



Global Action  
for Trans Equality

#makinghistory



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2016**

# MOVING FORWARD

## A letter from our Executive Director



Dear friends,

This annual report gives account of **GATE work during 2016**. It tells about the different ways in which we worked, **as a team and with numerous partners**, to face a challenging year for our constituencies around the world. In that sense, **this is not only a report about last year, but a roadmap for the future.**

As an organization strongly committed with movement building, we believe in the **urgent need of expanding available funds to support trans, gender diverse and intersex movements**. In 2016, we invested in a **new research** to provide reliable data and critical analysis on funding dynamics affecting them, in **a landscape radically changed by the creation of the Intersex Fund and the International Trans Fund**. We hope the results will have a positive impact on increasing both the availability and accessibility of resources worldwide. The same can be said about our involvement with the international **HIV** response, intensely **focused on expanding opportunities for meaningful engagements, diverse alliances and ethical distribution of resources.**

Working to **depathologize our identities, expressions, sexualities and bodies** has always been one of our key tasks. In 2016, the goal of ensuring full access to self-determination, legal gender recognition, bodily integrity and healthcare became more pressing than ever under the ongoing crisis around the world. In this political landscape, **many trans, gender diverse and intersex people are increasingly affected by structural exclusion, discrimination, poverty and violence**. From last year to date we have worked every day to address these human rights concerns, **pushing for collective and collaborative strategies to support not only resistance, but also reparation.**

As you have probably notice reading this letter, **GATE is changing; we have grown into an international organization working on gender identity, gender expression and bodily diversity issues affecting many different communities**. Our leadership and staff is advancing in the same direction. The world is a challenging place; **we are changing ourselves to do the best possible job at changing it.**

In solidarity,



# DEPATHOLOGIZATION

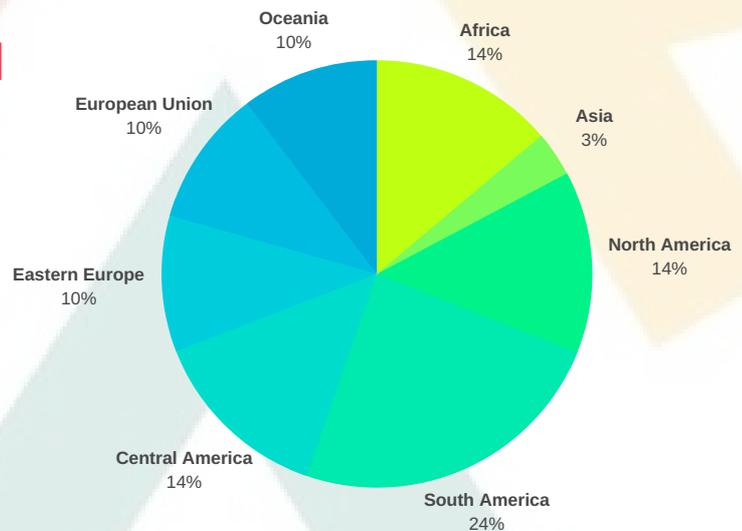
Making self-determination a reality for all



Current psycho-medical classification of certain bodies, identities and expressions pathological have profound negative impact on trans, gender diverse and intersex people's human rights. To address those classifications and their articulation in legal regulations and social practices GATE works supporting political mobilization on depathologization worldwide and increasing trans, gender diverse and intersex activists' involvement in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) process through training, participation in specific events and access to critical knowledge.

## SUPPORTING MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

GATE hosted a two day training in Amsterdam, before the **International World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Conference**. The training was attended by **35 activists from all over the world** who also had an active and visible presence at the Conference. We made two presentation at the conference, on International Advances on Legal Depathologization and Intersex issues in the ICD

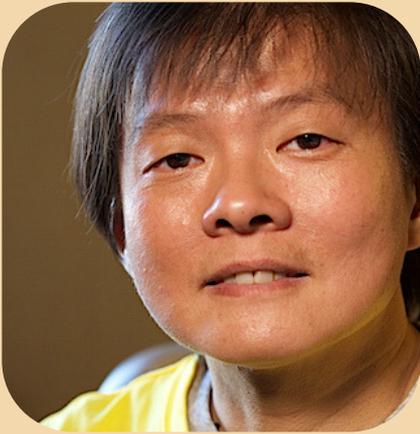


Regional representation of participants in ICD training and workshop



*"Participating in this event represented a very important moment within my academic, activist and personal trajectories, particularly because our presence as a group of trans\* and inter\* activists and researchers was historical. This very fact touches me deeply, as someone who studies the breadth of the genocidal cruelty that brutalizes our trans and gender-diverse communities throughout the world, and that for sure including the pathologizing model which is somehow under dispute within, but not only, the WPATH conference."*

Viviane Vergueiro, Brazil



*"It was an empowering experience, a solidarity, a knowledge exchange and extends our voice. Participating in the WPATH pre-conference and WPATH 2016 in Amsterdam organized by GATE is the first time that I have the opportunity to exchange and discuss the pathologization issues on intersex and trans together with intersex and trans activists around the world. It is unimaginable in the past but it is so important for us."*

Hiker Chiu, Taiwan

## MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

Trans activists from different regions produced a collective letter on the proposed category of Gender Incongruence of Childhood (GIC), considered from a human rights perspective. **It was published by *The Lancet Psychiatry***, which constitutes a landmark in the struggle to depathologize bodily, sexual and gender diversity.

