

Dignity Network Canada: A Snapshot of the Global SOGIESC Movement in Canada

Briefing Report #1 (2022)

This summary is part of a series of reports commissioned by Dignity Network Canada as part of the Act Together for Inclusion Fund (ACTIF). The goal of these reports is to further knowledge and understanding related to international solidarity related to Canada's role supporting the human rights of LGBTQI+ people internationally. This briefing report is a summary of a longer, more extensive research and mapping project conducted in late 2021 / early 2022 which examined Canadian civil society involvement in the global SOGIESC movement.

About ACTIF

Funded by Global Affairs Canada and managed by Equitas in partnership with DNC, **ACTIF aims to enhance the respect, protection and fulfillment of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, two-spirit and intersex persons in countries in the Global South, and specifically those eligible for Official Development Assistance.** Launched in

2021, ACTIF strengthens Canadian 2SLGBTQI+ organizations and builds solidarity with international CSOs by providing multi-year funding to implement programming in the Global South.

About Dignity Network Canada

DNC is a national network of organizations in Canada concerned with international human rights on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). We have 60 member organizations across the country and we

work to support SOGIESC related human rights around the world through collective advocacy, collaboration and public engagement.

About this report

Data was gathered through a detailed online survey in November 2021 – January 2022, which 25 organizations completed. Canadian organizations with significant active and upcoming work on issues of SOGIESC globally were represented, and all 25 organizations are DNC members.

64%

of these groups

identify as led by Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, and Intersex (2SLGBTQI+) communities. Overall, this report shows the breadth of Dignity Network Canada member connections around the globe.

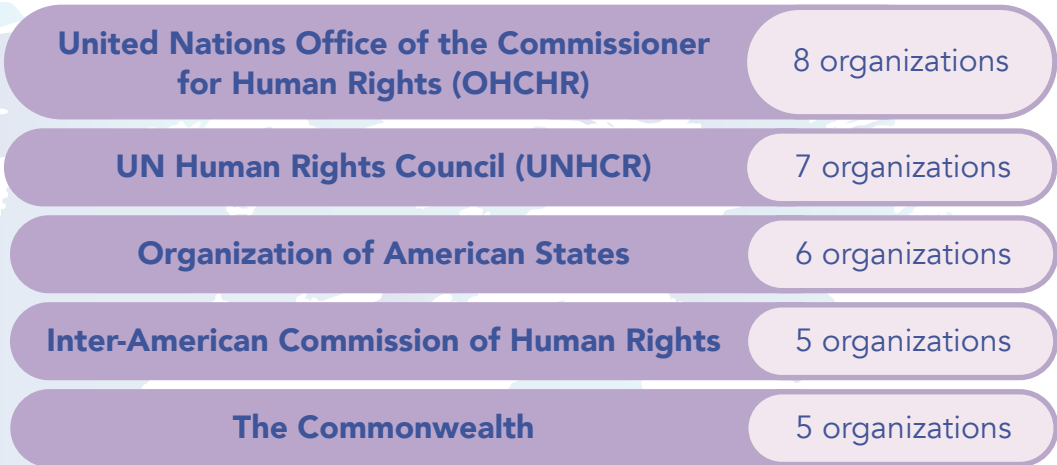
Overall, the findings show the global SOGIESC movement in Canada has achieved a remarkable level of development and reach, especially given the historically low resourcing available for Canadian organizations. Put together; the results show the movement in Canada is greater than the sum of its parts, with CSO partners in over 100 countries collectively. This is an exciting moment, where we can see new indications of what the future contribution of Canadian global LGBTQI+ work might be.



Advocacy at International & Regional Institutions

We asked which Canadian organizations have engaged in the past with international or regional institutions to advance SOGIESC related human rights. Fourteen Dignity Network Canada members are engaging with a total of 18 international institutions.

The following are the top five responses:



Canadian Engagement in Global Networks

Collectively, respondents reported being part of **65 networks** related to their work on issues of SOGIESC globally. There are eight SOGIESC-related networks that multiple DNC members are

part of. There are another eight general networks that multiple DNC members are part of. The top SOGIESC related global SOGIESC networks that DNC members are a part of are:



Geography of Canadian International Work on SOGIESC

We asked where Canadian organizations had significant partnerships and projects related to SOGIESC issues around the world. Canadian CSOs are working across a wide range of contexts, generating a relatively broad and thin spread, with few ‘crowded spaces’. Collectively,

Canadian CSOs are working with CSOs on SOGIESC issues in 100 countries and a total of 190 CSO country engagements were reported. Overall, global south countries with the most Canadian CSO engagement are:



