



**GATE**

**Annual**

**Report**

**2017**

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# Acronyms

- APTN - Asia Pacific Transgender Network
  - CLAC - Community Leadership & Action Collaborative
  - GNP+ - Global Network of People living with HIV
  - ICW Global - International Community of Women Living with HIV
  - ILGA - International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Intersex Association
  - INPUD - International Network of People who Use Drugs
  - IRGT - International Reference Group on Trans women & HIV
  - MSMGF - The Global Forum on MSM & HIV
  - NSWP - Global Network of Sex Work Projects
  - NTPAM - National Transgender People Alliance of Myanmar (NTPAM)
  - RFSL - Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Rights
  - TGEU - Transgender Europe
  - TREAT - Trans Research, Education, Advocacy & Training
  - UNAIDS - Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
  - WHO – World Health Organization
- 
- SOGI - Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity
  - SOGIESC - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression, & Sex Characteristics

# Introduction

## A letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2017 was an exciting year for GATE! Our organization completed a solid institutional transition with the invaluable collaboration of Masen Davis as our Interim Co-Director; and a new plan of work was approved by our Board of Directors. During 2017, we grew by adding new members to our staff: Erika Castellanos as Director of Programs; and Naomhán O'Connor as Communications Officer.

The following report demonstrates key actions GATE took throughout 2017. It provides an overview of each program area, highlighting events that we hosted or took part in, and giving details of our publications, statements, articles and submissions made to oversight committees in support of trans, gender diverse and intersex movements.

Our involvement with the international HIV response has seen an expansion of opportunities for meaningful engagements, diverse alliances and ethical distribution of resources, particularly within the international trans communities. Our continued commitment to movement building resulted in the publication of two reports on the state of funding: for the intersex movement; and the trans and gender diverse movement. Our work on depathologization of our identities, expressions, sexualities and bodies continues to be one of our key program areas. Our work engaging with the ICD-11 revision process is ongoing, and we are actively working to counter structural exclusion from UN-level engagement by providing training and networking opportunities for intersex, and trans and gender diverse activists.

One of our biggest achievements during 2017 was our participation in collective initiatives and collaborative efforts. In times of ferocious competition for scarce resources, we are proud members of political communities that are investing in mutual cooperation. The past year showed clearly how sharing our passion is the best way to multiplying its impact.



Mauro Cabral Grinspan

# Our Work - Trans, Gender Diverse & Intersex Issues

## Depathologization & Human Rights

During 2017 GATE continued working on advancing trans, gender diverse and intersex depathologization. Our work was organized by monitoring activities, collaborative advocacy, supporting communities' involvement and increasing critical knowledge on depathologization.

### Advocacy

In collaboration with our partners from national, regional and international organizations for the ICD revision process, GATE participated in the production and submission of collective proposals to the World Health Organization on trans, gender diverse and intersex depathologization. We proposed depathologizing language for trans and gender diverse adults; the deletion of the category 'Gender Incongruence of Childhood'; and the inclusion of a non-pathologizing category under a non-pathologizing chapter to support the implementation of depathologized healthcare provision. In consultation with intersex activists, we wrote and submitted 26 recommendations to depathologize intersex categories in the ICD-11.

*“At the 4th Intersex Forum in Amsterdam, GATE facilitated an informative session on efforts to depathologize intersex, followed by a series of webinars, calls and emails. Through them, intersex activist from all over the world were able to contribute, with our analysis and proposals, to the GATE's submission to the WHO.”*

**Hana Aoi - Intersex activist, México**

### Mobilization

In 2017, GATE participated in the trainings on depathologization organized by Akahatá in San Salvador de Bahía, and in Buenos Aires. We also conducted a session on depathologization at the 4th International Intersex Forum in Amsterdam, and introduced trans and intersex issues in the context of the ICD reform at the International Conference of the World Association for Sexual Health, held in Prague. GATE, TGEU and ILGA put together a workshop on depathologization at the ILGALAC Conference in Guatemala. A representative from GATE coordinated a session on intersex depathologization at the OutSummit organized by OutRight International in New York. On behalf of GATE, Amets Suess presented on trans depathologization at the TGEU Council in Bologna. Throughout the year, Mauro Cabral Grinspan and Morgan Carpenter facilitated webinars, calls and one-to-one trainings on trans, gender diverse and intersex depathologization.

