CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

“No One Left Behind” Fund
Addressing socio-economic barriers for LGBTI communities

For LGBTI organisations and groups in Europe and Central Asia

Deadline: Sunday 5 July – 23:59CEST

The global COVID-19 pandemic is having a profound impact on LGBTI people. While the virus does not discriminate, it is very clear that it hits marginalised communities in our societies disproportionately hard. In addition, social distancing and other prevention measures, as needed as they are, have unwanted negative impacts on the lives of marginalised groups, including LGBTI communities.

The current public health crisis is putting the spotlight on structural social and economic inequalities within LGBTI communities and beyond. It is likely that the COVID-19 crisis will only deepen these inequalities. Specific challenges faced by LGBTI people are diverse, including increased economic precarity due to sudden loss of job and income, lack of safe housing and rising food insecurity, disruptions in access to healthcare and treatment, increased mental health issues, and risks of family and domestic violence. For the most part, the aggravated impact of the pandemic on LGBTI people is the result of pre-existing social and economic exclusion.

While there is undoubtedly a need to meet short-term needs of LGBTI communities, it is equally important to build the capacity to tackle root causes of socio-economic inequalities and to build more resilience and strength in communities in responding to this crisis and future ones.

All this is happening at a time when many LGBTI groups and organisations are worried about their own survival, concerned by the immediate needs of their community members, and carrying out their work in increasingly challenging political environments. In many places in Europe and Central Asia, LGBTI organisations are the ones stepping up to meet the immediate needs of their communities, whilst the question of how to address systemic discrimination and violence is becoming ever more pertinent.

It is important to support LGBTI groups and organisations to play a meaningful role in supporting their communities around urgent needs. It is also crucial that they are equipped to make sure that COVID-19 related policies do take into consideration the specific needs of LGBTI people, including being able to make the case for LGBTI issues to be included in longer-term recovery plans. LGBTI organisations cannot and should not be core service providers to their communities in the long run, so there is a need to
work to ensure governments are made accountable and commit resources to ensure social and economic inclusion without leaving anybody behind.

Moreover, this moment is an important opportunity for the LGBTI movement to address profound socio-economic inequalities within LGBTI populations. Few organisations in Europe and Central Asia have worked on socio-economic inequalities within LGBTI communities in the past and starting to change this reality is long overdue. There is a need to truly understand the root causes and impact of poverty, homelessness, lack of access to education, basic health and social services on LGBTI people’s lives, and to take action to effectively address these inequalities. Many LGBTI organisations want to work with LGBTI communities to address socio-economic issues now, so that the voices of those that are most affected by this crisis are raised and heard. There is a need to build new alliances with relevant actors a need to develop relationships with policymakers in different branches of government, so that social inclusion becomes a growing reality for LGBTI people in Europe and Central Asia.

In all this, it is important that the learning of LGBTI organisations working on socio-economic issues gets documented and captured so that it can be shared as widely as possible within the movement.

What is the aim of the “No One Left Behind” Fund?

The Fund’s mission is to support **the LGBTI movement’s capacity to effectively address socio-economic inequalities within LGBTI communities at this critical moment.** It builds on ILGA-Europe’s strengths and recognised experience in building the capacity of LGBTI groups and organisations to respond to the needs of LGBTI communities in a sustainable manner.

The **objective of this Fund is to enable LGBTI groups and organisations to gain the skills and knowledge, build alliances and relationships, and/or test new types of activities, with a view to developing longer-term responses to underlying causes of social and economic inequalities which increase the vulnerability and marginalisation of LGBTI people, especially in times of crisis.**

This Fund is intended to complement other sources of funding¹ aimed at meeting immediate needs of the community (such as food security and safe shelter). It will support projects aimed at building the capacity to address root causes of socio-economic exclusion, and at enabling groups to find longer-term and sustainable solutions to social and economic exclusion experienced by LGBTI people. In the current context, we consider that ILGA-Europe’s role and added value is to make resources available to enable groups to build their capacity to tackle structural problems that lead to the social and economic exclusion of members of their community.

