthropy and prioritise supporting equality around the world as one of their major philanthropic goals could be transformational. Whilst many corporates have made significant progress in the DEI space, including the development of DEI specialists working in this area and the growth in vibrant ERGs and pride networks, to unlock vital funding from corporates we need these specialists and groups to advocate for funding reform within their corporates and across their networks. Corporates should separate internal pride budgets from charitable giving, and bring an LGBTQI equality lens into their corporate philanthropy. This would enable internal pride networks to thrive and support domestic pride activities, whilst still being able to engage with the global push for equality and support communities around the world. Unlocking corporate allyship could provide a sustainable source of funding for LGBTQI communities and enable corporates to demonstrate true allyship to fend off accusations of pinkwashing. Corporates could also collaborate with one another, sharing experiences and expertise, which would benefit their employees, and enable them to maximise their impact.

Build a Strong Evidence Base Through More Transparent Data

The lack of real data is a significant barrier to more funding. If funders could see how poorly resourced the movement is, and how severe the need, they would see a real opportunity for impact. However, without that knowledge, many funders have the misconception

that there is no real need, or that the job is “done”, as many LGBTQI experiences in the Global North are now those of visibility and relative security. This report is a first attempt to rectify this evidence gap in the UK, and will be used to advocate for change, and provide a tool to all funders or potential funders in this space to encourage them to apply an LGBTQI lens, and support some of the most vulnerable communities globally. We aim to repeat this report and expand our methodology to analyse longer term trends in LGBTQI funding and advocate to transform the funding landscape.

“I think that collaborative funding is absolutely the way forward. Because it cuts out all of the challenges...the LGBT community is so ignored by funders...sort of a hidden minority.”

A corporate foundation who wished to remain anonymous

Support and Resource Intermediaries

Intermediaries play a vital and growing role in overcoming barriers to further funding in the international LGBTQI space and could play a significant role in supporting these collaborative elements to advance the levels and quality of funding for LGBTQI issues internationally. These specialist organisations enable funders to reduce their risks and increase their understanding of the movement, and help them overcome capacity barriers by being able to absorb larger grants and redistribute these to a greater number of grassroots organisations in manageable amounts. They also play a role in building the evidence base needed for change, advocating for funding for the movement, and building grassroots capacity to enable longer term change. Intermediaries, if properly resourced, can work with funding groups in order to help them take their first steps into international LGBTQI funding, maximise their impact, and play a vital role in supporting the building of relationships between funders and grant partners, enabling a better donor experience, the sharing of stories and impact information, whilst minimising the burden on grant partner organisations. Intermediaries are vital to the success of the movement and in facilitating bringing in more donors to the movement, but they themselves need investment so they are able to play this important role and shift the funding paradigm to create lasting change and a more sustainable and resilient funding landscape for all LGBTQI communities.

What would you say to other funders considering funding in this space?

“Current times are posing real challenges. We have strength in numbers, and it is important that we all step up to the plate and confront the rollback on LGBTQI rights, but also the wider rollback on rights and values.”

Nina Spataru, Programme Officer,
International Human Rights
Programme at Oak Foundation

Together we can create a better system to support international LGBTQI issues.

A number of surmountable barriers are having a harmful and lasting impact on the advancement of LGBTQI equality internationally by restricting funding needed to properly resource the global LGBTQI movement. At the same time, there has been a significant investment by anti-LGBTQI groups to roll back our community's rights and undermine progress towards equality, putting more lives at risk. A well-funded, collaborative and strategic funding movement in the UK is vital to ensuring we halt the erosion of these rights and provide the vital resources LGBTQI organisations need to build a brighter future so more LGBTQI people can live freely and openly.

If some of the proposals and recommendations in this report were taken forward by respective funder groups, we could collectively work together to transform the funding landscape for LGBTQI issues internationally. GiveOut intend to make this report a regular publication to track longer term funding flows, and will undertake extensive philanthropic advocacy to grow support and funding, which would unlock the prospects of radical and lasting change towards achieving equality, safety and security for LGBTQI people around the world.



Methodology

Notes



Data Sources

Our primary source of data for this report was the Global Philanthropy Project's Global Resources Report (2022) *Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities (2019-2020)*. The GPP report records funding from governments, foundations and corporate funders for a two year period, 2019 and 2020. In this report we take an average across the two years to create an annual total representing a single year "2019/20".

This report contains new analysis of the UK funding contribution from the GRR data for 2019-2020. In this report we separate out corporate funders from other foundation funders, and have included all public foundations in our definition of intermediaries as, while not all will self-categorise as such, these definitions are quite subjective. The research also documents attempts to expand this data with new research into UK funding in this area, particularly by corporate funders and individuals.

