

 **Global Trans Conference**

A Unified Trans Movement

FORGING OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE

Insights and Outcomes from the 2024 Global Trans Conference



GATE

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About GATE

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 international institutions and processes. Our vision is 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.

Find out more about GATE by visiting www.gate.ngo

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Introduction

The Unite! Advocate! Thrive! Global Trans Conference, held on 20—21 July 2024 in Munich, Germany, brought together 200 activists, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders from the trans and gender diverse community, representing 67 countries across all regions of the world.

Over two days, participants engaged deeply with the complexities of living as trans and gender diverse individuals in an increasingly antagonistic world. While highlighting these challenges, the Conference celebrated the resilience and diversity within our community, spotlighting the voices of passionate global advocates. This event highlighted our collective strengths and the ongoing challenges that our communities face.

The Conference was developed around three program areas: human rights, health, and movement building. These key programmatic tracks were the foundation for addressing global issues impacting the trans and gender diverse community.

A total of 17 sessions were held during the Conference, shedding light on the realities faced by trans and gender diverse communities. GATE's Executive Director, Erika Castellanos, emphasized in her opening remarks that **the struggle for human rights goes beyond present challenges, symbolizing a commitment to a future where everyone can live authentically and with dignity. This Conference embodied that commitment by uniting global voices to tackle critical issues facing trans and gender diverse individuals.**

With anti-rights and anti-gender movements gaining momentum, the necessity for a cohesive and dynamic trans and gender diverse movement is more urgent than ever. The Conference emphasized the importance of intersectionality as both a theoretical framework and a practical approach to activism, recognizing the interconnections among and between various forms of oppression. By fostering alliances across movements and building solidarities that cross geographical, cultural, and social boundaries, the participants aimed to develop a collective trans and gender diverse agenda that is both diverse and unified.

Executive Summary

Under the theme 'Unite! Advocate! Thrive!', the Conference served as a vital platform for critical discussions on the global challenges faced by trans and gender diverse communities. The program, developed by the [Conference Organizing Committee](#), featured three plenary sessions and multiple concurrent breakout sessions dedicated to issues related to health, human rights, and movement building. The program was developed to ensure the centering of the exchange of best practices in order to foster intersectionality and resilience among trans and gender diverse individuals across the world.

SATURDAY 20 JULY	Health	Human Rights	Movement Building
08:30-09:00	Conference Opening Welcome		
09:00-10:30	Plenary: Confronting the Anti-Gender and Anti-Rights Opposition		
10:30-11:00	COFFEE BREAK		
11:00-12:30	Breaking Barriers: Inclusive HIV Services for All Trans Communities	Navigating Danger: Anti-Trans Violence in Criminalized Communities	The Power of Unity: Fortifying Synergies in Social Justice Movements
12:30-14:00	LUNCH BREAK		
14:00-15:30	Empowering Change: Community-Led Research in Gender-Affirming Care	Criminalization and Cross-Identities: Overcoming Challenges with Resilience	South-South Cross-Regional Movement Building: Reflecting and Imagining Towards Asia, Pacific, and African Initiatives
15:30-16:30	NETWORKING TIME: COFFEE AND SNACKS		
16:30-17:30	Plenary: Advancing Trans and Gender Diverse Health: Global Action, Universal Health Coverage, and SDG3		
18:00-21:00	GALA		
	#TransAgenda		

SUNDAY 21 JULY	Health	Human Rights	Movement Building
09:00-10:00	Plenary: Resourcing the Trans and Gender Diverse Movement: Strategies, Challenges, and Future Directions		
10:00-11:00	NETWORKING TIME: COFFEE AND SNACKS		
11:00-12:30	Setting the Agenda: Identifying Health Community Priorities for Strategic Planning	Setting the Agenda: Identifying Human Rights Community Priorities for Strategic Planning	Setting the Agenda: Identifying Movement Building Community Priorities for Strategic Planning
12:30-14:00	LUNCH BREAK		
14:00-15:30	Lessons from the Opposition: Human Rights and HIV Funding Strategies Inspired by Anti-Gender Mobilization	Strategic Communications: Capturing Hearts and Minds for Trans Advocacy	Self-Reliant Trans Movement: Let's Make Money Differently!
15:30-16:00	COFFEE BREAK		
16:00-17:00	Conference Closing Session		
	#TransAgenda		

