



**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

**GATE**

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USA

This document was produced with the greatest care but does not claim to be complete.

[www.transactivists.org](http://www.transactivists.org)

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

2018 has been a challenging year for many of us, but particularly for trans, gender diverse and intersex communities. GATE's 2018 Annual Report highlights our responses to challenges as they arose, and demonstrates the power of collective action.

This year, we put our greatest effort into combining our three key strategies: advocacy, knowledge and political mobilization. Each activity in 2018 utilized these three strategies, which were developed collectively with activists from across the world. We collaborated with more activists than ever, combining diverse geographic regions, languages and areas of expertise. Once again, we reaffirmed that we are stronger when we are when working together.

Throughout 2018, GATE spoke out on multiple issues, including calling for the inclusion of trans and gender diverse people in the global HIV response, an end to torture of intersex persons in healthcare settings, and the collection of strategic information and data for the implementation of evidence-based inclusive policies. GATE built the capacity of activists to engage with global decision-making bodies and enabled access to these spaces, including the 39th UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the World AIDS Conference in Amsterdam, and the WPATH Symposium in Buenos Aires.

One of GATE's biggest successes from 2018 was the WHO revision of the ICD-11, which depathologized trans identities. This success is commensurate with the depathologization of homosexuality in the 1980s, and we look forward to significant changes in the lives of trans and gender diverse people in the years to come based on this reclassification.

All of the issues we have worked on highlight clearly that our lives do matter, and that effective change cannot happen without our engagement, emphasizing the adage "nothing about us, without us".





In reading GATE 2018 Annual Report, you will discover that we are not only responding to past and present challenges, but also strategizing for the future.

Support us, collaborate with us, and walk with us into a better future.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mauro Cabral Grinspan', written over a horizontal line.

*Mauro Cabral Grinspan*

# WHO WE ARE

GATE is an international organization working on gender identity, sex characteristics and, more broadly, on bodily diversity issues.

GATE works on supporting trans, gender diverse and intersex movements by producing and making available critical knowledge, promoting their access to organizational resources (funding, training, mentoring, personal and professional supporting systems), and advocating with them to make our human rights a lived reality. GATE was founded in 2009 by Justus Eisfeld and Mauro Cabral Grinspan, GATE's Executive Director.

## Our Vision

GATE envisions a world free of human rights violations based on gender identity, gender expression and bodily diversity, transformed by the critical inclusion of those historically marginalized on those grounds.

## Our Mission

To work globally on gender identity, gender expression, and bodily issues by defending human rights, making available critical knowledge, and supporting political organizing worldwide.

## Our Values

In all our work, GATE focuses on building powerful, expert-led and well-resourced political movements, creating opportunities to meaningfully participate in global processes and transforming the landscape of socioeconomic justice worldwide.

## We...

- ...respect and celebrate all forms of gender identity, gender expression and bodily diversity
- ...promote and defend human rights, struggling to expand their scope to include gender identity, gender expression, and bodily diversity issues
- ...work to dismantle stigma, discrimination and violence based on gender identity, gender expression, and bodily diversity
- ...promote and defend activists' rights, expertise and wellbeing
- ...believe in the power of political movements to build socio-economic justice and expand opportunities and horizons
- ...advocate dismantling psycho-medical and legal obstacles to autonomy and self-determination.

# AREAS OF WORK

## Leadership

Fight stigma and discrimination  
Raise awareness  
Ensure inclusion



## Resourcing Change

Build activists' capacity  
Advocate for funding  
Support investment in community-specific research

## Knowledge

Build activists' skills  
Create resources  
Provide access to information



## Political Mobilization

Mobilize our communities  
Create access to global decision-making bodies  
Advocate for inclusion

# 2018 IN NUMBERS





# LEADERSHIP

## Erika's speech at AIDS Conference

GATE's Director of Programs, Erika Castellanos, was invited to speak at the Closing Plenary of the World AIDS Conference 2018 representing the community voice. She used this platform to raise awareness of the need to include trans communities more directly in the global HIV response, in data collection and research, in funding allocation, and on the boards of donors. She also used this platform to announce GATE's Trans Men and HIV Working Group, which aims to ensure the inclusion of trans men who have sex with men in the global HIV response.

