



# GATE

## **BIENNIAL REPORT**

**2020 + 2021**

GATE campaigns globally for trans, gender diverse and intersex rights

[www.gate.ngo](http://www.gate.ngo)

# ABOUT GATE

## Our Mission

GATE is an international advocacy organization working towards justice and equality for trans, gender diverse and intersex communities.

Rooted in our movements, we work collaboratively with strategic partners at the global level to provide knowledge, resources and access to UN mechanisms and bodies. We give voice to and empower communities affected by issues of gender identity, sex characteristics and bodily diversity by creating critical knowledge, providing organizational resources and forging connections with UN bodies, networks and key organizations.

## Our Vision

GATE envisions a world free from human rights violations based on gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

Our strategy is to transform the landscape of global advocacy, knowledge creation and resource distribution through critical inclusion of trans, gender diverse and intersex movements at all levels of political, legal and socio-economic processes.

## Our Values

GATE believes in the emancipatory power of trans, gender diverse and intersex activists:

- We provide our communities with support, technical capacity and knowledge to enable them to politically mobilize on issues of gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.
- We produce and share critical knowledge, advocate for increased and more accessible funding for community-led efforts, monitor key international processes and facilitate community activists' engagement with these processes.
- We are committed to being fully accountable to our communities, to fighting for all forms of emancipation, justice and reparations, and to supporting activists' development and wellbeing.



# A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear fellow community members, partners and donors,

The past two years precipitated unprecedented crises that affected everyone across the globe, regardless of gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. However, it was those who found themselves at the margins of our society who were affected most by the COVID-19 pandemic, and political and civil unrest as seen in Afghanistan and Ukraine, and who continue to suffer still.

While our communities were fighting for their rights and their lives under increasingly oppressive political and social systems, GATE was doing its best to create resources to enable our communities to build their capacity and strengthen their movements, even during these trying times.

Alongside our regular role in guiding GATE's work, the GATE Board of Directors also spent the past two years developing a new Strategic Plan for the next 5 years, ensuring the longevity of the global trans, gender diverse and intersex movement and of GATE's role in this movement.

It is important that I acknowledge the input that GATE's previous co-chair, Dave Scamell, gave to leading GATE through the past 6.5 years. He played an integral role in building GATE's strength as a global organization, and we thank him for his commitment in uplifting trans, gender diverse and intersex voices everywhere.

Moving forward, I am committed to guiding GATE through the implementation of our new Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, and in growing GATE's place in the global trans, gender diverse and intersex movement.

In solidarity,

**Rikki Nathanson**  
**Board of Directors' Chair**



"I am committed to guiding GATE through the implementation of our new Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, and in growing GATE's place in the global trans, gender diverse and intersex movement."

# A LETTER FROM THE FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“ Since its inception in 2009, GATE is now a bigger, stronger and well-established organization, supporting trans, gender diverse and intersex communities worldwide and looking forward the next decade to come ”

Dear comrades,

I am very proud to share this biennial report on GATE's work during 2020 and 2021.

Undoubtedly, the reporting period was extremely challenging for the entire world; COVID-19 and its consequences affected millions around the globe and keep affecting them.

Trans, gender diverse and intersex people were among those most severely affected by the combination of discrimination in healthcare, social and institutional violence, structural poverty, repeated trauma, and increased surveillance. During that period, GATE was able to mobilize resources to support activists and organizations, contributing to expand their voices, and to bring international attention to their situation.

Over the same two years, anti-gender movements grew in size, visibility, and power. Trans, gender diverse and intersex people became the target of numerous misinformation campaigns, social media attacks, and organized attempts to block legal reform. During that period, GATE's response to anti-gender movements was focused on increasing

and sharing knowledge, strengthening alliances within and beyond our own communities, and organizing collective resistance to defend human rights.

The past two years also brought institutional changes for GATE. A new work plan was produced, several internal systems were updated, and the organization started a leadership transition, including an open call for new Board Members, and the process for finding a new Executive Director after my decision to step down from my role by the end of 2021.

After 12 years, since its inception in 2009, GATE is now a bigger, stronger, and well-established organization, supporting trans, gender diverse and intersex communities worldwide and looking forward the next decade to come.