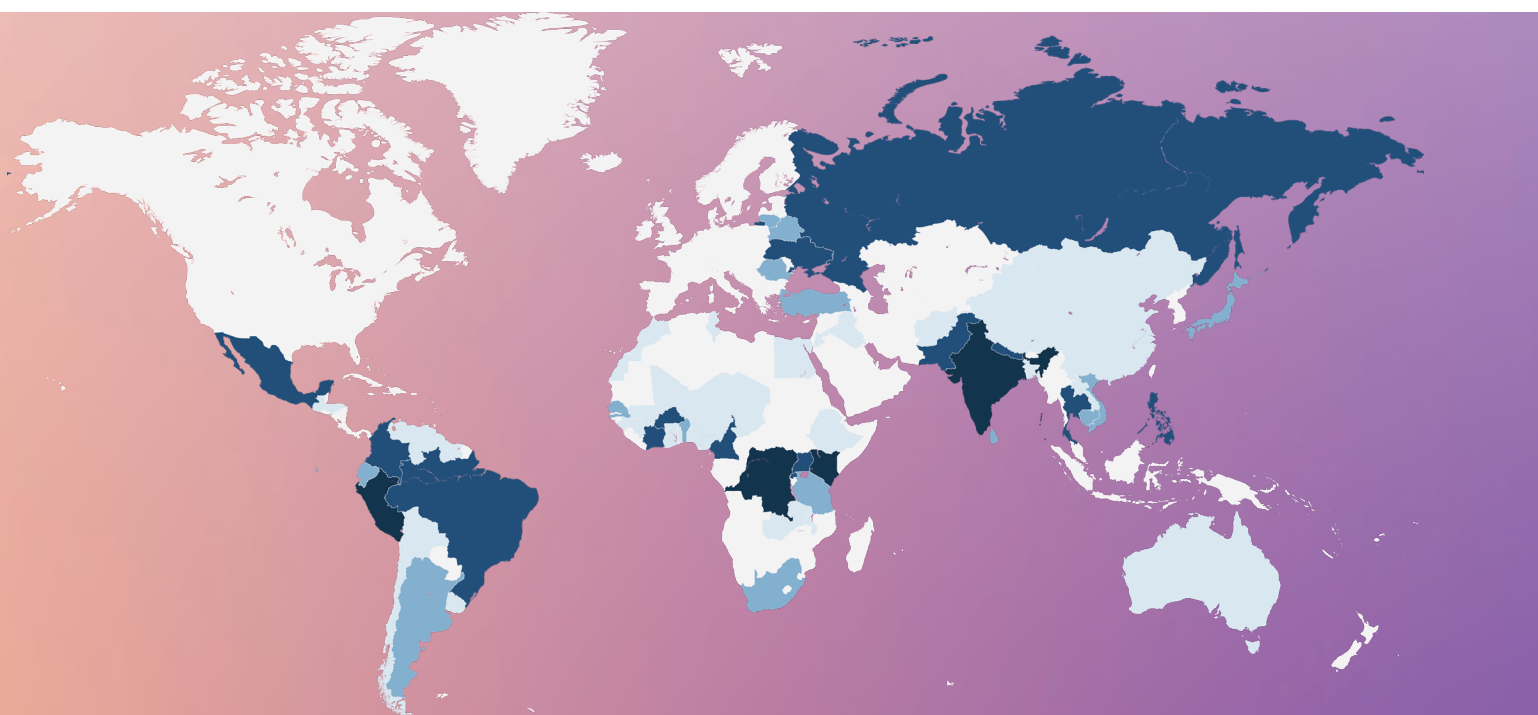
Our scan also compared where Canadian CSOs were working relevant to broader international data from the Global Philanthropy Project, and revealed that there are two areas where Canadian CSOs are particularly well-represented and engaged, perhaps filling an important gap' that other donor countries are not:

1. Countries with significant French-speaking populations are particularly well-represented

(Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, Rwanda) relative to the global funding gap on LGBTQI+ rights issues in the Francophonie.

2. Latin America is also well-represented (with Canadian engagement) compared to other regions.

Where Canadian CSO work is taking place/partners are based (number per country)



= 4 Canadian organizations



= 2 Canadian organizations



= 3 Canadian organizations



= 1 Canadian organization

Note, this does not mean that these areas are well-funded, but it means that Canadian organizations are particularly engaged in these regions and perhaps well-positioned to do more work.

Themes of International SOGIESC Work

Together, Dignity Network Canada members said their top five priorities of their work on SOGIESC globally for the next five years are:

- 1. Advocacy and influencing**
- 2. Internal capacity-building / strategy or approach development**
- 3. Programming in countries and regions / other in-country initiatives**
- 4. Network-building and engagement / convening**
- 5. General capacity-building / accompaniment / technical assistance for global LGBTQI+ CSOs**

For more information on the full version of this report, please contact Doug Kerr, Executive Director, Dignity Network Canada at doug@dignitynetwork.ca.

A word about language: Dignity Network Canada generally uses the acronym SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics) when referring to our work. In international contexts, we use LGBTQI+ as it is recognized internationally and in domestic contexts, we use 2SLGBTQI+ to reflect the presence and importance of Two Spirit and indigenous peoples here on Turtle Island.

This project was supported by:



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