"The Unite! Advocate! Thrive! Global Trans Conference" program overview

The Conference opened with welcoming words from GATE's Erika Castellanos to set the space's intentions and encourage connecting and learning from one another. From the beginning, the tone was set that **the Conference was a space to celebrate the trans and gender diverse movement's successes, confront its challenges, and collectively work toward a future where everyone in the community can thrive.**

Each day of the Conference featured plenary sessions followed by four concurrent breakout sessions focused on each of the key themes of health, human rights, and movement building. For each thematic track, a rapporteur was appointed, whose role was to attend sessions related to their respective tracks, collect crucial data on the needs, challenges, and priorities of the movement, and, once the Conference closed, draft a comprehensive thematic report. The breakout sessions, held across three different rooms over two days, covered a diverse range of topics within these themes, including the criminalization of communities, cross-regional movement building, inclusive healthcare services, empowering leadership, and more. Complementary to the plenaries, these sessions provided more interactive spaces for participants to engage with one another and collectively identify key strategies moving forward.

The Conference was closed with a high-level summary of the main findings of the three thematic rapporteurs. The thematic presentations culminated in the reading of the [Global Trans and Gender Diverse Declaration](#), a powerful statement crafted by the Conference's Organizing Committee and eloquently delivered by the seasoned trans activist, Jemma Samitpol. The Declaration highlights the challenges facing our trans and gender diverse communities and amplifies our voices globally. All participants were invited to sign the Declaration and invest in it as an advocacy tool in their own contexts and communities.

Following this, with final inspiring words of gratitude, Marcela Romero officially closed the Unite! Advocate! Thrive! Global Trans Conference on behalf of its Organizing Committee.



Group photo of some of the delegates from the "Unite! Advocate! Thrive!" Global Trans Conference, Munich, Germany

GATE used the opportunity of the Conference to announce two significant shifts in its focus and structure:

- 1. Acknowledging that intertwining its mission with intersex advocacy has inadvertently diverted necessary resources and attention from intersex-led organizations, GATE has decided to discontinue its intersex programming to concentrate exclusively on trans and gender diverse issues. GATE expressed its commitment to supporting the leadership, representation, and independence of the global intersex movement as it continues its work.**
- 2. GATE revealed plans to transition to a membership-based model, which will be free for all trans- and gender diverse-led organizations. This change aims to foster greater collaboration within the global trans and gender diverse movement, creating new opportunities for learning, mutual support, and connection. These changes, introduced at the close of the Conference, mark a renewed commitment to the movement, laying a stronger foundation for collective progress as we move forward together.**



From the Conference opening session, from left to right: Anwar Ogrm, Erika Castellanos, and Larkin Callaghan

Main Thematic Takeaways: Needs, Themes, and Priorities

The Global Trans Conference was a watershed moment for the trans and gender diverse community. Focusing on three critical thematic areas — health, human rights, and movement building — the Conference was designed not only to address the pressing issues facing the trans and gender diverse community, but also to forge a strategic path forward.

This section summarizes each thematic track's main outcomes and strategic takeaways, offering a comprehensive overview of the Conference's impact and future direction.

*From the Opening Plenary,
“Confronting the Anti-Gender
and Anti-Rights Opposition.”*

*From left to right:
Jay Mulucha, Liberty Matthyse,
Erika Castellanos, Ymania Brown,
and Mauro Cabral Grinspan*



Plenaries

Human Rights Track



The opening plenary session, *“Confronting the Anti-Gender and Anti-Rights Opposition”* was dedicated to the Human Rights track. Representatives and community leaders from various regions shared their experiences, spotlighting that this opposition is a global issue requiring coordinated efforts to protect the human rights of trans and gender diverse communities. The discussions delved into the **legal and social challenges** faced by these communities, such as gender criminalization, hate crimes, trans femicides, and violations of healthcare rights. Participants also discussed the **ongoing pathologization of trans and gender diverse people, discriminatory laws**, and the broader **implications of the anti-gender rights movement as a systemic global issue.**

Health Track

The second plenary session, “*Advancing Trans and Gender Diverse Health: Global Action, Universal Health Coverage, and SDG3*”, held as the closing plenary for the first day, was dedicated to the Health track. Focusing on advancing trans and gender diverse health, it addressed critical health issues affecting trans and gender diverse communities worldwide, framed within the contexts of gender-affirming care, universal health coverage (UHC), and Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3).