In Solidarity,

**Mauro Cabral Grinspan**  
**Former Executive Director**



# OUR IMPACT

33

UN STATES CALLED  
FOR PROTECTION OF  
INTERSEX HUMAN RIGHTS



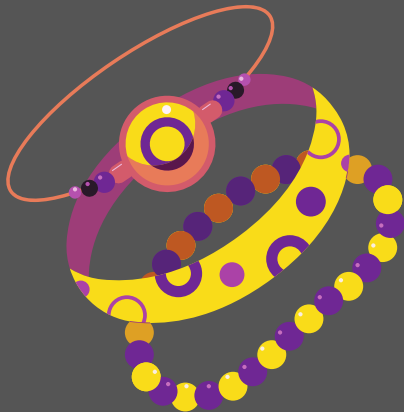
27

UN STATES CALLED  
FOR PROTECTION OF  
TRANS HUMAN RIGHTS



23

MINI GRANTS  
DISBURSED  
IN  
8 COUNTRIES



500+

ACTIVISTS REACHED  
THROUGH 4  
ONLINE TRAINING  
COURSES AND  
WORKSHOPS



20

RESOURCES CREATED  
AND DISSEMINATED



10,000+

PEOPLE REACHED  
THROUGH 20+  
ONLINE EVENTS



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Current Board Members



**Rikki Nathanson**  
Chair  
*United States/Zimbabwe*



**Orneill Latiyah**  
Secretary  
*Ivory Coast*



**Tamara Adrian**  
Member, Former Co-Chair  
*Venezuela*



**Monalisa Akintole**  
Member  
*Uganda*



**A. Chaber**  
Member  
*Belgium*



**Jay Mulucha**  
Member  
*Uganda*



**Zakaria Nasser**  
Member  
*Lebanon*



**Simon Petitjean**  
Member  
*France*

# STAFF

## Current Staff Members



**Erika Castellanos**  
Interim Executive Director  
& Director of Programs  
*Netherlands/Belize*



**Cori Zaccagnino**  
Director of Finance and Operations  
*United States*



**Mahri Bahati**  
HIV Program Officer  
*United States*



**Leván Berianidze**  
Gender Movement Program Officer  
*Spain/Georgia*



**Vidda Guzzo**  
Intersex Program Officer  
*Brazil*



**Naomhán O'Connor**  
Communications Manager  
*Northern Ireland*



**Kira Xonorika**  
Communications Assistant  
*Paraguay*



# Former Board Members



**Dave Scamell**  
Former Co-Chair  
*Australia*



**Kelly Winters**  
Former Member  
*United States*



**Kitty Anderson**  
Former Member  
*Iceland*



**Tshepo Ricki Kgositau**  
Former Member  
*South Africa*



**Eszter Kismodi**  
Former Member  
*Switzerland*

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# Former Staff Members



**Mauro Cabral Grinspan**  
Former Executive Director  
*Argentina*



**Karen Bennett**  
Former Executive Assistant  
*Argentina*



**Max Appenroth**  
Former Research and Community  
Sexual Health Officer  
*Germany*

# ADAPTING TO COVID-19

One of the biggest challenges faced by organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic was adapting their working structures to an online modality.

As a virtual organization from its founding, GATE was well set up already for these challenges. However, there were still some adaptations to be made in how we operated.



We moved our workshops and training online



We redistributed funding during COVID-19 for:  
Internet data, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & hand sanitiser



We hosted online events to keep our community members connected on key issues



Monthly calls with staff for mental wellbeing check-ins and social support

**We are grateful for the flexibility of our donors in recognising the needs of our communities and enabling us to adapt our funding in response to, and in support of, their realities during the COVID-19 pandemic.**



# HUMAN RIGHTS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, quarantine and other social distancing measures had a deeply negative impact on trans, gender diverse and intersex communities, many of whom were already living in poverty. Unemployment, unsafe or lack of housing, evictions, exposure to family rejection and other forms of domestic violence, and exposure to stigma and discrimination in healthcare services are just some of the **issues exacerbated by the global pandemic**.

In some countries, activists had to **organize against governmental measures** aimed to control movement based on strict segregation according to sex assigned at birth or perceived gender identity (e.g. Colombia, Panamá). In other countries, activists had to **mobilize remotely** to counteract opportunistic governmental attempts to restrict or eliminate access to human rights (e.g. Hungary, Uganda).