¹ See for instance: [https://www.ilga-europe.org/covid19/funding-opportunities](https://www.ilga-europe.org/covid19/funding-opportunities)
For example, this Fund could support work in the following areas:

- **Tackling economic precarity of LGBTI people**, whether it results from short- or long-term unemployment, employment in unrecognised sectors of the job market and informal work without social security and protection, discrimination and lack of access to the job market, lack of access to social security and unemployment benefits, lack of formal education, poor labour rights, lack of access to social protection for undocumented migrants, etc. Examples of activities include: alliance-building with trade unions, employment agencies or social protection services, migrants’ rights organisations, organisations that work on socio-economic discrimination of groups where LGBTI people are overrepresented, such as independent artists, sex-workers, seasonal workers and/or undocumented workers; mapping the experiences of LGBTI people (or marginalised groups within the community) in accessing employment in order to support advocacy with policy-makers on inclusive employment and social protection schemes; activities aimed at addressing racism, sexism or other forms of discrimination which increase barriers in accessing economic security for LGBTI people, among others.

- **Ensuring equitable access to basic resources** (such as food, sanitary services, etc.), for example: working with organisations leading humanitarian and relief efforts to make sure they are reaching vulnerable LGBTI populations; work that enables LGBTI communities to access existing support schemes that are otherwise inaccessible due to, for example, the necessity to have/show identity documents (a particular challenge for trans people and undocumented LGBTI people) or a lack of safety in accessing support to basic resources.

- **Ensuring access to safe housing** for LGBTI people who experience homelessness (whether as a result of loss of income, family rejection, domestic violence, mental health problems, lack of residence status or other reasons). Examples of projects could be: alliance-building with organisations working with homeless people and service providers; advocacy with public authorities on developing effective public policies to meet the needs of LGBTI people who experience homelessness; addressing discrimination in accessing social housing.

- **Ensuring non-discriminatory access to healthcare** (treatment, medication and services), in particular addressing economic, social or other barriers to accessing medical services and treatment (e.g. hormones, HIV treatment, surgeries, psychological support, etc.). Examples of activities could include: outreach to the community to document their experiences and work to improve overall access to services; advocacy work to address the need for trans and intersex healthcare continuity during crises; activities that address the gaps in access to services for undocumented LGBTI migrants, among others.

(Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of areas of work which could be supported by this Fund. Projects can also address a combination of the abovementioned issues.)
ILGA-Europe encourages project proposals which seek to address existing gaps between the needs of people who are marginalised and underrepresented within LGBTI communities, and those that address policies, systems and practices which result in greater marginalisation. In particular, we welcome projects that address the impact of other forms of inequalities on the lived experience of LGBTI people (such as age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, mental and physical ability, nationality, legal status, health status, financial means, and family composition and responsibilities, among others). ILGA-Europe particularly welcomes projects that include specific focus on marginalised groups within the LGBTI community including (but not limited to): Black people and People Of Color; lesbians, bisexual, trans, non-binary and intersex people, sex workers, Roma, refugees and asylum seekers.

ILGA-Europe sees a significant opportunity for learning and we want to make the learning of these projects available for LGBTI activists in Europe and Central Asia. As such, we expect applicants to be willing to share their learning with us. For this purpose, ILGA-Europe may interview applicants at various moments during and after the project.

**Types of activities that can be included in project proposals:**

- **Documentation and research:** activities to map and/or document the ways in which socio-economic inequalities affect the livelihoods of LGBTI people, in particular when these are aggravated by crises such as COVID-19. Documentation and research projects need to have a clear dissemination/advocacy plan that clearly explains how outcomes of documentation and research activities are going to be used in your work. This can, for instance, include documentation and research work focusing on domestic violence, or structural barriers in accessing employment and healthcare.