*From the Health Plenary, “Advancing Trans and Gender Diverse Health — Global Action, Universal Health Coverage, and SDG 3.”
From left to right: Dr. Asa Radix, Anil Padavatan, Raine Cortes, Cecilia Chung, and Erika Castellanos*

The session highlighted the **gaps in policy advocacy** addressing gender inequality in healthcare and the need for greater inclusion of trans men and other gender diverse community members in HIV, general healthcare, and sexual and reproductive healthcare programs. It also emphasized the **disparity between HIV funding and broader trans health funding**, while highlighting that even in terms of funding for HIV programming, trans and gender diverse communities receive substantially less money than other key populations. The session addressed the concern that **access to gender-affirming care is increasingly under attack by anti-rights actors** and that **innovative health advocacy and communications strategies are needed** to counter these attacks and improve access. The session also emphasized the **critical importance of community-led research**, and the need to **address the persistent barriers to accessing competent medical care**, including mental health services.

Movement Building Track

The third plenary, *“Resourcing the Trans and Gender Diverse Movement: Strategies, Challenges, and Future Directions”*, held on the morning of the second day of the Conference, was dedicated to the Movement Building track. It addressed the critical needs and priorities regarding resourcing the trans and gender diverse movement.

Funders and grantee organizations discussed the **significant impact of insufficient funding** on addressing the inequalities within these communities. The session emphasized the need for **general support funding** and **flexible funding models**. Panelists argued that general support funding, which includes long-term funding commitments, is essential as it provides organizations with the financial stability needed to plan and execute strategic initiatives without the constant pressure of short-term grant cycles. General support funding allows for greater flexibility, enabling organizations to adapt to emerging challenges and opportunities as they arise, rather than being confined to rigid, project-specific funding.

Also highlighted was that flexible funding models are equally crucial, as they allow organizations to allocate resources where they are most needed, whether in response to urgent crises or long-term capacity building. This flexibility is particularly important for trans and gender diverse communities, who often face rapidly-changing and hostile environments that require swift and adaptive responses.



Participants and donors engaging in the networking space

Finally, **trust between funders and grantees** was underlined as a crucial element, with an emphasis on building relationships based on mutual understanding and transparency, and the importance of trans and gender diverse communities being at the forefront of decision-making processes.

Breakout Sessions

Human Rights Track: Countering Anti-Gender Movements and Strengthening Advocacy



Needs assessment

The Conference called attention to the growing threats posed by anti-gender and anti-rights movements globally, which have increasingly targeted the rights and existence of trans and gender diverse individuals. **These movements have resulted in significant setbacks, including legal challenges, heightened violence, and systemic discrimination against trans and gender diverse communities around the world. The need to strengthen global advocacy efforts and build resilience within the trans and gender diverse community was identified as a critical priority throughout the Human Rights track of the Conference.**



From the “Navigating Danger — Anti-Trans Violence in Criminalized Communities” breakout session of the Human Rights track. From left to right: Levan Berianidze, the Human Rights facilitator for the Conference, and speaker, Kanykei Kyzy

Key human rights issues discussed included the **widespread criminalization of trans and gender diverse identities**, the use of **discriminatory laws** to suppress trans and gender diverse activism, and the **lack of legal protections** for trans and gender diverse individuals in many regions. Additionally, speakers and participants called attention to the **psychological toll of ongoing stigma and violence**, which exacerbates existing vulnerabilities within the community. The **urgent need for intersectional advocacy that addresses the multifaceted nature of these challenges** was a central theme throughout the discussions.