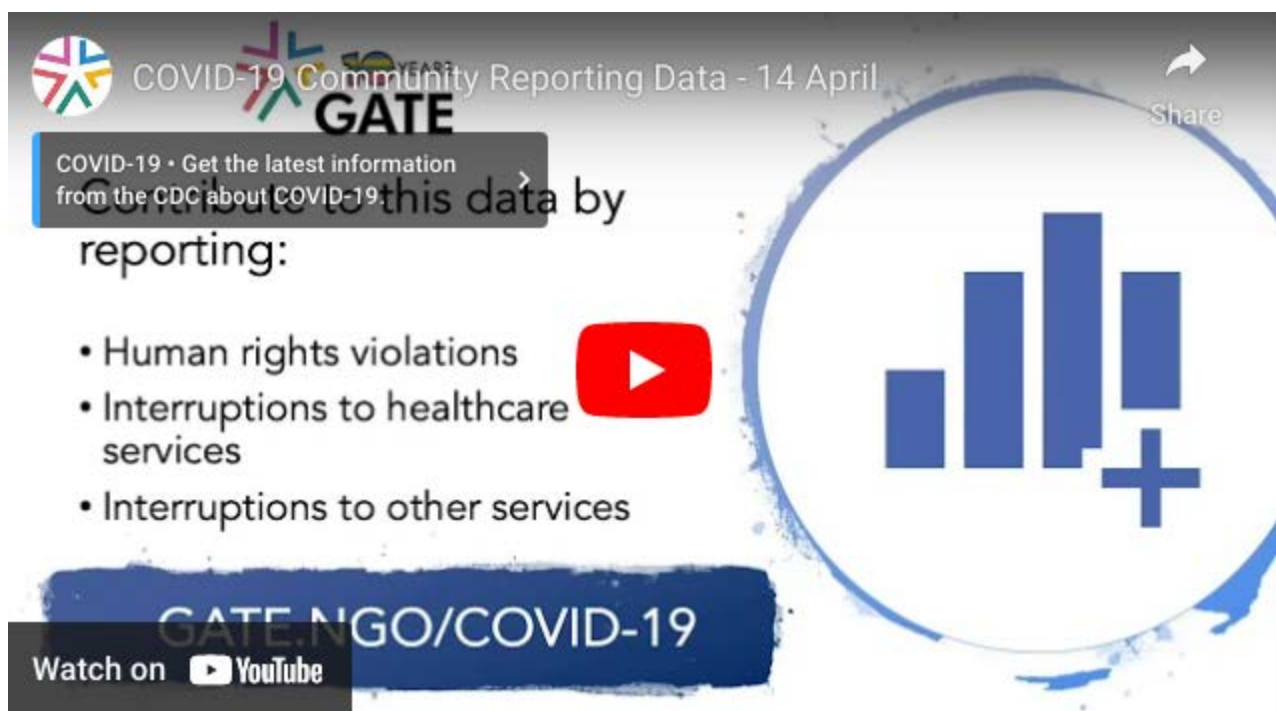
Furthermore, the lack of economic opportunities, barriers faced in accessing employment and the fact that a large number of trans, gender diverse and intersex people are forced to work in informal economies exacerbated the effects of lockdown measures. Many informal workers' income were effectively cut off as a result of global lockdown measures, and many were **denied essential living support**, such as food and shelter, due to their migrant or sex worker/informal worker status, or gender identity and/or sexual orientation.



# COVID-19 COMMUNITY REPORTING

Our communities needed a mechanism to disclose human rights violations that were happening as a result of global lockdown measures.

To meet this need, GATE collaborated on a global reporting mechanism for communities to report human rights violations, interruptions to healthcare and other services, or any other irregularities that trans, gender diverse and intersex people faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.



COVID-19 Community Reporting Data - 14 April

Share

COVID-19 • Get the latest information from the CDC about COVID-19.

Contribute to this data by reporting:

- Human rights violations
- Interruptions to healthcare services
- Interruptions to other services

GATE.NGO/COVID-19

Watch on YouTube

# UN ADVOCACY: ENGAGING VIRTUALLY

In 2020 and 2021, global human rights mechanisms, including UN processes and events, moved online. During this time, GATE continued to advocate for the human rights of trans, gender diverse and intersex communities by adapting to an online format and engaging digitally at the UN Human Rights Council, the High-Level Political Forum, and the UN General Assembly.

A joint initiative driven by trans-led collaborative work, centering trans activism and issues at this significant global arena, [UN Trans Advocacy Week](#) is organized annually in Geneva at the Human Rights Council in June/July in partnership with APTN, ILGA World, RFSL and TGEU.

It provides a fundamental opportunity to highlight trans- and gender diverse-related issues on a global stage, where historically they have been ignored, invisibilized and subsumed into the framework of advocacy centering on sexual orientation. In 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic, we adapted to an online format, with a variety of collaboratively hosted side events and joint statements delivered to the Human Rights Council during interactive dialogues with Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts.

## 2020

In response to the deepening discrimination faced by our communities, we submitted a joint statement with 187 organizations calling on States to protect LGBTI rights during COVID-19.

In a historic first, 33 States called on the UN Human Rights Council to protect intersex bodily autonomy and right to health.

2020

We also hosted 4 Side Events on the topics of funding, intersex rights, depathologization, and banning conversion therapy.

Some of these sessions are included below:

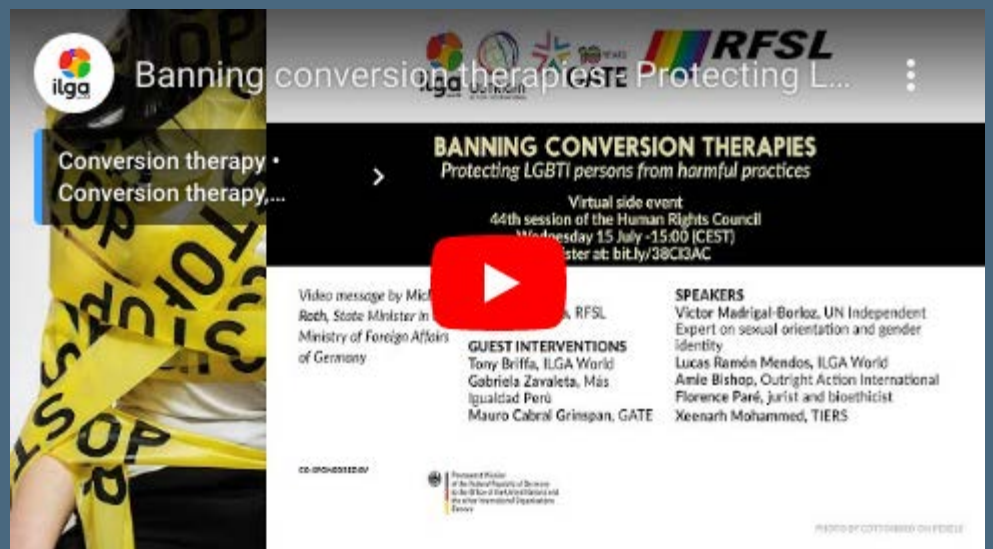
## Where did the money go? How the COVID-19 crisis drains trans funding worldwide



This session touched on some key issues regarding the funding of our movements.