Other sources of data include extensive reviews of company, foundation, Donor Advised Fund providers and intermediary accounts; a small survey of intermediaries working in this space; and a number of interviews with funders in each donor group.

A note about 2019/20

The period under study in this report was one of marked local, international and global incidences. Brexit and the Covid pandemic and its economic aftermath had particularly significant effects on both social attitudes and the funding landscape. The Covid pandemic and the increasing emergence of more populist, right-wing politics made for an increasingly difficult and hostile environment for LGBTQI communities, while changes in funding patterns further exacerbated issues for these communities in some cases. This context should be borne in mind when looking at the figures quoted in this report, and only time will truly tell the full effect of these on the funding reported here and in future reports.

The invisible cause – why LGBTQI funding is hard to spot

Research in this area is hampered by a lack of good data. The vast majority of representative surveys and analyses of individual, foundation and company giving don't include LGBTQI as a cause area. Researchers are therefore left to search through funding for “unpopular causes”, “marginalised people”, “human rights” and “international funding”²⁸. Equally, the UK Government does not have a marker in their data for this.

HIV/AIDS funding is similarly ‘hidden’, and where it is available it is often difficult to identify funding that focusses on LGBTQI communities rather than other population groups²⁹. There is also the issue that HIV/AIDS funding is largely focussed on direct health service provision rather than rights and inclusion work, which many funders consider to be two very separate functions.

Definitions used in this report

“UK funding” - funding coming from UK-registered charitable organisations or UK-based funders. Note that UK-based funders may receive a portion of their income from international sources.

“LGBTQI” – throughout this report we use the acronym LGBTQI to indicate those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex. This is not an exclusive definition, however, and is intended to encompass other identities that fit under this umbrella, such as non-binary. Note that the Global Resources Report uses the definition ‘LGBTI’ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex) and this applies to all data sourced from the GRR.

“LGBTQI grant” – data sourced from the GRR uses a specific definition for inclusion that comprises “grant-making that specifically focuses on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex issues” while acknowledging that there are many alternate terms for these populations³⁰. It should be noted that there is much more funding coming from UK sources that benefits or supports LGBTQI communities and issues as part of the general remit that is not counted here.

“Global South and East” - in this report, as in the GPP/GRR, the Global South and East is defined as: Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa.

“Internationally” - international funding includes “advocacy for the inclusion of LGBTQI issues in international bodies and instruments, and also work to strengthen the capacity of LGBTQI movements across multiple regions of the world when inclusive of regions in the Global South and East and those in the Global North.”³¹ The decision to include international funding reflects an acknowledgement that much UK Government funding, in particular, will be focussed on multiple countries and regions (largely reflecting the “commonwealth countries” banner) but the majority is likely to be benefiting LGBTQI communities in the Global South and East.

“With regranting” / “without regranting” – GPP/GRR avoid double-counting in the data by tracking the proportion of funding that is given to intermediaries for regranting. “Specifically, when there is data for both (1) a grant awarded to an intermediary for regranting and (2) the grants ultimately awarded by the intermediary, then only the latter set of grants is included in most tabulations.” In order to accurately document the overall level of LGBTQI funding provided by each grant-maker, however, all regranting funds are included where individual donors or groups of donors are listed. Where regranting is included, we have therefore noted this in the text, otherwise all totals are “without regranting”. As explained in the text, we have also reported additional amounts of UK giving (on top of the GPP data) by corporates, foundations and individuals which was largely identified as income to intermediaries working in this space and already reporting to the GPP/GRR project. This is therefore counted in the UK total as “with regranting” and not included on top of other figures when making comparisons, to avoid double-counting. All efforts have been made to avoid double counting in this report within the confines of the data.

All totals quoted in GBP£ have been converted from the GPP/GRR dataset which is in USD\$, using the GPP/GRR model. Totals may not be exact due to some currencies being translated twice and rounding errors. Figures are absolute and not adjusted for inflation.

Endnotes

1 This total includes figures for UK giving additional to the GRR data, including donations given to intermediaries for regranting. Without regranting, the total funding going to support LGBTQI causes on the ground was £12.5 million. See Methodology for full details.

2 Calculated using average of: (1) total UK voluntary sector income (NCVO (2022) *UK Civil Society Almanac*) (2.5p); and (2) UK charitable giving totals (ACF (2021) *Foundation Giving Trends*) (3.5p); isolating the four donor groups' giving in 2019/20.

3 Oxfam's total income for 2019/20 was £367.4 million (Oxfam Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20).

4 Global Philanthropy Project (2022) *Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities 2019-2020*.

5 This total includes figures for UK giving additional to the GRR data, including donations given to intermediaries for regranting. Without regranting, the total funding was £8.5 million.