*"Partnering with GATE to write a response to an article in the Lancet Psychiatry advocating for pathologisation of gender diversity in childhood was a great opportunity to put forth alternative, considered, human rights centered arguments that are often dismissed as irrelevant, into an academic journal that influences medical practice, exercising our agency in knowledge production and challenging the pervasive silencing of our voices."*

Joshua Seehole, South Africa



## REALIZING INTERSECTIONALITY

We organized a **historic cross-movement panel** at the International AWID Conference in Salvador de Bahia to tackle pathologization from the perspective of embodiment, gender, class and race. The session on depathologization during the AWID conference was entirely carried out by activists trained by GATE. The cover picture in this report documents that wonderful experience.



*"This session allowed me to share with activists from around the world and people interested in the rights of trans, intersex, disabled, and fat people challenges involved in resisting compulsive diagnoses and human rights violations of people who are pathologized. It also provided me with the opportunity to generate collective strategies to overcome dynamics of pathologization, discrimination and exclusion which violate or seriously limit our access as fat people to fundamental rights."*

Laura Contrera, Argentina

# TRANS ISSUES AND HIV

Changing the present to build the future



Our work on HIV has been focused on including issues of gender identity, gender expression and bodily diversity issues in the international HIV framework, to include meaningful participation of trans, gender diverse and intersex people in all decision making processes concerning them, as well as in implementing and monitoring initiatives.

## PAVING THE WAY

We continued engaging in our partnerships with CLAC, FSP, GFAN and the IRGT (co-founded and co-chaired by GATE). We were part of regular meetings to take forward the advocacy work around trans issues. We **engaged in crucial discussions** around trans intervention at policy and advocacy levels **regarding financing, research, data, capacity building and policy work.**

In 2016, we prepared a comprehensive strategic plan for HIV work in consultation with the donors, community leads and network representatives



From left to right, Kath Khangpiboon Masen Davis and Abhina Aher at the HLM 2016 in New York

## CHALLENGING EXCLUSION

We are all-too aware of anti-trans bias in the global HIV response. Our original application to attend the High-Level Meeting was denied at the insistence of a small group of UN member States that blocked the accreditation of 22 civil society organizations - most of which represented LGBT or transgender-specific populations. Fortunately, our co-director at that time, Masen Davis, was invited to participate as an official member of the U.S. Delegation and Abhina Aher, one of our board members, served as a member of the civil society taskforce representing the India HIV/AIDS Alliance.

As a part of the Civil Society advocacy group **we were engaged in providing technical support in finalizing the HLM proceedings with the UN and ensuring trans representation** during important policy discussions.

## ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

We participated in the 2016 International AIDS Conference, the premier gathering for all those working in the field of HIV committed to ending the pandemic. We **co-organized a session on how mental health issues coincide to ban people in HIV treatment**, co-chaired the session on gender issues and HIV and participated in a panel on sexual health and rights.



From left to right, JoAnne Keatley, Cecilia Chung, Leigh Ann Van der Merwe and Mauro Cabral

Attended by more than 18,000 delegates, this vital meeting covers all aspects of HIV research: from early basic science studies looking at mechanisms for a cure to real world practice for ensuring human rights are respected for the 35 million people living with HIV globally. Historically, this meeting is significant for returning to Durban, sixteen years after the World AIDS Conference was first held in an African country.

This was the first time in 21 years, Trans Pre-Conference was organized by International Trans Reference Group (IRGT) supported by MSMGF. Pre-Conference was attended by more than 80 trans leaders across the globe. Pre-Conference gave an important opportunities to global trans leaders to showcase their work, address important issues, gaps and highlight the priority areas to take forward the trans movement.

Several side meetings on the important development on the HIV work especially around ARV, TB, PrEP and community testing was organized. Crucial discussions around the International Trans Fund (ITF) was conducted. AIDS 2016 was an important platform for GATE to sync its work with the other network such as TGEU (Transgender Europe) and APTN (Asia Pacific Transgender Network). The conference also supported in highlighting important concerns around data gaps and lack of resources for trans community. The trans leaders across the globe came together to raise concern regarding the de-segregating trans data from MSM (men having sex with men). It also talked about co-vulnerabilities of HIV and was attended by the maximum trans leaders across the globe.

Abhina Aher, GATE Board Member



*Notes  
from  
the AIDS2016  
Conference  
in Durban*

# MOVEMENT BUILDING

Speaking knowledge to power



We work to create a radical expansion of political organizing on gender identity, gender expression and bodily diversity issues. However, funding constraints have a negative impact on trans, gender diverse and intersex organizing around the world. We have paid attention, investing in developing critical tools, and producing reliable and accessible knowledge to influence international advocacy on access to funding and the increase of available funding.