Key themes

The Human Rights track emphasized several key themes that are essential to advancing the rights and protections of trans and gender diverse individuals —

- **Global solidarity and intersectionality:** The importance of building global solidarity to combat the rising tide of anti-gender movements was highlighted. Intersectionality was centered as a crucial approach, recognizing that trans and gender diverse individuals often face overlapping forms of discrimination based on race, class, sexuality, and other factors such as individuals from our community who are and have been in the prison system. The need to form alliances with other social justice movements was emphasized as a means to strengthen collective advocacy efforts.
- **Strategic communication:** Effective communication strategies were identified as vital for countering misinformation and harmful narratives perpetuated by anti-gender movements. The need for trans and gender diverse communities to develop and disseminate powerful, targeted messages that resonate with diverse audiences was a recurring theme. Participants also stressed the importance of engaging public figures and media to shift public opinion and influence policy.
- **Advocacy in hostile contexts:** The discussions called attention to the challenges of advocating for trans and gender diverse rights in regions where legal and social environments are particularly hostile. Strategies for resilience, adaptability, and innovative advocacy in these contexts were shared, with an emphasis on the importance of localized approaches that are sensitive to cultural and legal realities.
- **Legal reform and accountability:** Participants identified the need for continuous efforts to reform discriminatory laws and hold governments accountable for human rights violations against trans and gender diverse individuals. The importance of monitoring these violations and reporting them to international bodies was also highlighted as a key aspect of advocacy.

Human Rights moderator for the Conference, Anwar Ogrm



Strategic priorities

Building on these key themes, the Human Rights track of the Conference outlined several strategic priorities aimed at advancing trans and gender diverse people's human rights globally —

- **Strengthening alliances and networks:** Speakers and participants argued that there is a need to build and maintain strong, interconnected networks at local, national, and international levels. These alliances can amplify the impact of advocacy efforts and provide critical support in times of crisis. Collaboration with other social justice movements is also essential to creating a united front against anti-gender opposition.
- **Enhancing visibility and representation:** Ensuring that trans and gender diverse voices are present and heard in global decision-making spaces is crucial. This includes advocating for the inclusion of trans and gender diverse issues in international human rights frameworks, and ensuring that trans and gender diverse activists have access to these platforms.
- **Targeted strategic communication:** Developing comprehensive communication strategies that are adaptable to different contexts is vital. This includes creating campaigns that effectively counter anti-gender rhetoric and that highlight the human rights of trans and gender diverse individuals.
- **Supporting vulnerable communities:** Focused efforts are needed to protect and empower trans and gender diverse individuals in criminalized and hostile environments. This includes providing legal support, safe spaces, and resources for activists working under threat.



From the Human Rights breakout session, "Criminalization and Cross-Identities — Overcoming Challenges with Resilience."

From left to right: Levan Berianidze, Sabrina Sanchez, and Daniel Benitez-Posada

Health Track: Addressing Urgent Health Needs with Community-Centric Approaches



Needs assessment

Key health issues identified by the participants of the Health track of the Conference include —

- **Urgent need for broader access to gender-affirming care:** Participants identified gender-affirming care a crucial and life-saving medical treatment for many trans and gender diverse individuals. Delegates also pointed out that **gender-affirming care is often misunderstood or misrepresented by anti-gender rhetoric**, and that it needs to be understood as an intervention that encompasses a range of services beyond surgery, including hormone replacement therapy (HRT), mental health services, and puberty blockers.
- **Importance of self-identification and bodily autonomy:** Another critical issue is the recognition of the importance of self-identification and bodily autonomy as fundamental human rights within healthcare systems, including the right to give informed consent for medical procedures and medical research. Speakers and participants highlighted that **recognizing these rights must be integrated into health-related laws**, policies and practices across health services to ensure access to quality care by trans- and gender-diverse competent healthcare providers. Additionally, the **ongoing practice of conversion therapy** was pointed out as a significant threat to mental health, undermining the principles of gender-affirming care.
- **Higher rates of sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS, and mental health challenges:** The Health track also highlighted these issues, especially for those further marginalized, and more so when this marginalization is exacerbated by gender-based violence and substance use. Discussions highlighted that there is therefore a need to **strengthen links with other health rights movements**, including the sexual and reproductive health rights movement, and movements countering gender-based violence.

