AMPLIFUND: new partnership with Gay Times to support LGBTQI media activism

GiveOut and Gay Times have launched a new philanthropic initiative, AMPLIFUND, which aims to support LGBTQI activists around the world in their campaigning and media work. The fund was launched in the Benjamin West Theatre at The Royal Academy in London.

Three organisations, J-FLAG, IraQueer and PINK Armenia, will be amongst the first global partners to receive grants under AMPLIFUND. The initiative will be funded by Gay Times’ corporate partnerships, subscriptions and individual donations.

“Visibility is a vital step towards legal and societal acceptance. This partnership between GiveOut and Gay Times means that activists working to increase visibility can more effectively carry out their work,” said Amir Ashour, Executive Director of IraQueer.

Through the fund, Gay Times aims to bring more diverse voices to the forefront of mainstream LGBTQ media. To complement the launch of AMPLIFUND, Gay Times is rolling out a UK-wide ‘out of home’ media campaign (pictured) in collaboration with Grey London, MediaCom and ClearChannel, to challenge the perception of LGBTQI experiences both in the UK and internationally. The campaign will also explore how we think about charitable giving and supporting our community around the world.

“I believe this is a step-change not just in UK-based LGBTQI charitable thinking, but also in how we understand, create and distribute media around the world for our community. I fundamentally believe that we all want to be seen for who we are. AMPLIFUND will enable our partners to continue their work, empowering queer people to feel understood, recognised and heard in all the places we call home,” said Tag Warner, CEO of Gay Times.

“GiveOut is working in new and innovative ways to bring more resources into the LGBTQI human rights movement, which is woefully under-sourced. We are thrilled to be partnering with Gay Times in establishing AMPLIFUND, to support LGBTQI activist groups around the world in their media work and campaigning,” said Rupert Abbott, Executive Director of GiveOut.

Marking Stonewall 50 and celebrating Pride with Malta

GiveOut hosted ‘Out on the Roof’, a rooftop brunch at Malta’s High Commission to celebrate Pride in London. Malta is an international leader on LGBTQI equality, consistently topping ILGA-Europe’s Rainbow Index. “Stonewall gave visibility to LGBTQI people and started a process of affirmation and inclusion, but that process remains incomplete everywhere. The Maltese government set this as its goal and we are working towards it,” said keynote speaker Helena Dalli, Malta’s Minister of European Affairs and Equality.

The event was kindly sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority and raised £20,000 for LGBTQI human rights.

GiveOut named OUTstanding lists first official charity partner

Nominations have opened for the 7th annual global OUTstanding LGBT+ Role Model Lists, celebrating business leaders who are driving LGBT+ inclusion in the workplace. This year, GiveOut was announced as the first official charity partner for the lists.

“GiveOut are doing incredible work supporting the activists and campaigners on the frontline in the fight for LGBT+ rights. I am grateful for this opportunity to draw more attention to the essential work GiveOut and these individuals are doing for LGBT+ people around the world,” said INvolve founder and CEO Suki Sandhu, who sponsors The Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund with GiveOut.
Our job as activists is based on hope and the way the world should be. We need to make that world for ourselves.”

– Rosanna Flamer-Caldera
Prime Minister honours GiveOut founder Elliot Vaughn with ‘Points of Light’ award

Elliot Vaughn, GiveOut founder and Chair of the charity’s Board of Trustees, has been honoured by the UK Prime Minister with the Points of Light Award for his “inspirational work” founding the charity. In a personal letter to Elliot, Prime Minister Theresa May said:

“Through GiveOut you are providing a unique platform for people to donate to LGBTQI organisations outside the UK, helping distribute crucial donations to activists who are promoting equality across the globe. You should be extremely proud of what you have achieved, and I wish you the very best in your continued work.”

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera
Executive Director of EQUAL GROUND, Chair of the Commonwealth Equality Network and GiveOut Trustee

One always has to be hopeful, otherwise you might as well pack up and go home. Our job as activists is based on hope and on idealistic notions of the way the world should be, and that world doesn’t exist. We have to make that world for ourselves. For us in Sri Lanka, we are unsure whether we’re going to be safe or not in the next 50 years. As for the rest of the world, I have more hope. The LGBTQI movement is gaining strength year by year. My message to activists out there would be never to give up.