## Banning conversion therapies: Protecting LGBTI persons from harmful practices

We were delighted to host the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity, Victor Madrigal-Borloz for this conversation.





2021

In 2021, we hosted 2 Side Events focused on countering the anti-gender movement and reinforcing solidarity between trans and gender diverse movements and feminist movements globally.

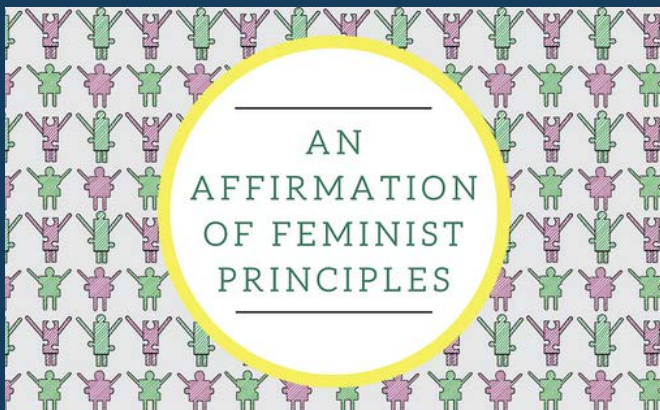
Below you can view the session that was joined by the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI), Victor Madrigal-Borloz.

## Feminist and LGBTI Movements: Uniting is our strength



This session presented the Independent Expert's reports on Gender in upholding the rights of trans and gender diverse people within international human right law.

This was accompanied by the statement An Affirmation of Feminist Principles



This amplifies the historical position of many feminists to stand for the rights of all those who transgress the boundaries of gender, sex and sexuality, including trans, gender diverse and intersex people.

In another historic step forward, 27 States called on the UN Human Rights Council to protect the human rights of trans and gender diverse people





# HEALTH

During **global lockdown measures**, restricted mobility and increased control enforced by armed forces exposed trans, gender diverse and intersex people to institutional violence, making it more difficult or impossible to access essential medication and procedures (including, HIV medication, gender affirming hormones and essential surgeries).

In order to bring **awareness** to these issues at the global level, GATE partnered with other global Key Population networks to call for increased funding, to provide guidance for our communities on how to apply for **emergency funding**, and to collaborate on a global reporting mechanism for communities to **highlight human rights violations**. GATE also continued our work of increasing awareness and inclusion of the vulnerabilities of trans and gender diverse communities in the **global HIV response**.



# COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

In response to the needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, GATE co-created a series of resources.

These efforts were implemented alongside our global Key Population partners, focusing on guides for engaging in COVID-19 funding mechanisms under the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM).

## COVID-19 Testing

- [Information Note for Civil Society Organizations](#)

## Key Population Engagement

- [Guidance document](#)
- [Success and Challenges Report](#)

## Meaningful Community Engagement

- [Webinar recording](#)
- [5-step document](#) & [5-step video](#) (below).





# HIV FUNDING AND ENGAGEMENT



This document provides a guide for trans communities to better navigate the TRANS Implementation Tool (TRANSIT) developed for use by public-health officials and managers of HIV and STI programmes, NGOs, including community and civil-society organizations, and health workers to enhance the design and delivery of HIV services for trans people.



## TRANSIT

### Smart Guide

Adapting TRANSIT for a community-based audience of trans individuals and trans-led organizations

We are implementing HIV prevention programs and this workshop will help us to raise our needs and issues from this guide, and advocate for minimum service packages for HIV intervention

Manisha Dhakal  
Blue Diamond Society, Nepal



## Increasing Trans Engagement in the HIV response

Globally, there are still concerns that the response to HIV, TB and Malaria are not reaching the populations that need it the most.

Human rights violations, stigma and discrimination and laws that criminalize key populations continue to pose barriers to access to essential services. There is a **call for more investments in reaching these key populations**, but there is also call for more efficacy and accountability in the management of grants and programmes to ensure that funds allocated for these populations are having the impact needed.

The involvement of the trans community in national consultations is critical, as Key Populations can provide valuable data, as well as ensuring that communities are actively involved in implementation and reporting of HIV services. This is essential to **improving understanding of the global response to the HIV epidemic**, including progress that has been made towards achieving the commitments and global targets set out in the new Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, adopted in June 2021, and the linked Sustainable Development Goal. GATE developed these guidelines to increase trans community engagement in these processes.