### Knowledge

As a collective process, we participated in the creation of a paper presenting and developing key arguments against the proposed category of Gender Incongruence of Childhood, submitted to the peer reviewed journal Global Public Health for publication in 2018.

Following our previous collaboration with former the Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez, our team produced an expert article focused on trans, gender diverse and intersex issues in the torture and gender frameworks. It will be published as a chapter in a volume being edited by the American University in Washington.

In December 2017, GATE launched its policy paper “Gender is not an illness. How trans pathologization violates international human rights law”, authored by Sheherezade Kare. This paper incontrovertibly identifies pathologization as a clear and distinct root for human rights violations. It is currently available in English and will be made available in Spanish and Russian in 2018.

### More to come...

In 2018, GATE will be leading the way with the completion of the ICD-11 reform process. Different resources will be produced and shared, including expert papers, briefings, statements and toolkits. We will organize an Activists' Delegation to the WPATH Symposium to be held in Buenos Aires in November and will convene a pre-symposium strategic planning meeting. New submissions will be produced and presented to WHO. By the end of 2018, GATE will launch its project on legal depathologization, anticipating the outcomes of the World Health Assembly, that will take place in 2019, and its impact on ICD implementation at the national level.

*“Pathologization takes many different forms, from classifications and diagnosis to laws and policies. It also plays a central role in the way we understand and treat people, their bodies, their identities and their desires. We work to achieve trans, gender diverse and intersex depathologization while making sure that no one will be left behind, for any reason, on their access to legal recognition, healthcare and coverage. We won't stop working until we get there.”*



**Eszter Kismodi - GATE Board Member**

# Our Work - Trans, Gender Diverse & Intersex Issues

## International Human Rights Systems

During 2017, GATE made an extraordinary effort to expand and strengthen its advocacy work within International Human Rights systems by participating in collective initiatives to improve normative frameworks, producing and sharing critical knowledge, and supporting political mobilization.

### Advocacy

During 2017, GATE continued to be involved in the Equal Rights Coalition (ERC), promoting full and meaningful inclusion of gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics issues, as well as fair and active involvement of trans, gender diverse and intersex activists.

In partnership with RFSL, GATE reaffirmed its commitment to making socioeconomic justice a reality for trans, gender diverse and intersex people, sending a representative to the UN High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals in New York.

Investing in collaborative initiatives, a representative from GATE participated in the coordinating meeting of international organizations involved with SOGIESC activism at the UN.

*“Being at Trans Advocacy Week and being part of a group to attend the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. To have had the honor of addressing the Council about the issues we face as the global trans diverse community, to me, was the highlight of the week.”*



Ricky Nathanson, TREAT, Zimbabwe

### Knowledge

GATE's representatives participated in the process of elaboration of the Supplement to the Yogyakarta Principles, the “Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10” (YP+10). Our members were part of the drafting team and the signatories' group. GATE's representatives produced a briefing on intersex issues in the Yogyakarta Principles and YP+10 and participated in the launch of the Principles in Geneva in November 2017.

### Mobilization

In partnership with TGEU, GATE co-organized a trans and gender diverse delegation to the Public Consultation called by the former UN Independent Expert (IE) on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) issues, Professor Vitit Mutharborn. The delegation participated in a private meeting with the IE on SOGI and his staff. GATE's representatives participated in a private meeting with intersex activists.