I hope the next 50 years see a greater focus on intersectionality and diversity within the community. There needs to be greater focus on non-traditional issues beyond decriminalisation and gay marriage, and greater emphasis and funding on economic, social and cultural rights and addressing poverty within the community. In Jamaica, younger LGBTQI people are being bolder, more visible and more strident in their demand for equality and recognition, and that can only mean a future worth being excited for.

Steve Wardlaw | Chairman of Emerald Life and sponsor of The Emerald 50 Fund

Culturally, I believe Stonewall to be a turning point. Everyone was amazed that we fought back, and by ‘we’, I mean a united LGBTQI movement that includes all identities, and that unity is something we haven’t seen for a while.

But now that we’ve claimed so many rights, we have become complacent. We thought we’d made it and forget how easy it is for those rights to be taken away from us again. If you win a right, you need to continue fighting to keep it.

Antonia Belcher | Businesswoman and sponsor of The Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund

Coverage in the media has to be more reflective of all the positive stories there are out there of trans people succeeding, be it personally, in business or whatever. I want to see more research on trans populations, more education about trans identities and experiences and more of a push towards equality before the law and a change in attitudes. That’s what The Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund with GiveOut aims to do.

Jayna Kothari
Executive Director of The Centre for Law & Policy Research, India
How you can support us

1. Give monthly
Our aim is to have impact on the global LGBTQI movement over multiple years, so we are seeking to build a community of core supporters who can give monthly.

2. One-off gift
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.

3. Donate to a sponsored fund
Support the Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund, Suki Sandhu LGBTQI Asia Fund, Emerald 50 Fund or AMPLIFUND – each of which has a specialist focus area.

4. Get involved
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.

5. Corporate support
We offer a range of ways for businesses 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’, ‘Emerald’ or ‘Amplifund’ when making your donation.

To get in touch info@giveout.org

GiveOut grants | Updates from the frontline

Changing law and policy affecting India’s trans community | CLPR
Since September 2018, following the landmark ruling in which the Indian Supreme Court repealed Section 377 of the Penal Code, same-sex relations have been legal in India. The Centre for Law & Policy Research (CLPR) represented a group of trans petitioners in the case pro bono, thereby increasing recognition of the impact this and other discriminatory laws have on trans communities in India. Since then, CLPR has advocated in a number of other major Supreme Court cases on laws disproportionately affecting women and LGBTQI people, including the decriminalisation of adultery. CLPR also maintains the South Asia TransLaw Database, documenting vital law and policy resources affecting trans people. CLPR is supported under The Antonia & Andrea Belcher Trans Fund, with GiveOut.

UN Independent Expert on SOGI has mandate renewed | OutRight Action International
OutRight Action International, a GiveOut grant partner, has successfully campaigned for the UN Human Rights Council to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). The Independent Expert has conducted four country visits, issued five thematic reports, and issued over 20 individual complaints to countries about specific LGBTQI human rights violations or concerns. OutRight’s #RenewIESOGI campaign was supported by 1,312 organisations from 174 states and territories.

Botswana’s landmark decriminalisation victory | The Other Foundation
In early June, Botswana’s High Court ruled in favour of decriminalising same-sex relations, with the judge stating that “human dignity is harmed when minority groups are marginalised.” This follows the tireless work of LeGaBiBo and other Botswanan activist groups supported by GiveOut grant partner The Other Foundation. To counteract the backlash from conservative religious groups, with churches lobbying the Attorney General to appeal the court ruling, The Other Foundation is working closely with The Botswana Council of Churches, leading to a number of church groups coming out in support of decriminalisation and equality.

Earlier this year, Steve Wardlaw and his insurance company Emerald Life established The Emerald 50 Fund with GiveOut to support LGBTQI human rights activism across Southern Africa.

Over £25k raised at City For LGBT+ event, with Lord Browne
To mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, and Give OUT Day, GiveOut partnered with The Funding Network and Consortium to host ‘City For LGBT+’ at Macquarie’s London offices. The event kicked off with a fireside chat between GiveOut Trustee lain Anderson and former BP Chief Executive and LGBT+ role model Lord Browne (pictured), raising over £25,000 for LGBTQI groups.

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