### Guidelines for integration of the trans community in the oversight of The Global Fund processes (developed with APTN)



### 5-step guide for the meaningful inclusion of civil society in Global AIDS Monitoring (developed with ICASO)

Significant research for the World Health Organization was conducted by GATE in our qualitative study on trans and gender diverse communities' values and preferences for HIV, hepatitis and STI services.

This was undertaken as part of the WHO's consultation to update the Consolidated Guidelines on HIV, Hepatitis and other STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations.





## Funding for Key Populations in the Global HIV Response

**The science is clear: key populations are at significantly higher risk of HIV.**

During 2021, there were critical opportunities for key populations to reclaim the HIV response. UNAIDS, the Global Fund, and PEPFAR were all updating their program and funding strategies.

Alongside the other global key population-led networks, GATE released several calls for these and other multilateral and bilateral donors to do more to address the inequities that have devastated key population communities.

To address the HIV epidemics worldwide among gay and bisexual men, people who use drugs, sex workers, and trans people, we called upon global policymakers and donors to urgently address these issues when developing their HIV strategies and funding priorities.




[Increase PEPFAR funding for Key Populations](#)

[Keep Communities' interests at the heart of the 7th Global Fund Replenishment Cycle](#)

[Center Key Populations in the Global HIV Response](#)

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**A key factor in ensuring resources reach our communities is educating funders on the needs and vulnerabilities our trans and gender diverse people living with or affected by HIV.**



To this end, GATE developed an eLearning course for the Global Fund's Communities, Rights and Gender Department to promote Secretariat-wide learning of the distinct challenges and needs faced by trans communities.





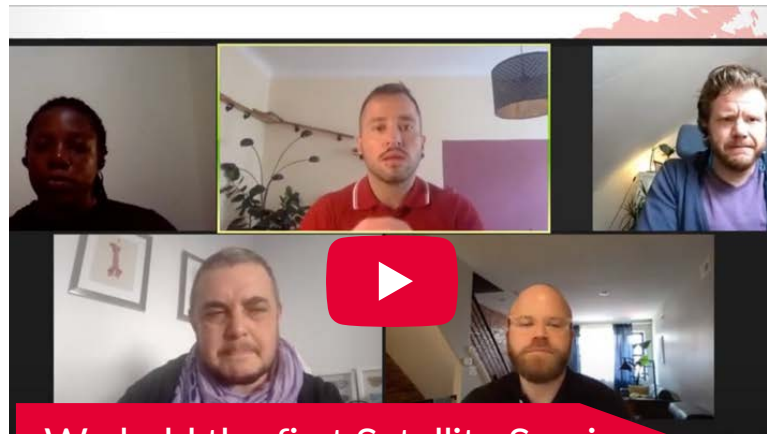
Prior to the AIDS 2020 Conference, of which GATE is a Civil Society partner and member of the Conference organizing committee, we hosted 2 webinars to prepare conference attendees for the move to an online platform.

During the conference itself, GATE moderated the plenary session on U=U: A global perspective and curated a [collection of videos](#) submitted from across the world by trans and gender diverse activists, shared during the conference in the online Trans Networking Zone.

## Centering Trans Men in the Global HIV Response



We produced a [3 page information resource](#) on trans men and HIV



We held the first Satellite Session focused on trans men and HIV

We created a short video on Trans Men and HIV to inform about their vulnerabilities to HIV





# MOVEMENT BUILDING

With the significant impact of the pandemic on trans, gender diverse and intersex organizing and funding, and the rise of the anti-gender movements, it became more important than ever to **build the capacity of our communities to advocate, engage and fundraise.**

To increase advocacy efforts, **we created resources to enable organizations to advocate for the inclusion of their needs and priorities** in government policies through the Sustainable Development Goals and legal depathologization, and developed a resource with our European partners to dismantle misconceptions about trans and gender diverse people for policy makers in the European Parliament.

To build our communities capacity, **we provided training on engaging in the development of HIV National Strategic Plans**, and held a trans dialogue on building collective resistance to anti-gender movements

To increase the financial resources of our communities fundraising, **we developed an open-access training on writing grant proposals** for funding applications.



## Advocacy

The majority of trans and gender diverse activists and organizations devote an extensive amount of time and efforts in their daily schedules and work tasks to the thematic areas captured in the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, many are not framing their work as such, and so are missing out on multiple connection points to directly and indirectly connect their organizational work to government efforts to meet these Goals.

GATE developed these resources to assist activists and advocacy organizations to engage more meaningfully, through the Sustainable Development Goals framework, with governments and government agencies to get buy-in to the work that activists and advocacy organizations do.



