How can you support GiveOut? Please see back page

Cover Story

“I am very privileged to be openly gay and Muslim, and I want to share that”

For Rhadem Morados, the film’s potential effect on policy-makers is key. “It takes activists to lobby those politicians and decision-makers, to change their minds and give them a reason not to back discrimination. Visibility builds awareness. And awareness leads to tolerance,” he said.

“Mindanao is a mainly Muslim area but LGBTQI Muslims in Mindanao don’t really make up a community,” Rhadem said. “Most are in the closet, and don’t speak out about their LGBTQI identity.” In January 2019, a plebiscite was held in Mindanao in which the district was declared autonomous. Whilst this move means greater independence for an ethnically distinct region, it could spell the strengthening of Sharia law and harder times ahead for the LGBTQI community. This was Rhadem’s motivation for the film.

“I wanted to make a film about ordinary LGBTQI Muslims in Mindanao, to show leaders and members of the public that queer Muslim Filipinos can be happy, successful and productive members of society,” said Rhadem. The aim is to push back against the increased risk of stronger Islamic nationalism in Mindanao, raising awareness and highlighting the ambitions, contributions and struggles of LGBTQI Muslims — important steps towards greater understanding and, eventually, acceptance.

“Queer Muslim people are so often hidden in the wider LGBTQI community. I wanted the film to be optimistic, not pessimistic. I am very privileged to be openly gay and Muslim, and I want to share that.”

Emerald Life launches fund to support LGBTQI activism in Southern Africa

A new fund to support LGBTQI human rights activism in Southern Africa has been established with GiveOut, sponsored by inclusive insurer Emerald Life and its Chairman Steve Wardlaw, who celebrates his 50th birthday this year.

“South Africa — and its recent history — is very close to my heart. It is truly a place I love, and a home away from home. The launch of the Emerald 50 Fund is my way of giving something back to the country by supporting those courageous activists who are working to improve the situation for their communities,” said Steve Wardlaw.

Across Southern Africa, LGBTQI people face discrimination and persecution. In Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Eswatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe, British colonial era laws criminalise consensual same-sex relations. LBT+ women, in particular, suffer discrimination, harassment and violence, including the use of “corrective rape.”

Under the Emerald 50 Fund, grants will be provided to activists campaigning for equality and dignity in Southern Africa. The first organisation to be supported under the Fund is Access Chapter 2, a South African organisation that works to educate and empower LGBTQI communities in claiming their rights.

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GiveOut grants | Updates from the frontline

Reports from a selection of GiveOut’s grant partners around the world

Movement building in Southeast Asia | ASEAN SOGIE Caucus (A)

The ASEAN SOGIE Caucus (ASC) is a network of human rights groups in Southeast Asia, campaigning at the regional and international level to advance LGBTQI human rights and building the capacity of grassroots activists across the region.

GiveOut donors are helping to fund ASC’s ‘Supporting Capacity of Local LGBTQI Activists’ small-grants programme, which empowers local activists in their advocacy, campaigning, information sharing and capacity building work. Of the 38 qualifying applications in late 2018, ASC selected a diverse range of five projects in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

Projects supported under the programme

Indonesia | Providing support to transgender women and their families who have faced stigma and discrimination in their communities in Yogyakarta.

Malaysia | Establishing an interactive network of LGBTQI people’s family members, with training on intersectionality, advocacy and peer support.

Malaysia | Empowering the transgender community by helping them understand their rights, including sensitisation sessions with Muslim transgender people and allies.

Viet Nam | Supporting a class of students aged 16 to 25 in Tay Ninh to learn about gender, human rights and sexual diversity, and a public information campaign to promote knowledge about LGBTQI issues.

Philippines | Gathering data on issues facing the community, training families on acceptance and diversity; producing the film Lupah Sug, which documents the challenges and successes of the LGBTQI Muslim community in Mindanao (see front cover).

OutRight Action International

OutRight Action International, the global LGBTQI human rights advocacy organisation, held its annual ‘Advocacy Week’ in New York in December, culminating in the 5th annual ‘Out-Summit’. GiveOut donors supported the participation of grassroots activists in the events.

Advocacy Week brings together activists from the U.S. and around the world for training and workshops on LGBTQI human rights. The week was a great success, with speakers such as Flávia Piovesan, Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and Karamo Brown, ‘Queer Eye’ co-host and LGBTQI activist, giving the keynote addresses. Participants in the conference heard from Dr Menaka Guruswamy, one of the lawyers who successfully advocated for the decriminalisation of same-sex relations in India.

By supporting Advocacy Week, GiveOut donors helped to create a space for activists to learn and share strategies on campaigning for change and build a stronger and better-connected global LGBTQI human rights movement.

The causes shown on this page are some of those supported under GiveOut’s portfolio. (T) indicates grant partners included in The Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund (A) indicates grant partners included in The Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund

TransWave is Jamaica’s first and only organisation dedicated to working with and for trans and gender non-conforming communities.

In 2018, with support from GiveOut donors, TransWave held six events to strengthen the trans community and promote awareness and acceptance, including community-building events, a conference on trans health and wellbeing and a candlelit vigil commemorating victims of transphobic violence. The group also launched its inaugural Gender Freedom fashion show, ran several training and sensitisation projects, participated in regional and international advocacy fora, and continued their flagship support group and ‘Trans Ambassador Programme’.