AIDS 22<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE  
AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS  
2018 23-27 JULY 2018  
BREAKING BARRIERS • BUILDING BRIDGES



[WWW.AIDS2018.ORG](http://WWW.AIDS2018.ORG)

“Trans women are still being included in funding and data focused on men who have sex with men, although we are women NOT men. Meanwhile, trans men who have sex with men are excluded entirely from the global HIV response, and gender diverse people are also completely absent from research. Funders ask us: Where is the data to prove the need for your inclusion in funding?; to which we respond: Where is the funding for this research?”

**Erika Castellanos, Amsterdam**  
Director of Programs, GATE



AIDS 22<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE  
AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS  
2018 23-27 JULY 2018

BREAKING BARRIERS • BUILDING BRIDGES



# WPATH Activism Award

In November 2018, GATE's Executive Director, Mauro Cabral Grinspan, received an Award from WPATH in acknowledgement for his work on advancing trans, gender diverse and intersex people's human rights in healthcare settings.

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# UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The 2nd Report released by the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity issues, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, was focused on gender identity and depathologization.

GATE's contribution to the Report was reflected in the text, constituting landmark recognition of our contribution to knowledge building at the international human rights level.

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# GATE Statements

During 2018, GATE published numerous individual and collective statements on various issues, calling for action or standing in solidarity with our own and other communities.

## Specific issues that we addressed

### Intersex communities:

- Ending all forms of genital mutilation and all unnecessary and unconsented medical interventions
  - Legal recognition as a citizen of the state at birth without requirement for medical/psychological intervention
  - The right to truth
- 

### Trans and gender diverse communities:

- Legal gender recognition without medical/psychological intervention
  - Depathologization
  - Banning forced sterilization and upholding the right to found a family
  - Inclusion of trans communities in the global HIV response
  - Ending violence against sex workers and decriminalizing sex work
- 

### For all our communities:

- Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- Ending harmful construction of 'normative' identities and bodies based on binary gender ideals
- The right to work free from stigma & discrimination
- Guidelines on how to be an ally to our communities
- Bodily and mental integrity, and mental health

# KNOWLEDGE

## Global Fund project: Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative (CRG-SI)

This two-year project focuses on developing skills and building capacity of transgender communities to meaningfully engage with Global Fund processes in areas of HIV, malaria and tuberculosis. Commencing in January 2018, it includes ten countries: Myanmar, Nepal, India, Thailand and Vietnam from Asia-Pacific; and Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Nicaragua, and Peru from Latin America and Caribbean.



This project is giving transgender communities in these countries the opportunity to develop links with each other and the broader set of key populations, as well as connecting with policy makers and service providers engaged in HIV, TB and malaria responses and health systems.

2-day capacity building workshops were implemented over 2 days in 5 locations. Participants learned about Global Fund processes, the local context of the HIV, TB and malaria response for transgender persons, and gained more information specifically on the TB and malaria responses. Across all workshops, feedback from participants was positive. Consultants facilitated the writing of applications for TA Requests, of which 3 (LAC region) were successful. In the Dominican Republic, with the workshop resulted in the formation of a trans network coalition, based on the positive experience had by all in working collaboratively.



## AIDS 2018

The World AIDS Conference 2018 was held in Amsterdam from 23-28 July, with pre-conferences on 21-22 July. GATE participated in several pre-conferences and numerous sessions during the main conference, as well as co-hosting the Trans Networking Zone with IRGT – A Network of Trans Women and HIV.

GATE sponsored the trans pre-conference with IRGT, providing general organizational support and filming of all sessions, and the U=U pre-conference with Positive Action, providing live-streaming of all sessions.

Sessions hosted by GATE discussed funding issues facing the transgender movement, the exclusion of trans men from the global HIV response, specific prevention intervention tools for the trans community, diversification of the HIV response in the trans community, and an analysis of communities left behind in the '90-90-90' global HIV goals.

GATE's Director of Programs, Erika Castellanos, was a key speaker, panelist, moderator at over 20 sessions during the 5-day main conference, including moderating the EJAF session with Elton John and (partner) and was a key speaker at the Closing Plenary.