- **Advocacy:** activities aimed at working with policy-makers or other relevant actors to make sure that policies and programmes related to social protection, employment, education and healthcare services, as well as humanitarian and relief efforts, are inclusive of LGBTI people’s needs. Advocacy work can focus on making sure that LGBTI voices are heard in policy-making processes and that public policies and programmes include concrete measures to meet the realities of LGBTI people in an effective way.

- **Alliance-building:** activities that contribute to building new partnerships with actors who have the experience and capacity to address socio-economic inequalities and specific needs, such as alliances with organisations working to tackle homelessness, unemployment, equitable access to healthcare and medication, social service providers, or actors that work to build safer environments for LGBTI communities, among others. Organisations may also propose work to foster cooperation at the intersection with other communities.
- **Communication/campaigning**: communication initiatives aimed at making sure that the needs of LGBTI people are on the political agenda and part of the public and political discussions on COVID-19 responses (such as framing and testing activities on how to build the case for social and economic policies that are inclusive of LGBTI people).

- **Organisational capacity building**: projects can incorporate training, internal learning and other activities for staff and/or volunteers aimed at building the knowledge and skills needed for organisations to take on work in relation to the broader purpose of this call this work effectively. This may include resources to support development of plans of action for organisations in new areas of work (individual scholarships/education can, however, not be financed under this programme).

ILGA-Europe believes that all of the above activities are as successful as the community base behind them is strong. Whilst this call for proposals won’t support direct service delivery activities, a project may include activities to reach out to LGBTI communities and support them indirectly to address socio-economic inequalities. This may include community empowerment and mobilisation efforts that help strengthen the powerbase of LGBTI communities to hold policy-makers and governments to account, and activities aimed at building the resilience of community structures. Wherever activities focusing on the community are proposed, they should contribute to developing practices and/or tools for the community that can be used beyond the project’s lifetime. Examples might include: the creation of community support networks to enhance safety and/or build networks for community members to get access to job centres/social security.

ILGA-Europe will support activities which help organisations adapt their work to the realities of LGBTI communities that are amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, and develop longer-term responses to address the root causes of social and economic exclusion experienced by LGBTI people, especially in times of crisis.

Through this Fund, we intend to support organisations working in places where the livelihoods of LGBTI communities have been severely affected by the current COVID-19 crisis, and/or for the benefit of LGBTI people who are experiencing increased vulnerability and marginalisation as a result of intersecting identities. ILGA-Europe will prioritise projects that focus on those within LGBTI communities who experience heightened discrimination, exclusion and marginalisation. Where work focuses on marginalised communities, we expect people from these communities to lead on projects and/or be meaningfully involved in decision-making related to the allocation of resources, strategic direction and implementation of the work.

The intention is to support initiatives that contribute to the development of new knowledge, skills and capacity to enable the LGBTI movement to effectively address social and economic exclusion of LGBTI people in Europe and Central Asia. ILGA-
Europe aims to assess the learning that emerges from these projects and to make it as widely available as possible within the movement. As such, an important consideration in the implementation of the Fund will be to foster a stronger collective approach to the socio-economic dimensions of this crisis.

What types of costs will be eligible under this call?

Examples of costs that you can include in your project are: salary costs and experts’ fees associated with the implementation of the project; costs of events (both physical and digital) including related catering, accommodation and travel costs; costs of training and capacity-building activities for activists and community members; communication activities and campaigns related to the aim of this call; a fair proportion of administrative costs or core organisational costs which are linked to the implementation of the project, among others. (Please see the application pack for more information.)

ILGA-Europe understands that work on adapting approaches and strategic development requires a great deal of time and effort on the part of activists, which is why:
- Under this call there is no budget percentage limitation to covering personnel and consultancy costs, as long as they are clearly directed towards the objectives of the call
- It is possible to include costs incurred up to 60 days prior to signature of the contract (i.e. costs incurred in July and August 2020).