Key themes

The discussions drew attention to the necessity of addressing **the significant barriers that prevent trans and gender diverse individuals from accessing inclusive, affirming, and competent healthcare**. Key themes highlighted include —

- **Access and equity:** The track drew attention to the structural barriers, such as poverty, legal discrimination, and insurance restrictions, that impede trans and gender diverse individuals' access to quality healthcare. It emphasized the need for advocacy on universal health coverage (UHC) and legal reforms, as these are critical to ensuring that healthcare systems are inclusive of trans and gender diverse needs.
- **Community-led research:** The importance of community-led initiatives was highlighted, particularly in research areas that directly impact trans and gender diverse health. For example, the [Tangerine Clinic](#) in Thailand demonstrated how community-led research could result in highly-effective health interventions tailored to the needs of trans and gender diverse populations. Participants called for more longitudinal studies and community-based research to generate data that truly reflects trans and gender diverse experiences.
- **Differentiated service delivery:** There was a clear call for healthcare services that are responsive to the diverse needs of trans and gender diverse individuals, including tailored gender-affirming care, and mental health support. The participants pointed to the need for trans- and gender diverse-competent healthcare professionals, and the necessity of the development of inclusive clinical guidelines.
- **Participatory and inclusive co-design:** The track stressed the need for inclusive co-design processes that involve trans and gender diverse individuals at every stage. The co-design of health programs with active participation from the community ensures that services are relevant, accessible, and effective.



From the “Breaking Barriers — Inclusive HIV Services for All Trans Communities” breakout session of the Health track.

From left to right: Anil Padavatan, Amanita Calderón Cifuéntes, and Abhi Muchtar

Strategic priorities

As the speakers and participants reflected on these priorities, strategic ways forward and actionable advocacy targets were discussed and included —

- **Integration of services:** There is a need to integrate gender-affirming care into general healthcare systems, ensuring that it is available and affordable to all who need it.
- **Capacity building:** Training for healthcare professionals in trans and gender diverse competency is essential to improving the quality of care provided to trans and gender diverse individuals. Community-led organizations need information on available training programs, and future priorities should include fundraising for scholarships for trans and gender diverse persons to train as healthcare providers.
- **Advocacy and legal reform:** Ongoing advocacy is required to remove legal barriers and ensure policies support the health rights of trans and gender diverse communities globally. Advocacy for disaggregated health data collection is essential to ensure that the trans and gender diverse community's health needs are included in health budgeting.
- **Sustainable health programming:** Investment in sustainable, community-led health initiatives is crucial for the long-term well-being of trans and gender diverse populations. To be sustainable, health programs need to address criminalization, and discrimination and stigma, which are the drivers of poor health outcomes.
- **Information resources:** Trans-led advocacy organizations need access to information resources to inform evidence-based health rights advocacy. As a global organization, GATE was seen as well-placed to develop information databases and make these available to trans-and gender diverse-led organizations and activists.



From the “Empowering Change: Community-Led Research in Gender-Affirming Care” breakout session of the Health track.
 Speaker: Anil Padavatan, Health facilitator for the Conference

Movement Building Track: Forging a United and Resilient Global Trans and Gender Diverse Movement



Needs assessment

The Movement Building track of the Conference underlined the following critical need:

- **Strengthen resilience and sustainability of trans and gender diverse movements globally in response to anti-gender opposition:** With the rise of anti-gender and anti-rights movements, many trans and gender diverse organizations face severe financial constraints, limited access to resources, and increasing threats to their safety. These challenges point to the urgent need for robust movement-building strategies to withstand external pressures and foster long-term sustainability.

Participants identified several key issues affecting the movement, including the —

- **Scarcity of funding:** Particularly for organizations in the Global South.
- **Challenges of sustaining activism in hostile environments.**
- **Internal dynamics within trans and gender diverse movements:** Competition for resources and the marginalization of certain voices, were recognized as areas needing attention to ensure a more cohesive and inclusive movement.