**1 NO POVERTY**

[Report on Poverty](#)

[SDG 1 Technical Brief](#)

**WEBINAR SERIES:  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Wednesday, 16th December

Leave No One Behind:  
Linking trans &  
gender diverse work to  
**SDG 1 - NO POVERTY**

Watch on YouTube

**WEBINAR SERIES:  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Thursday, 17th December

Leave No One Behind:  
Linking trans &  
gender diverse work to  
**SDG 3 - HEALTH  
& WELLBEING**

Watch on YouTube

**3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING**

[SDG 3: Technical Brief](#)





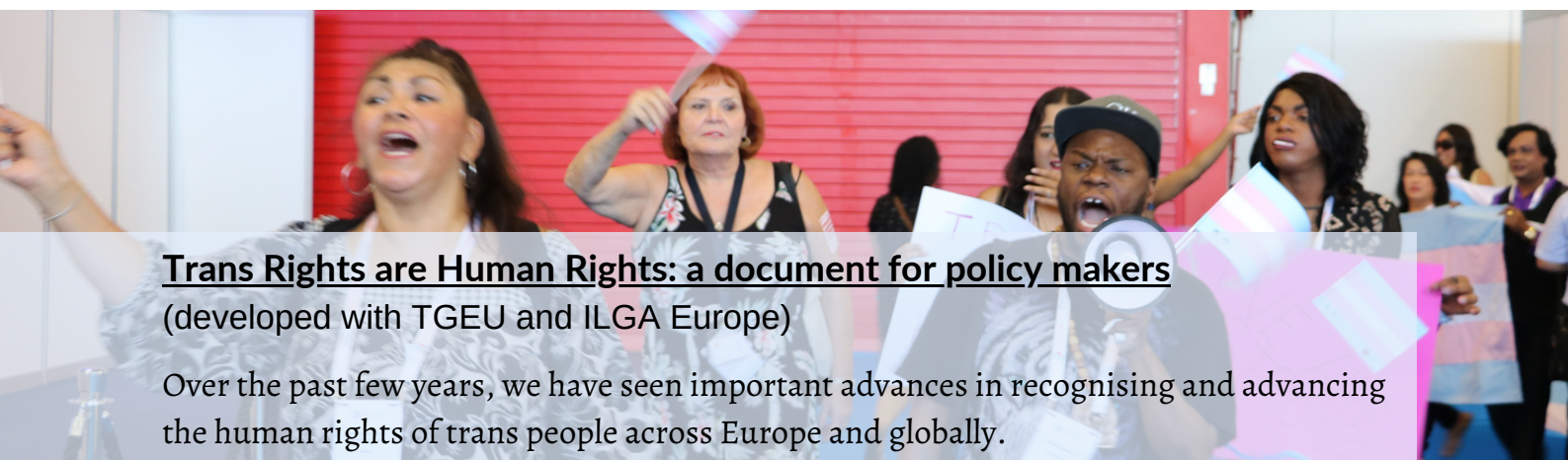
## Depathologizing Gender Identity Through Law: a report

Legal depathologization refers to the adoption of laws that explicitly prohibit trans pathologization or provide for legal gender recognition and/or gender affirming care without pathologizing requirements.

Trans and gender diverse people have not only been pathologized by psycho-medical institutions and their classifications, but also by the laws and policies governing our lives.

Around the world, legal systems have adopted pathologizing approaches to differentiate between “proper” and “improper” subjects of human rights and to condition, restrict or even deny access to those rights. **One of the key goals of depathologizing trans and gender diverse people is to stop the justification of systemic legal cissexism** in psycho-medical roots. However, as this report shows, processes of legal depathologization can also be possible.

GATE developed this paper to demonstrate that depathologizing gender identity through law is a valid and achievable goal and provides examples of legal depathologization of gender identity at the national level. Ultimately, it seeks to inform domestic processes for legal depathologization and catalyze the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms of trans and gender diverse people.



## Trans Rights are Human Rights: a document for policy makers

(developed with TGEU and ILGA Europe)

Over the past few years, we have seen important advances in recognising and advancing the human rights of trans people across Europe and globally.

Unfortunately, these developments towards the respect of human rights of trans people and a society that is safe and welcoming to trans people, come with a strong backlash. Targeted attacks against trans rights aim at stopping the necessary and long-awaited reforms of legal gender recognition procedures, and at the same time launch a wider attack at gender equality.

This paper aims at helping dismantle these falsely constructed arguments and provide talking points and references for policymakers seeking to improve their ability to argue in favour of the human rights of trans people, as well as activists who work with policymakers on the same.

## Capacity building

Meaningful inclusion of trans people in National Strategic Plans is rare.

This exclusion continues to contribute to poor HIV-related health outcomes for trans and gender diverse people and leads to comparatively low levels of trans-specific funding and programming.

In order to address this gap, GATE and amfAR developed a series of resources designed to help trans and gender diverse activists address their exclusion from HIV National Strategic Plans.