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## Intersex Social Sciences Conference

In April, GATE's intersex expert, Morgan Carpenter, participated in the Intersex Social Sciences Conference "Activism, Human Rights & Citizenship", organized by the University of Huddersfield in Bologna, Italy, where he presented on the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10 and its relevance to intersex activism. After the Conference, Morgan Carpenter and Mauro Cabral Grinspan joined the recently created European Network for Training and Research on Intersex as members.



# POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

## WPATH Symposium

In partnership with Akahatá, ILGA World, and TGEU, GATE brought together 50 intersex, trans and gender diverse activists from more than 20 countries for the second Activist Delegation to the 25th WPATH Symposium in Buenos Aires from 2-6 November 2018. Prior to the symposium, the Activists' Delegation held their own pre-symposium meeting from 31 October – 1 November to share, plan and strategize on depathologization worldwide.

Activists participated in multiple sessions during the WPATH Conference. One of the key goals of the Activists' Delegation was to review advances within WPATH in accordance with the Amsterdam Declaration produced by the first Activists' Delegation in 2016, and the response from WPATH received in 2017. Based on our collective experience during the 2018 WPATH Symposium in Buenos Aires, we asked WPATH to acknowledge that, as an association, it exists within a global context of anti-trans discrimination, harassment, violence and persecution in social, political, economic, legal and medical spheres of life. This statement was signed by 24 organizations and 4 activists.





# UN Trans Advocacy Week

In partnership with TGEU, RFSL, APTN & ILGA, GATE co-organized the second Trans Advocacy Week at the UN. From 17 - 22 June, 23 trans activists from 19 countries met in Geneva for UN Trans Advocacy Week 2018.

Trans activists participated in the Open Consultation called by the Independent Expert on SOGI, met with different UN agencies, Special Rapporteurs, Missions and donors, and attended plenary sessions at the Human Rights Council. The delegation also coordinated and participated in two side events, the first on trans issues within the gender framework, the second on the Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10 and their relevance to achieve trans human rights worldwide. Both sessions were live-streamed to include our communities worldwide. This global initiative was made possible by trans-led, collective and collaborative work.



## Global Fund

As the only trans representative to the Communities Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund, Erika Castellanos, on behalf of GATE, provides unique insight 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, and deaths averted. Through this platform, GATE has successfully advocated for the diversification of the involvement of trans communities beyond the international HIV response, to also include them in the responses to tuberculosis and malaria.

## Latin America Intersex Forum

In March, Mauro Cabral Grinspan facilitated the first Latin American Intersex Forum in San Jose, Costa Rica, coordinated a collective dialog on intersex depathologization, and participated in the writing of the Declaration of San Jose.

## International Trans Health Conference

In April, Mauro Cabral Grinspan participated in the International Conference Trans Issues: challenges and perspectives, held in Kiev, Ukraine, delivering two presentations: trans depathologization and legal reform; and the International Classification of Diseases and its future impact on trans and gender diverse people's human rights.

# RESOURCING CHANGE

## GATE's participation in Global Events

GATE's Director of Programs, Erika Castellanos, participated in the **Communities Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund** and as **Alternate Board Member to the Global Fund Board** concentrates on ensuring that policies and decisions being made at the board level are beneficial and inclusive for our community. One aspect that has been highlighted is the key of meaningful engagement of communities in the response to the 3 epidemics: HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

In her role as **Vice-Chair of the Board of GNP+**, our Director of Programs' engagement was instrumental for the inclusion of transgender communities in tools for example the new stigma index tool that now also seeks to gather data for key populations and uses appropriate language for our communities.

During 2018, GATE continued our ongoing involvement with the **Equal Rights Coalition (ERC)**, promoting the full and meaningful inclusion of gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics issues, as well as the fair and active involvement of trans, gender diverse and intersex activists. GATE's Executive Director, Mauro Cabral Grinspan, and GATE's Intersex Expert, Morgan Carpenter, participated in the **ERC Global Conference 'Leaving No One Behind'**, presenting at panels on intersex and trans issues and joining general conversations. GATE's Executive Director also participated in a panel on trans, intersex and lesbian dedicated funding during the **Donors' Coordination Meeting**.