However, costs that will not be covered under this funding opportunity include “replacement income” schemes and basic needs (provision of food, housing, shelter, paying for medical expenses and other living expenses). ILGA-Europe recognises the hardship that communities are currently facing and is supportive of different initiatives aimed at meeting the immediate needs. We consider that our role is to support projects aimed at building the capacity to work on root causes and to enable groups to find more long-term and sustainable solutions to social and economic exclusion experienced by LGBTI people.

Other examples of costs that cannot be covered by the budget are: alcoholic drinks, purchases of real estate, awareness-raising material about general LGBTI issues, individual education or classes, among others. Special restrictions apply to purchases of equipment (such as laptops, projectors or similar items).

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<td>Alcoholic drinks</td>
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A fair proportion of administrative costs or core organisational costs, including depreciation of new or existing equipment (laptops, projectors, etc.), which are linked to the implementation of the project

The full value of new equipment (laptops, projectors, etc.) or real estate purchases

Trainings and capacity-building for movements and communities

Individual education or classes, or scholarships for educational purposes

Communication activities and campaigns related to the purpose of the call

General awareness-raising or promotion activities

Criteria

- Projects should respond to the mission, objectives, priorities and criteria of this call.
- This call is intended solely and exclusively for projects addressing socio-economic rights and issues. This means that ongoing human rights work falls outside of its scope and priorities (e.g. combatting hate crimes, ensuring inclusive school curricula, or recognition of partnerships).
- Projects should be run by LGBTI organisations and initiative groups in Europe or Central Asia.
- In the likely case of receiving a large number of proposals, we will prioritize support to organisations working in places where the livelihoods of LGBTI communities have been severely affected by the current COVID-19 crisis and existing socioeconomic inequalities, and/or for the benefit of LGBTI people who are experiencing increased vulnerability and marginalisation as a result of intersecting identities.
- Where work focuses on marginalised communities, we expect people from these communities to lead on projects and/or be meaningfully involved in decision-making related to the allocation of resources, strategic direction and implementation of the work.
- Unregistered groups are expected to partner with a registered organisation or fiscal sponsor. In exceptional cases and for low-budget grants it is possible for an individual group member (physical person) to act as a fiscal sponsor on behalf of the group.
- We will prioritise proposals that seek to establish practices/tools/solutions that can live beyond the project's lifetime and that have the potential to enhance the movement's thinking on addressing socio-economic inequalities in a longer-term perspective.
- ILGA-Europe will prioritise proposals that focus on developing/strengthening capacities to carry out long-term work for the benefit of LGBTI communities.
- Applicants should commit to sharing lessons learned to the larger European and Central Asian LGBTI movement. For this purpose, successful applicant organisations might be interviewed at different stages of the project.
More information about this call

- Proposals should be submitted using the attached application form and budget template.
- ILGA-Europe can support 25 to 35 grants in the size of €7,500 to €15,000. Projects in which the applicant includes one or several partner organisations can increase the budget by up to €2,500 (to a maximum of €17,500 in total).
- Projects can start between 1 July 2020 and 1 September 2020, and should end by 15 June 2021. The final reporting will be due no later than 30 June 2021.
- The deadline for applications is Sunday 5 July 23:59CEST.
- Applicants will be informed about the outcome of this selection process by Friday 31 July.
- Administrative work will take place throughout August to prepare for the launch of projects and successful applicants should be available to respond to requests during that period.

Questions

Questions about this Fund, its purpose, the work supported, criteria, as well as technical questions or questions about the coverage of costs can be sent by e-mail to grants@ilga-europe.org until Wednesday 24 June only. Questions submitted through other channels will not be answered. Answers to these questions will be published on https://www.ilga-europe.org/no-one-left-behind-fund on Friday 12 June, Friday 19 June and Friday 26 June, so that the responses are equally accessible for all potential applicants.