Conversations were held in response to the growing threat from the anti-gender movement to trans and gender diverse rights



Trans Human Rights



Building Collective Resistance

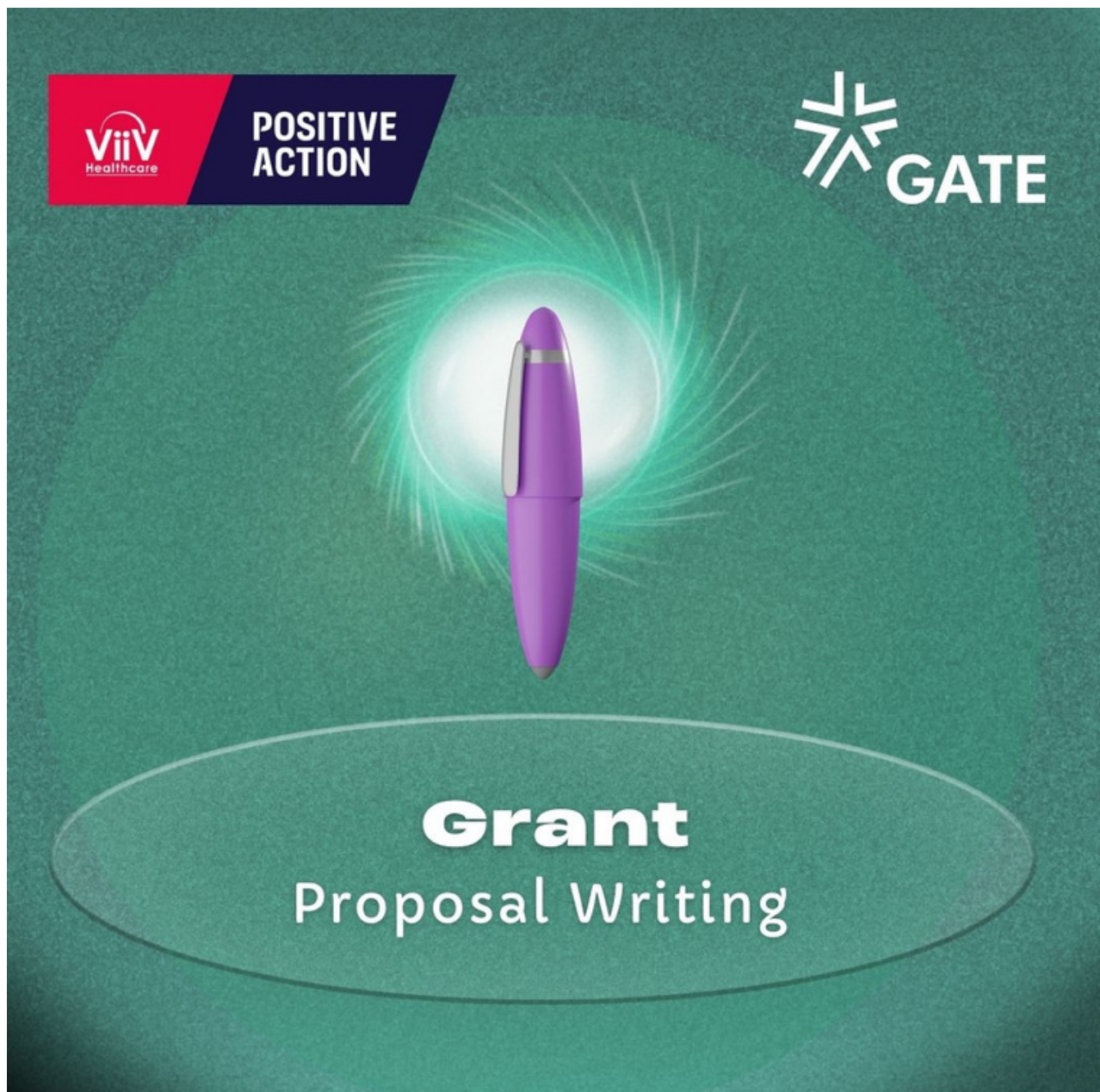


## Financial Resourcing

An issue that affects trans and gender diverse communities across the globe is lack of access to financial resources.

To enable fundraising efforts in our communities, we designed an open-access training which will guide trans, gender diverse and intersex organizations to write effective grant proposals.

This training and accompanying toolkit provides knowledge and a reference document to store organization information that can be used again for other donors. So far, 220 activists have taken the course and the International Trans Fund refers their applicants to it as a guide for writing their funding proposals.



