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CANADA



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Canada

Seven International LGBTQ2I Projects Successfully Funded by the Government of Canada

Ottawa, Dec 9, 2021 – Equitas and Dignity Network Canada are proud to announce the [first funded projects of the Act Together for Inclusion Fund](#) (ACTIF).

The highly anticipated project selection represents initiatives with 28 partners spanning 17 countries across the globe. It comes as the result of a historic funding commitment from the government of Canada for LGBTQ2I human rights. It follows a call for proposals launched in the spring of 2021 for collaborative projects between Canadian and Southern partners to advance the human rights of LGBTQ2I persons in countries in the Global South, specifically those eligible for Official Development Assistance.

Recognizing that power and privilege are inherent to global grantmaking and the importance of destabilizing colonial funding dynamics, ACTIF aims to apply feminist and participatory approaches that shift the power of decision-making to communities themselves. Hence, a rigorous selection process was elaborated by the ACTIF Advisory Committee, made up of a diverse group of international LGBTQ2I activists and funders. The Project Selection Committee (Alejandra Sardá-Chandiramani, Anaraa Nyamdorj, Genwa Genweten, Otibho Obianwu, Ro-Ann Mohammed, and Ricki Kgositau-Kanza) then chose seven projects to receive a total of \$2.7 Million in funding over two to three years.

Canada's Dedication to International LGBTQ2I Human Rights

ACTIF is an outcome of significant efforts made by Canadian civil society to advocate for greater Canadian support for advancing the human rights of LGBTQ2I people internationally. It represents a significant component of Canada's \$30M LGBTQ2I international assistance program which highlights Canada's broader dedication to supporting the human rights of LGBTQ2I people worldwide in its international solidarity work, whose diverse communities around the world face systemic discrimination, violence, and human rights violations.

Quotes

"LGBTQ2I rights are human rights, and Canada will always be there to support them. Because of Canada's funding through the LGBTQ2I International Assistance Program, and work done by our partners, we are supporting real and lasting change across societies. I want to thank Equitas, Dignity Network Canada and their partners for the work they do each and every day so that LGBTQ2I people can be treated with the same dignity and respect as every other human being." - The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada

"ACTIF is a historic commitment from Canada to advance the human rights of LGBTQ2I people in ODA eligible countries, but the Fund also embodies the importance of equitable partnership and solidarity

between movements North and South, and the need to shift to innovative and more inclusive and feminist funding approaches” - Anne Delorme, ACTIF Fund Director, Equitas

“The struggle for acceptance and dignity of LGBTIQ+ people around the world is one of the major human rights challenges of our time. As a network of 53 Canadian organizations working to advance human rights, this is an important step forward for Canada’s role in the world. We are putting our words into action.” - Doug Kerr, Executive Director, Dignity Network Canada

ACTIF SELECTED PROJECTS

[Building Durable Solutions for LGBTIQ+ Refugees in the Global South](#)

Rainbow Railroad (Canada), PASSOP (Kenya), Diálogo Diverso (Ecuador), Access Chapter 2 (South Africa), and Al Otro Lado (Mexico)

This project aims to address situations of extreme violence, discrimination and persecution faced by LGBTIQ+ peoples in Latin America and Southern/Eastern Africa that lead to potential displacements and increasingly dangerous situations for these individuals.

[Economic RES-Q: Economic Resilience, empowerment and solidarity for queer communities in India and Thailand](#)

Canada LGBT+ Chamber of Commerce - CGLCC (Canada), Samavesh Chamber of Commerce (India), and Equal Asia Foundation - Stichting EqualA Foundation (Thailand)

This project aims to provide LGBT2QI persons and communities in Thailand and India with long-term and sustainable economic empowerment solutions to address the long-standing economic inequities experienced by LGBT2QI communities and the economic distress caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Pour Moi, Pour Les Autres](#)

Egides - Alliance internationale francophone pour l'égalité et les diversités (Canada), FACSDIS - Femmes en action contre la stigmatisation et la discrimination sexuelle (Haiti), CCAP - Chambre camerounaise des acteurs en psychologie (Cameroun)

This project, based on community exchange and learning, aims to improve the mental health and well-being of French-speaking LGBTQI activists in Haiti and Cameroon, and more generally in the Caribbean and Central and East Africa, to foster strong and resilient LGBTQI movements.