In partnership with TGEU, RFSL, APTN and ILGA, GATE co-organized the first Trans Advocacy Week at the UN. 17 activists from 16 countries participated in meetings with the Independent Expert on SOGI issues, the Special Rapporteur on Health, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNAIDS and the Global Fund. In this context, GATE also co-organized a side-panel on trans people, mental health and human rights, which included presentations from the former Independent Expert on SOGI, and the Special Rapporteur on Health, Dr. Dainius Pūras, among other speakers.

*“For too long intersex, and trans and gender diverse issues were insufficiently addressed at the UN. Our populations and communities didn't have opportunities to set and develop our own initiatives within the international human rights system. Our work has been focused on expanding communities' engagement with the United Nations, supporting disaggregated data collection and analysis, and contributing to update available tools.”*



Morgan Carpenter  
GATE Senior Advisor on Intersex Issues

### More to come...

In 2018, GATE will be participating in the organization of the second UN Trans Advocacy Week, in partnership with TGEU, APTN, RFSL and ILGA; we will collaborate with the High-Level Political Forum on its work with the UNDP and other agencies and support the SOGI Mandate; and we will be participating in the organization of the Equal Rights Conference to be held in Vancouver in August 2018.

# Our Work - Trans, Gender Diverse & Intersex Issues

## International HIV Response

GATE continued its work enhancing the awareness of trans communities as a key population in the international HIV Response by engaging with various global HIV and AIDS organizations, providing capacity building trainings for trans communities, and acquiring funding from the Global Fund for a Community, Rights, and Gender Strategic Initiative (CRG SI) project in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) and Asia Pacific (AP) regions from 2017-2020.

**“GATE’s participation through representation in the Communities Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund has raised even more awareness on the need for sustainable financing and community responses around trans interventions for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, especially in relation to transitioning countries.”**  
**Rachel Ong - Communities Delegation Focal Point, Singapore**

### Advocacy

As the only member of the Communities Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund that represents trans communities, GATE provides unique insights into the perspective of trans communities and their needs in order to advocate for policy improvement in the Global Fund. This action translates into lives saved. Through this platform, GATE has successfully advocated for the diversification of the involvement of trans communities beyond the international HIV response, by advocating for their inclusion in the responses to tuberculosis and malaria.

GATE continued its engagement with global board meetings, with ongoing contribution to the Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+), as well as participating in a wide variety of decision-making groups, including co-chairing the ViiV initiative, taking part in the Advisory Group at CRG, and actively participating in meetings at UNAIDS and WHO. GATE’s representatives also attended a Key Population Data Collection meeting organized by UNAIDS, with a focus on community-led research as the key to community data collection. In addition, GATE participated as key speakers at WHO meetings on HIV and the law.

**“GATE, though its representation in the GNP+ Board, was successful in informing the GNP+ strategic direction and advocacy. We have developed a partnership and representation in key global processes and consultations, thus raising the visibility of the needs of transgender people. We have successfully been able to unite our two movements, GNP+ and GATE, at this crucial time in international development and globalization.”**



**Chris Mallouris - Leadership GNP+ Board**

### Mobilization

GATE continued its partnership with CLAC and IRGT, obtaining support from CRG through CLAC; in the context of those partnerships, a capacity building training was delivered in Paraguay. This training resulted in Global Fund concept note recommendations from the trans community using the TRANSIT tool.

### Knowledge

Collaborating with GNP+, ICW Global, INPUD, IRGT, MSMGF, and NSWP, GATE drafted a paper on the Global Response to Primary Prevention of HIV, which includes emphasis on the essential role of key populations in HIV prevention.