In May, GATE's Intersex Expert participated in the **International Conference Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status Research: Data Collection, Analysis, Social and Policy Engagement**, and defended the case for disaggregated data collection and analysis on sex characteristics and intersex. The Conference was co-organized by the Sexualities Research Program and Gender Studies Program at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with support from the University's Faculty of Social Science Conference Grant and the UNDP.

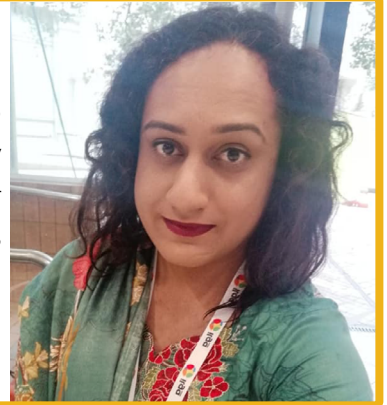
In July, GATE's Executive Director was invited by RSFL to participate in the **High-Level Political Forum in New York** on a panel on inclusive cities.

In November, GATE's Executive Director attended a regional consultation **The Extra Mile: Latin American Gender identity Laws and Beyond**, organized by PNUD in Panama City (Panama), presenting on a panel about international programs on socioeconomic inclusion and participating in the evaluation of multiple initiatives focused on improving trans and gender diverse people's lives in the region.

# TESTIMONIES

“I was selected by GATE to attend the WPATH symposium that took place in Argentina in 2018. I am really happy that GATE acknowledged my work on depathologization of Trans and Intersex identities that I and my organization do in Pakistan. GATE sponsored my entire visit and helped me build my capacity by making me attend my first WPATH symposium. I also got a chance to represent the Hijra culture and also the perspective of South Asian Transgender rights movement. I am applying the lessons learnt in my country.”

Aisha Mughal, Pakistan  
Program Manager, Wajood Society



“The 2nd UN Trans Advocacy week made me aware that a being a young, trans, indigenous ñahñhú woman is not an obstacle for generating actions and for creating strategies for human rights with trans persons from all around the world. Attending this event helped me to distribute knowledge within my community, generating both local and global impact. This process drives me to keep working collectively and reciprocally, with the feeling of recognizing each other as transformative of our circumstances.”

Jessica Marjane Durán Franco, Mexico  
Founder & Coordinator, Red de Juventudes Trans México



“GATE funded my attendance at the WPATH conference in Buenos Aires. It was a great honor and opportunity to exchange and learn from trans activists from all over the world. We shared experiences, knowledge, and ideas which were very important for my work in the Balkan region. For the first time, I was able to understand how trans people and medical professionals are cooperating directly and what our steps will be for the future.”

Kristian Randelović, Serbia  
Executive director, XY Spectrum



“At the start of March 2018, for the first time in Latin American history, the Intersex Regional Conference was held in Costa Rica. At this event, Mauro Cabral Grinspan was not only involved in the planning process, the construction of the program and the methodology, but also facilitated discussions of our issues and drafted the Declaration of San José, in which we presented our recommendations to the different sectors of which we have shared experiences.”

Natasha Jiménez Mata, Costa Rica  
Director, Mulabi: Espacio Latinoamericano de Sexualidades y Derechos



# PUBLICATIONS

## Joint submission to UN Independent Expert SOGI on language related to gender identity and expression

Submitted by Akahatá, APTN, ARC International, GATE, ILGA, RFSL, SATF, S.H.E. Africa, TGEU, TransAction NZ, TransWave Jamaica, Trans\* Coalition in Post-Soviet Space, and TREAT Zimbabwe to the United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

**HHR** Health and Human Rights Journal

Intersex Variations, Human Rights, and the International Classification of Diseases

## Intersex variations, human rights and the International Classification of Diseases

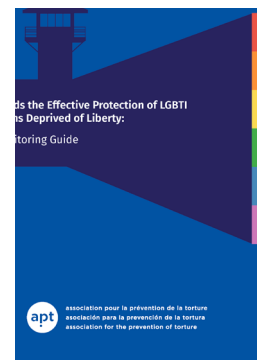
Peer reviewed article by GATE Senior Advisor on Intersex, Morgan Carpenter, in Harvard's Health and Human Rights Journal.