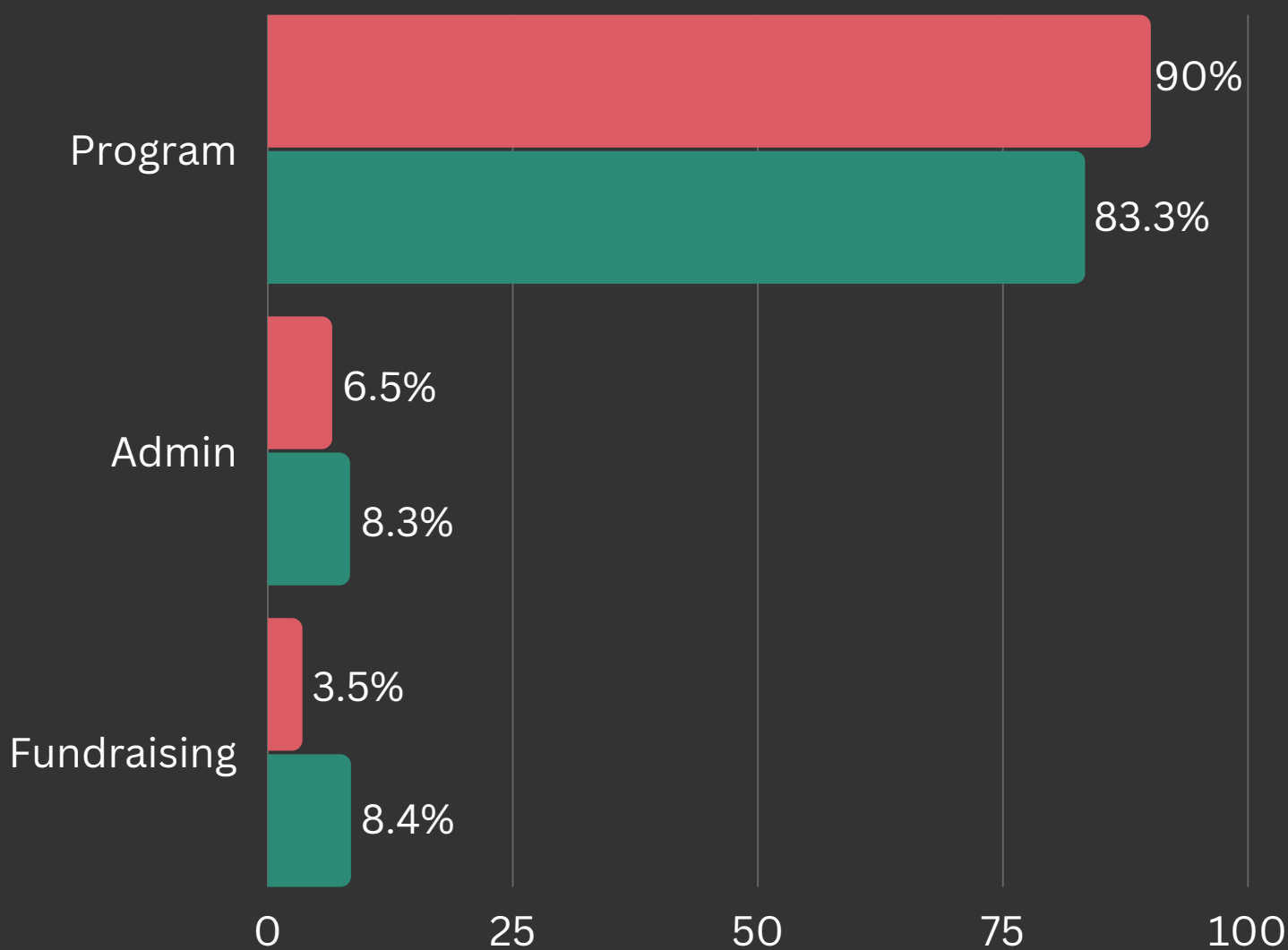


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



## Expenditure in %

2020 2021



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: OUR INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dear colleagues, comrades and allies,**

I would like to personally thank Mauro Cabral Grinspan, GATE's former Executive Director, for his 12 years of tireless work in furthering GATE's mission and values. He has been a significant driving force behind GATE's growth and success, and his leadership over the past 2 years have been particularly impactful, both in leading our staff through the COVID-19 pandemic, and in guiding our work during these difficult times.

The massive impact of the pandemic on global, national and local economies as well as the shift of some donors to the field of humanitarian aid has far reaching and potentially long lasting implications on the funding of our movements across the globe. Trans, gender diverse and intersex-led organizations have been underfunded for decades, with few having the ability to build reserves and thus have been drastically hit by changes in the funding landscape. Furthermore, the pandemic coincided with a rise in the efforts of the anti-gender movement.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have long-lasting effects on our communities, but we are also building upon existing and new collaborations to ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities are not left behind as the world moves towards opening up global travel and freedom of movement.

Looking to the future, [GATE's Strategic Plan for 2022-2026](#) has been developed in consultation with our communities, stakeholders and key partners, with significant input from our Board of Directors and staff. Our overarching aim is to ensure trans, gender diverse and intersex people can freely exercise their rights and enjoy the highest standard of health and well-being.

Our efforts to improve the conditions for our communities will create opportunities for capacity building and strengthening mobilization at national, regional and international levels.

This will include developing digital open-access training courses focused on resource mobilization, political advocacy and activist self-care; strengthening the inclusion of our communities issues and needs in human rights frameworks, health rights and access to health service; and supporting the safety, development and well-being of our communities.

We will also be investing in strengthening the internal organizational and programmatic capacity of GATE to ensure our operational longevity and sustainability. This involves reviewing our governance and consultative structures, improving our operative capacity, and increasing our staff's access to institutional support for their safety, well-being, health and professional development. By investing in our own organization, we hope to maintain GATE's position as the leading trans, gender diverse and intersex global expert organization and, in doing so, empower our communities across the globe to do the same for themselves. To do all of this, we need your support. Share our successes with your friends and family. Partner with us to build our communities' capacity. Support us through your donations.

Together, we can change the world.

In Solidarity,

**Erika Castellanos**  
**Interim Executive Director**