## FUNDING OUR COMMUNITIES MOVEMENTS

2016 marked a very exciting year. We **participated in the creation of the International Trans Fund**, a project largely envisioned by our co-founders. We **supported the work of the Intersex Fund**, by providing advice and collaboration. And we participated in different evaluation panels and meetings, as well as provided one-to-one support to activists applying to different initiatives.

## PRODUCING DATA AND ANALYSIS

In collaboration with Astraea Foundation and American Jewish World Service (AJWS) we **started follow-up research on our 2013 report** "The State of Trans\* and Intersex Organizing" on how the trans and the intersex movement are doing in terms of access to funding. More than 300 groups from different regions participated in the on line survey. The report is expected to be released in the second semester of 2017.



#staytunned

# UNITED NATIONS

Our lives matter



We are working to increase our involvement in the International Human Rights system to facilitate the introduction of gender identity, gender expression and bodily diversity issues in the international human rights framework with an emphasis on addressing violations related with: HIV; trans\* and intersex pathologization; and stigma, violence and discrimination.

## ENGAGING WITH THE UN SOGI MANDATE

In 2016, Vitit Muntarbhorn was appointed as the first **UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)**. We worked in partnership with other trans, gender diverse and intersex organizations and networks to provide critical support to the Mandate. A roadmap for a future collaboration was set in Bangkok in December 2016.

## UPDATING THE YOGAKARTA PRINCIPLES

In December 2016, our Senior Consultant on Intersex Issues, Morgan Carpenter, and our Executive Director, were appointed as members of the drafting team for the Yogyakarta Principles +10 document, to be produced in 2017.

From left to right, Pooja Patel, Morgan Carpenter, Mauro Cabral Grinspan, Max Anmeghichean, Vitit Mutarborn, Julia Ehrt and Kim Vance in Bangkok, celebrating the tenth anniversary of the *Yogyakarta Principles* and announcing the YP\*10 process.



## EXPANDING GENDER

Teaming up with ILGA, in September 2016, we co-organized a groundbreaking **side event on trans issues from the gender framework** at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva

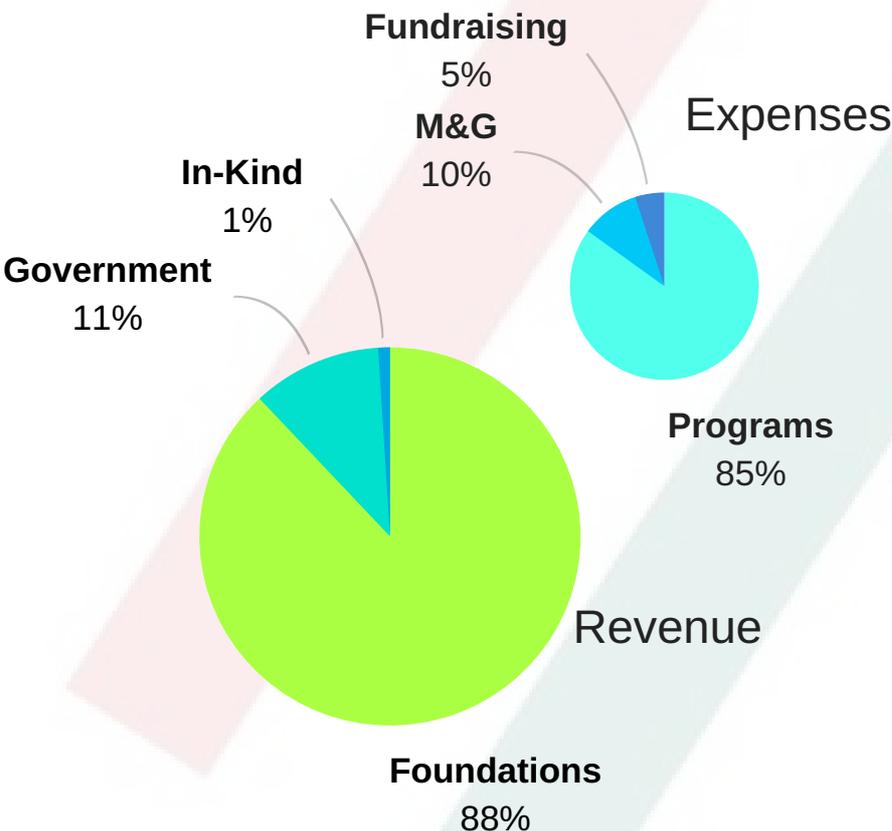
# THANK YOU!

Your support is changing the world



We would like to thank all of our supporters which include Open Society, Arcus Foundation, Anonymous donor, the State Department and our individual donors. We exist and work within a complex system and your contributions have supported us in bringing together activists from all over the world. Your generosity has created historic opportunities for activists to meet, exchange ideas, and learn from each other which is creating remarkable strength in the movement. Your compassion allows us to address important issues, identify gaps in the movement and advance the trans movement. Be a part of the momentum!

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



**SUPPORT GATE WORK**

**DONATE!**

**WWW.TRANSACTIVISTS.ORG**