This paper was supported by GATE's initiative on reform of the International Classification of Diseases.

## Towards the effective protection of LGBTI persons deprived of liberty: a monitoring guide

Published by the Association for the Prevention of Torture, it is a direct response to the growing demand for practical guidance on this topic, and covers prisons, police custody and immigration detention facilities.

GATE's Executive Director, Mauro Cabral, participated as an expert in the peer-review of this guide prior to publication.



GLOBAL FUND  
MONITORING AND  
OVERSIGHT TOOL  
FOR TRANSGENDER  
COMMUNITIES

Building the capacity of trans communities to provide monitoring and oversight of Global Fund processes at all levels



## CRG-SI Project Resources

- Operations Manual and Communications Manual
- Monitoring and Oversight Tool with accompanying Training Guide for consultants (available in English, Spanish, and Thai)
- Country Reports from the first 5 workshops held in Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean



# GATE IN 2019

## 2019 will be another busy year for GATE!

In June 2019, GATE will begin celebrating its 10th year. During this commemorative year, we will be consulting our communities once again to create our new strategic plan. Our Board will be growing, as will our staff. We will celebrate our 10th year by continuing to work side by side with trans, gender diverse and intersex activists worldwide.

As the reform of the International Classification of Diseases is coming to an end, we will be **attending the World Health Assembly** and reporting on the future of this process. We hope to make a huge step forward in dismantling human rights violations in healthcare.

Continuing our work on socioeconomic justice at the international level, GATE will **actively participate in the UN process on Universal Health Coverage and the High-Level Political Meeting on Universal Health Coverage**. We will also continue to **engage with the Sustainable Development Goals process** and, in particular on Sustainable Development Goal 1 on Poverty and Sustainable Development Goal 3 on Health.

In partnership with TGEU, APTN, ILGA World and RFSL, we will be **organizing the 3rd Trans Advocacy Week at UN Geneva** and will also engage in the international initiative to **support the renewal of the Mandate of the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**.

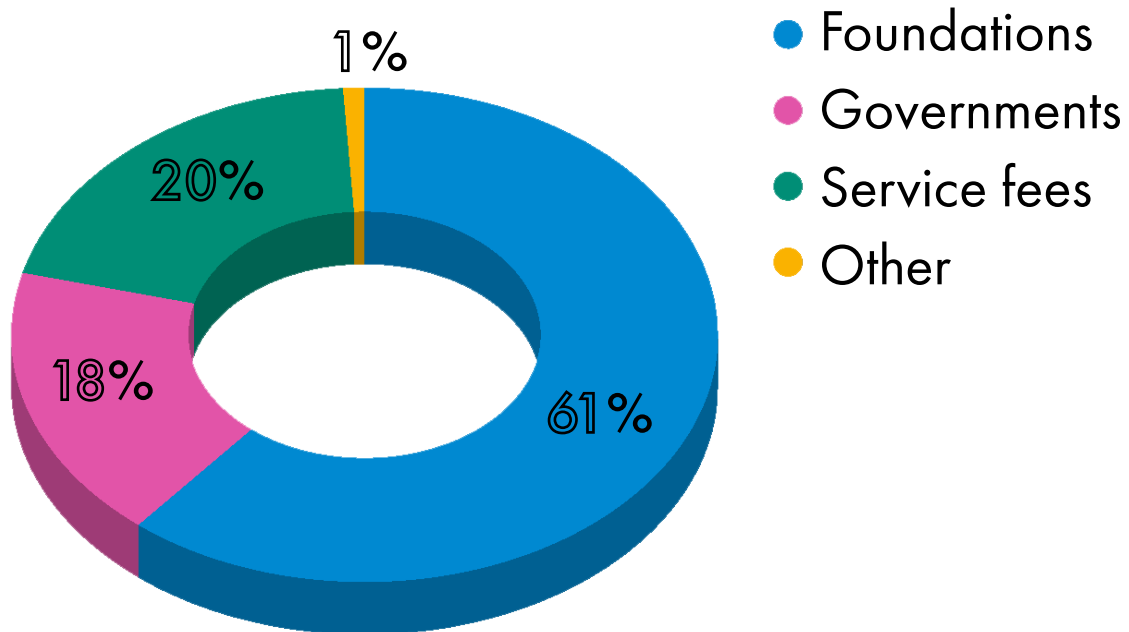
We will **participate in the International AIDS Society Conference** in Mexico and will **contribute to planning ahead for AIDS 2020 and AIDS 2022 Conferences** in partnership with other key populations.