6 Calculated using total grant-making for the Top 300 UK foundations in 2019/20 (minus corporate foundations) (Walker & Pharoah (2021) *Foundations Giving Trends*).

7 Figures include all funding (GPP/GRR plus additional sources identified by this research).

8 GPP/GRR figures only (to avoid double counting). Global Philanthropy Project (2022) *Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities 2019-2020*.

9 16 UK-based foundations featured in the GPP/GRR data plus 2 identified by further research. This compares to at least 65 foundations who give to LGBTQI causes in the UK (threesixtygiving.org).

10 International funding can cross country and regional borders, benefitting LGBTQI communities in both the Global South and East and the Global North.

11 Global Philanthropy Project (2022) *Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities 2019-2020*.

12 The US government is not included in this list.

13 Independent Commission for Aid Impact (2023) *The UK's approach to democracy and human rights A review*.

14 This total includes figures for UK giving additional to the GRR data, including donations given to intermediaries for regranting. Without regranting, the total funding was £972,000.

15 Calculated using total UK corporate charitable giving taken from CAF (2023) *Corporate giving by the FTSE 100*.

16 Figures include all funding (GPP/GRR plus additional sources identified by this research).

17 GPP/GRR figures only (to avoid double counting). Global Philanthropy Project (2022) *Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities 2019-2020*.

18 2 UK-based companies featured in the GPP/GRR data plus 18 identified by further research.

19 This was largely identified as income to intermediaries working in this space, and already reporting to the GPP/GRR project, as such this is counted in the UK total as "with regranting" and not included on top of other figures when making comparisons, to avoid double-counting.

20 *The Pulse on UK LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Groups 2023 Survey Of NEXUS LGBTQ+ Members*

21 GiveOut's (2021) *Pride with Purpose: How businesses can support the global movement for LGBTQI human rights* outlines further recommendations in this area.

22 This was largely identified as income to intermediaries working in this space, and already reporting to the GPP/GRR project, as such this is counted in the UK total as "with regranting" and not included on top of other figures when making comparisons, to avoid double-counting.

23 Calculated using an average of: (1) total UK voluntary sector income (NCVO (2022) *UK Civil Society Almanac*) (2p); and (2) UK charitable giving totals (ACF (2021) *Foundation Giving Trends*) (4p); isolating individual donors' giving in 2019/20.

24 Colgan, F, Hunter, C and McKearney, A (2014). 'Staying Alive': *The Impact of 'Austerity Cuts' on the LGBT Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in England and Wales*. UK TUC.

25 E.g. Cambridge Judge Business School Centre for Strategic Philanthropy (2020) *Philanthropy and COVID-19: Is the North-South Power Balance Finally Shifting?*; Murisa, T., (2022). *High-Net-Worth Philanthropists: Case of Three Selected Countries (Mauritius, South Africa and Zimbabwe)*. (Report No. RR15) Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment.

26 Pharoah, C., Dovey, C., McKenzie, T. & V. Thaker (2023) *Scoping the High Net Worth Philanthropy Market. Beacon Philanthropy*.

27 TUC (2022) *New TUC poll reveals widespread lack of support for LGBT people at work*.

28 While the UK is extremely lucky to have 360Giving which maps self-reported grant making by UK Government bodies, quangos and foundations, allowing us to track grants going to LGBTQI causes particularly within the UK, it does not currently focus on international funding.

29 Note that the GPP/GRR data makes every effort to only include HIV/AIDS funding that specifically focuses on LGBTI communities. For the very reason that it can be difficult for some funders to identify this, some data may be missing.

30 Global Philanthropy Project (2022) *Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities 2019-2020*.

31 Global Philanthropy Project (2022) *Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities 2019-2020*.

32 Ibid.

Acknowledgements

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our data partner, the Global Philanthropy Project, particularly Ezra Nepon and Jay Postic, who kindly extracted the UK funders' data collected in their Global Resources Report for us to analyse³². While all due care and attention was taken, any mistakes in the data are therefore ours (The Researchery).

We would also like to thank those donors and funders who agreed to talk to us (both on and off the record) about their giving in this area; and those individuals and organisations who generously shared their data and knowledge in this space.

Report Credits

Lead authors: Dr Cat Walker, The Researchery & Allan McKinnon, GiveOut

Data analysis: Dr Cat Walker, The Researchery

Designer: Luke Smith, GiveOut



Funding for this research was kindly provided by The Baring Foundation.

And thanks to our data partner



Proudly supported by our media partner



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Third Floor, Thomas Ford House, 23-24 Smithfield Street, London
EC1A 9LF



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