The impact of TransWave’s awareness-raising efforts can already be seen clearly: the group’s social media reach has grown to an unprecedented level, encouraging positive engagement with trans issues, and the organisation was invited to participate in discussions on national radio and media outlets on being trans in Jamaica.

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Building the global trans movement | The International Trans Fund

The International Trans Fund is a participatory grant-making fund made up of trans activists and donors. The Fund is well established and highly respected in the global trans movement. In its most recent grant round, it supported 33 trans-led initiatives including: the first trans male collective network in Central America, creating community spaces for visibility and political empowerment; a group working with homeless trans people in Brazil facing violence, discrimination and stigma; and a UK-based film project, celebrating trans lives and raising awareness of trans experiences for diverse audiences.

IraQueer works to advance respect for LGBTQI human rights in Iraq/Kurdistan region. The organisation recently published a report documenting the situation of LGBTQI people in the country, which will be used for international advocacy. IraQueer has also published a series of animated videos for the general public, demystifying LGBTQI identities and encouraging acceptance; and created a radio podcast, which has attracted 6 million listeners and is helping to counteract popular ignorance of LGBTQI issues.

SAATHII focuses on HIV prevention and promoting LGBTQI human rights in India. With the support of GiveOut donors, SAATHII has launched ‘The SAATHII Fellowship’, supporting LGBTQI activists to pursue their individual projects, improving understanding of sexuality and gender. A. Revathi, a writer and trans activist, will take her play Vellai Mozhi (‘The Truth About Me’) and lectures on transgender and sexuality issues to more audiences in India. N. Muthukumar will sensitise the police and schools on LGBTQI issues to promote understanding and reduce stigma.

Butterflies for democracy in Sri Lanka | EQUAL GROUND (A)

EQUAL GROUND is the leading organisation in Sri Lanka working to advance LGBTQI human rights. In response to the growing climate of intolerance towards LGBTQI people in the country, EQUAL GROUND has helped build a network of activists to challenge recent oppression “not by violence, but by the sound of a thousand butterfly wings rising for peace, justice and respect.” Their name, ‘Butterflies for Democracy’, reclaims the word ‘butlerflies’, which certain politicians used as a derogatory label for the LGBTQI community in Sri Lanka.

Challenging oppression “not by violence, but by the sound of a thousand butterfly wings rising for peace, justice and respect”– EQUAL GROUND and the Butterflies for Democracy, Sri Lanka
Give monthly to our core portfolio

Our aim is to have impact over multiple years with our grant recipients, so we are seeking to build a community of core supporters who can give £200 per month.

One-off gift with ongoing impact

Any amount you can give will be helpful. For example, a one-off gift of £1,000 could help the campaign for decriminalisation in Sri Lanka, or train grassroots activists in Southeast Asia.

Donate to a sponsored fund

Support the Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund, Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund or Emerald 50 Fund – all of which are also supported by their namesake sponsors.

Get involved Help us build GiveOut

There are lots of ways your skills could help us. We’d love to hear from you if you can offer skills or expertise that may be helpful.

Corporate support

We offer a range of ways for business to support the LGBTQI movement including giving opportunities, in-kind support, employee engagement and sponsorship.

To make a donation please either visit www.giveout.org/donate, or email us at info@giveout.org. With Gift Aid, GiveOut can claim 25p extra for every £1 you give.

To support one of our sponsored funds please specify ‘Trans’, ‘Asia’, or ‘Emerald’ when making your donation.

Get in touch

info@giveout.org
www.giveout.org
@GiveOut_Org

New trustees strengthen GiveOut’s governance

GiveOut has appointed three new trustees to our Board: Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, a leading Sri Lankan LGBTQI human rights advocate, Alison McFadyen, head of internal audit at Standard Chartered Bank, and Michaela Muscat, a diplomat at the High Commission of Malta in the UK.

“Governance is so important to the sustainability and quality of the work we are doing. We are absolutely delighted to welcome Rosanna, Alison and Michaela”, said Elliot Vaughn, Chair of GiveOut’s Board.

GiveOut will also be saying goodbye to Board member Wanja Muguongo. Wanja has played an essential role in building GiveOut’s grant-making programme. The Board and team wish her all the best!

GiveOut and J-FLAG launch ‘Rainbow House’ fundraiser

GiveOut and J-FLAG, Jamaica’s leading LGBTQI human rights organisation, are fundraising to re-establish ‘Rainbow House’, the office space and LGBTQI community hub in Kingston, Jamaica that was destroyed by fire at the end of 2018.

“We have received an outpouring of support from the LGBTQI community globally,” said Jaevion Nelson, Executive Director of J-FLAG. “We are delighted to be partnering with GiveOut to fundraise in the UK.”

LGBTQI travel company partners with GiveOut

Diva Destinations, a leading LGBTQI travel company, is encouraging its clients to support LGBTQI human rights activism around the world by donating to GiveOut, pledging to match some of those donations.

“Our partnership with GiveOut will allow us to help in a small way in places where UK LGBTQI holiday-makers may love to visit but where LGBTQI communities do not always enjoy the freedom to be themselves,” said Jennifer Grant, Founder and Director of Diva Destinations.

“This new partnership is an example of how GiveOut is growing LGBTQI philanthropy in new and innovative ways,” said Rupert Abbott, GiveOut’s Executive Director.

GiveOut is an award-winning charity. We were named Third Sector Breakthrough Charity of the Year 2018.