Aiming to fulfill our commitment with making critical knowledge accessible to all, GATE will **organize, facilitate, join and develop multiple workshops, webinars, panels and one-to-one training** throughout 2019. We are also preparing **publish three new policy papers** on Reproductive Justice, Legal De-pathologization and the Right to Truth.

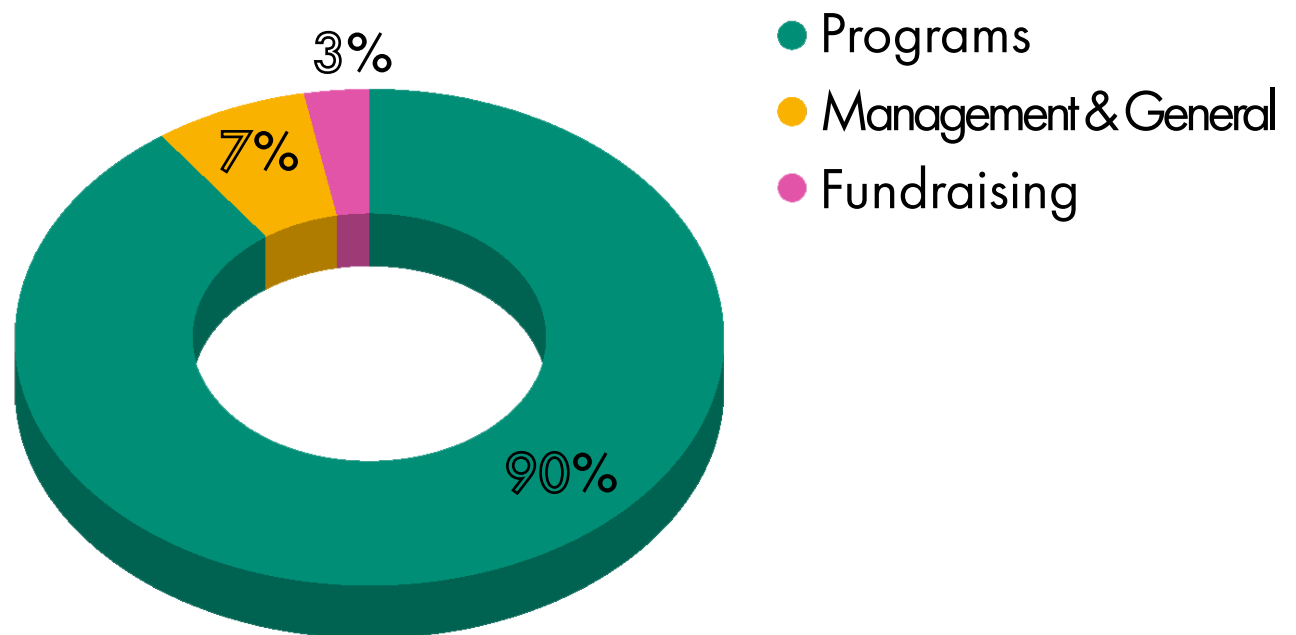
Stay tuned for more information...

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue: US \$797,000



Expenses: US \$707,000



# SUPPORTERS

American Jewish World Service

Arcus Foundation

Astraea Lesbian Justice Foundation

Open Society Foundation

# GOVERNANCE

## Board of Directors

Tamara Adrian *Venezuela*

Masen Davis *USA*

Eszter Kismodi *Switzerland*

Tshepo Ricki Kgositau *South Africa*

Dave Scamell *Australia*

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## Staff

Mauro Cabral Grinspan *Executive Director*

Erika Castellanos *Director of Programs*

Cori Zaccagnino *Director of Finance and Operations*

Karen Bennett *Executive Assistant*

Naomhán O'Connor *Communications Officer*



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 collaborativework, reparativejustice, accountability, intersectionality, solidarity, diversity and transformational knowledge.

## Follow Us



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