Key themes

The Movement Building track emphasized several key themes essential to fortifying the global trans and gender diverse movement —

- **Unity and intersectionality:** Speakers and participants emphasized the need to build unity within the trans and gender diverse movement, while being mindful not to pursue unity in ways that ignore or overlook existing power dynamics and internal challenges within these communities. This is why embracing intersectionality as a core value, framework, and tool in collective decision-making processes and actions is essential. Recognizing and addressing the diverse experiences and identities within the trans and gender diverse community and tailoring targeted strategies to navigate through unity is critical for creating a strong, cohesive movement. Intersectional approaches were emphasized as a way to ensure that all voices are heard, and that the movement remains inclusive and representative.

- **Resource mobilization:** A critical theme that emerged was the urgent need for diversified and sustainable funding sources. Many trans and gender diverse organizations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, face significant financial constraints, which limit their capacity to operate effectively and maintain long-term initiatives. Speakers and participants underlined the importance of exploring alternative funding models, such as social enterprises and community-based fundraising, to bolster financial stability. It is imperative to advocate for increased and improved funding from traditional donors and collectively seek alternatives by engaging new philanthropic sectors and developing self-sustaining resources within trans and gender diverse communities.
- **Cross-movement collaboration:** Building alliances with other social justice movements was identified as a critical strategy for strengthening the trans and gender diverse movement. Trans and gender diverse people should be key actors in any social justice movements working towards our community's needs, beyond the LGBTQI sector's focus areas we are traditionally contained within: refugee movement, labor movement, and even the movements of climate or digital justice. Participants discussed the benefits of collaboration, such as shared resources, broader advocacy reach, and increased collective impact. Successful examples of cross-movement collaboration, such as partnerships between trans and gender diverse organizations and refugee or sex worker rights groups, were spotlighted as models to be replicated.
- **Addressing internal challenges:** The need to address internal challenges within the trans and gender diverse movement, such as power imbalances, competition for resources, and the exclusion of marginalized voices, was a recurring theme. Participants acknowledged the difficulty of balancing the celebration of our community's achievements, especially in times when our opposition seeks to divide us, with the necessity of asking hard questions and confronting uncomfortable truths. There was a shared recognition that, while we have made significant progress, there are still intra-community challenges for which we are striving to find effective processes and solutions. Despite these complexities, there is hope that by fostering inclusive leadership and ensuring equal opportunities for all members of the community to contribute and lead, we can continue to strengthen our movement from within.

Strategic priorities

Building on these key themes, the Movement Building track of the Conference outlined several strategic priorities aimed at enhancing the capacity and resilience of the global trans and gender diverse movement —

- **Strengthening alliances and networks:** Building and maintaining strong alliances within the trans and gender diverse movement and with other social justice movements is crucial. These partnerships amplify our impact and provide mutual support while also offering opportunities to address intra-community challenges. By learning from other movements, we can adopt transformative and restorative practices to tackle issues like power imbalances and resource competition. Cross-movement collaboration helps break down silos, fostering unity and equipping us with the tools needed for internal and external progress.
- **Resource sustainability:** Ensuring long-term sustainability requires advocating for flexible, multi-year operating grants from donors. These grants are crucial to allowing organizations to engage in strategic long-term planning, effectively manage crises, and remain prepared for emerging challenges.
- **Resource diversification:** The movement must prioritize diversifying its funding sources to ensure long-term sustainability. This includes exploring alternative funding models that reduce dependency on traditional grants, such as establishing social enterprises, cooperative models, and community-driven initiatives.
- **Inclusive leadership and representation:** Fostering inclusive leadership within the trans and gender diverse movement is essential to ensuring that the movement remains responsive to the needs of all its members. This includes creating leadership development opportunities for under-represented groups within the community, such as intersex people, individuals from rural areas, and those with disabilities. Encouraging a mentorship and empowerment culture can help build a new generation of leaders equipped to drive the movement forward.

- Capacity building and local empowerment:** Building a strong and resilient trans and gender diverse movement requires investments that are complementary, connected, and mutually reinforcing across local, national, regional, and international levels. Supporting local and grassroots organizations is essential, and must be integrated with efforts at broader levels. These investments must center on the local level and feed into national, regional, and international efforts through a bottom-up approach. Training, technical assistance, and resources should flow through all levels, ensuring that local insights inform national and international strategies, while global frameworks bolster grassroots empowerment. This interconnected approach strengthens the entire movement, enabling it to address challenges with unified, context-sensitive strategies.