**“The HIV epidemic disproportionately affects our communities. Even with all the available data clearly indicating high HIV prevalence and high rates of HIV related deaths, trans, gender diverse and intersex people continue to be excluded from key decision-making processes. The consequences of our exclusion are disastrous. At GATE we are striding to change history. We want to ensure full inclusion and meaningful participation on those issues that directly affect us and adversely affect our quality of life. Our communities must have a role on how programs are designed, implemented and monitored, and this must also include resource distribution. Our work is guided by a full commitment with communities’ leadership, consultative, collaborative efforts and institutional accountability.”**  
**Erika Castellanos - GATE Director of Programs**



### More to come...

In 2018, GATE will have an active role at the AIDS 2018 Conference in the organization of the Trans Networking Zone, the Trans Pre-Conference, and the U=U Pre-Conference. GATE will continue working in the implementation of including trans and gender diverse people in the global HIV response, including the creation of a working group on trans men and HIV, and furthering our collaboration with WHO, UNAIDS, the Global Fund and the International AIDS Society.

# Our Work - Trans, Gender Diverse & Intersex Issues

## Movement Building & Resourcing

During 2017, GATE's work in this area was focused on expanding available data on resources to support trans, gender diverse and intersex organizing around the world, increasing both resources and access to them, and sharing key political information and analysis with activists and donors.

### Advocacy

GATE's representatives participated in bilateral meetings with the governments of Sweden, The Netherlands and the USA, and in meetings with private foundations and civil society organizations, to promote an increase in available funding for the trans, gender diverse, and intersex movements.

We also continued our involvement with Astraea, Mama Cash, the Global Fund, UNAIDS, Robert Carr, the International Human Rights Fund, and the International Trans Fund as formal / informal advisors on trans and intersex funding.

“The International Trans Fund (ITF) works with grantee partners across the world and we are deeply aware of the daily challenges that trans groups face, including high levels of violence and structural discrimination. Despite growing visibility and awareness of trans issues, the global trans movement remains incredibly under-resourced and continues to be neglected by international donors. The State of Trans Organizing report is a crucial tool in provoking dialogue between activists and donors about the funding situation of trans groups across the globe. GATE, Astraea and American Jewish World Service have taken a leadership role in using this report to spark conversations among donor governments and peers in the philanthropic community in an attempt to leverage new funding. The ITF celebrates this report and these initiatives as contributing to what we hope will be a watershed moment for donors to increase funding for the global trans movement.”

**Broden Giambrone**

Executive Director, International Trans Fund



### Mobilization

During 2017, GATE's representatives facilitated trainings on several topics, including depathologization and human rights at various venues: the UNDP Conference on the Yogyakarta Principles in Bangkok; the 4th International Intersex Forum; Akahatá Training on Depathologization in Salvador de Bahía<sup>1</sup>; and the Akahatá's International LGTB Activists in Buenos Aires<sup>2</sup>. GATE's staff also designed training curricula and organized virtual and in-person trainings on how to influence the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) review process and how to use lessons learned through the ICD review process to support human rights advocacy at the national and regional levels. Trainings were conducted in English, Spanish and Russian, with more than 200 people participating in these training activities.

GATE also published numerous individual and collective statements on various issues, calling for action or standing in solidarity with our own and other communities. These statements came out on specific international days, including: the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation; World Health Day, International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia; Transgender Day of Remembrance, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture; the International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization; Intersex Awareness Day, Transgender Day of Remembrance; World AIDS Day; and the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers.