[Reclaiming our History, Defending Our Rights](#)

Inter Pares (Canada), Colombia Diversa (Colombia), Fondo Lunaria Mujer (Colombia), Asociacion Lambda (Guatemala)

This project, in support of LGBTIQ+ persons and communities in Colombia and Guatemala where violence, hostility and exclusion remain the daily reality for many LGBTIQ+ people, aims to enhance

LGBTIQ+ leadership in the promotion of human rights, to raise awareness about the importance of LGBTIQ+ rights and to advance policies to positively impact the lives of LGBTIQ+ individuals.

[The Right to Health and Healing: Strengthening LGBTIQ movements in Kenya and Uganda through community-owned mental health care and wellness support services](#)

Stephen Lewis Foundation - SLF (Canada), Freedom and Roam Uganda - FARUG (Uganda), Sexual Minorities Uganda operating as Rights Evidence Action Ltd (Uganda), Ice Breakers Uganda -IBU (Uganda), Men Against AIDS Youth Group - MAAYGO (Kenya), HIV and AIDS People's Alliance of Kenya - HAPA (Kenya), Health Options for Young Men in HIV, AIDS & STIs - HOYMAS (Kenya)

This project responds to the immediate need for inclusive, quality mental health and well-being support for LGBTIQ leaders and community members in Kenya and Uganda, countries where legally entrenched discrimination, and political and social persecution are a daily reality for LGBTIQ human rights defenders.

[TRANScendent opportunities](#)

YMCA GTA (Canada), YMCA of Peru (Peru), TRANS - Organización por los Derechos Humanos de las personas Trans (Peru)

This project aims to enhance and promote the rights of trans people in Peru and strives to create leadership opportunities, meaningful participation of trans peoples in advocacy work, and access to economic opportunities for trans individuals and communities.

[Translating research, education and dialogue into change and action for LGBTI communities](#)

Egale (Canada), Intersex Asia - IA (Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan), Transbantu Association Zambia - TBZ (Zambia)

This project aims to address important research gaps in Asia and Africa to increase the respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights and socio-economic outcomes for trans and intersex persons through two key trans and intersex-led community-based research studies - one focused on the realities for intersex persons in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan and another on trans communities in Zambia.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES FUND

ACTIF's [Emerging Opportunities Fund](#) is a complementary flexible fund that provides short-term grants to respond to emerging opportunities or risks related to advancing the human rights of LGBTQ2I people. Grants are provided in the amount of \$25,000 - \$50,000 per project for a duration of 3 - 12 months.

Alongside Cinema and the Arts

Fondation Massimadi (Canada), Institut Diversité Égalité Inclusion - IDEI (Haïti), Institut Panos (Haïti)

This project aims to train 6 LGBT filmmakers in Haiti in the making of short activist films that aim to shift public opinion, especially the opinion of decision-makers, on LGBT issues and support the creation of mechanisms to reduce discrimination and violence against LGBT people.

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About Equitas

Equitas is Canada's most recognized and active human rights education organization. Equitas works for the advancement of equality, inclusion and respect for human dignity through transformative human rights education programs. Equitas empowers people to address inequality and discrimination, and to work to build more inclusive and rights-respecting communities. For more information, visit equitas.org.

About Dignity Network Canada

Dignity Network Canada is a coalition of over 50 voluntary, non-profit sector organizations and individuals located in Canada, working locally, nationally and globally to advance human rights around the world related to sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, or sex characteristics (SOGIESC).