### Knowledge

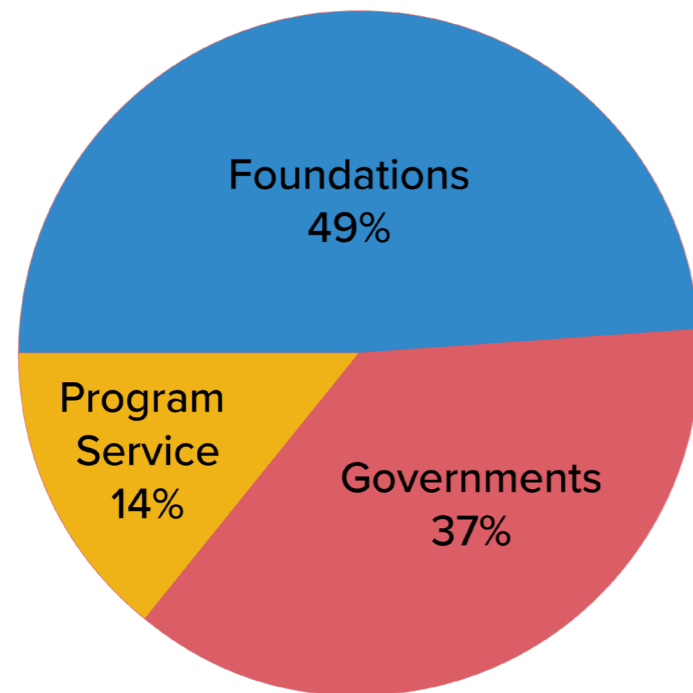
In partnership with American Jewish World Service and Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, GATE participated in the production and publication of two comprehensive reports on access to funding, one with a focus on intersex communities, the other with a focus on trans and gender diverse communities. These reports can be accessed on our website at: [transactivists.org/category/publications](http://transactivists.org/category/publications).

### More to come...

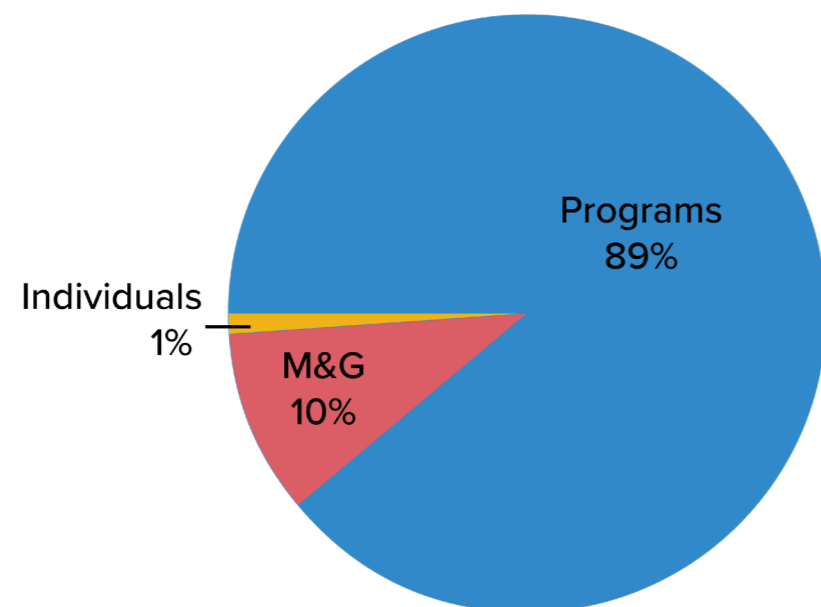
In 2018, GATE will continue its work on expanding available data on resources to support trans, gender diverse and intersex organizing around the world. This will include presentations and webinars mobilizing resources.

# Financial Overview

## Revenue



## Expenses



# Call To Action

All around the world, trans, gender diverse and intersex activists are relentlessly working to challenge the oppressive foundations of our shared world, and to change them for good.

Today, more than ever, our movements need your support to get access to:

- More and more fairly distributed funds to support our work
- Disaggregated data and analysis, to reflect the reality of our specific communities
- Inclusion in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs directed towards or affecting our communities
- Participation in all decision-making processes concerning us
- Opportunities for meeting, sharing, learning, organizing and strategizing at the national, regional and international levels
- Mentoring, training and support for our care and wellbeing
- Personal and organizational safety
- Acknowledgement and payment for our expertise



# About GATE

GATE is an international organization working on gender identity, gender expression and bodily diversity, including sex characteristics. We work defending and promoting trans, gender diverse and intersex people's human rights, supporting their political mobilization and making available critical knowledge on the issues affecting them.

Our work is guided by a strong commitment with collective and collaborative work, reparative justice, accountability, intersectionality, solidarity, diversity and transformational knowledge.

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