From the Movement Building breakout session, “The Power of Unity — Fortifying Synergies in Social Justice Movements.”

From left to right: Alexis D’Marco, Özge Sofia Aldynay Brand, and Miles Tanhira

Bringing together critical insights from health, human rights, and movement building, the Global Trans Conference laid the groundwork for addressing the most pressing challenges faced by the trans and gender diverse community. The significance of this event extends far beyond that of a typical Conference. It was a call to action, a collective reflection, and a strategic blueprint for the future direction of the global trans and gender diverse movement. The thematic focus on health, human rights, and movement building transcends traditional activism, advocating for the establishment of enduring networks, resilient communities, and strategic alliances capable of overcoming the multifaceted challenges confronting the trans and gender diverse community.

The Donor Pre-Conference: Sharing the Future of the Funding

Overview

The Donor Pre-Conference, held on Friday 19 July, in conjunction with the Global Trans Conference, marked a pivotal moment for the trans and gender diverse movement and its funding. Organized jointly with the [Global Philanthropy Project \(GPP\)](#), the Donor Pre-Conference brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including public and private grantmakers, donor governments, corporate funders, and high-net-worth individuals.

The central aim of the Pre-Conference was to foster a collective understanding of the pressing needs within the trans and gender diverse community, and to develop innovative funding strategies to support the movement in responding to ongoing challenges and emerging opportunities. The Pre-Conference was not a stand-alone conference. All stakeholders attending the Pre-Conference also attended the Global Trans Conference as participants actively listening and contributing to the global conversation.



Participants from the Donor Pre-Conference in Munich, Germany





From the networking space at the Donor Pre-Conference

The Pre-Conference was driven by several key goals.

Key Goals

Three key goals were discussed —

1. **Alignment and collaboration within the donor community:** The event sought to create a platform where donors could align their goals and collaborate with other donors to share insights, strategies, and experiences, thereby fostering a more cohesive and unified approach to funding trans and gender diverse movements.
2. **Address funding gaps in challenging contexts:** The Pre-Conference recognized the unique challenges faced by trans and gender diverse organizations operating in hostile environments, where anti-gender and anti-rights opposition is particularly strong. Discussions were aimed at identifying funding mechanisms that could effectively support trans and gender diverse organizations within these environments, ensuring their sustainability and ability to operate under such conditions.
3. **Highlight the successes of the trans and gender diverse movement:** Showcasing successes allowed for an understanding and analysis of how strategic funding could amplify these gains. This included dialogues on long-term funding commitments, capacity building, and the need for flexible, unrestricted grants that empower rather than restrict trans and gender diverse organizations.

Outcomes, Priorities, and Key Takeaways

The outcomes, and expected outcomes, of the Pre-Conference are multifaceted. We anticipate that the discussions will lead to the **development of new funding strategies tailored to the needs of the trans and gender diverse community, particularly those in the Global South and East.** We also believe that the Pre-Conference, and the synergies it contributed to, will lead to the **creation of stronger partnerships between donors and trans and gender diverse organizations, built on trust, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to advancing human rights.**

The insights gained from the Pre-Conference open up a broader conversation about the future of funding for trans and gender diverse movements. As the global landscape for human rights becomes increasingly polarized, the strategies and funding mechanisms employed by donors will play a critical role in either supporting or undermining the resilience of trans and gender diverse organizations. The discussions at the Pre-Conference were rich and insightful, yielding several important takeaways that will likely shape future funding strategies.

Decolonized funding

A recurring theme was the necessity of decolonizing funding processes. This involves **shifting power dynamics so that decision-making authority rests with the communities directly impacted.** As discussed during the sessions, current funding models often reflect colonial power structures, where donors impose priorities that may not align with the actual needs of trans and gender diverse communities. **A decolonized approach would involve community-led decision-making, where trans and gender diverse individuals and organizations have a say in how funds are allocated and used.**

Moving forward, this requires a fundamental shift in how donors perceive their role, not as controllers of resources but as facilitators who empower communities to determine their own priorities. For instance, establishing community-led advisory boards that oversee the entire grant cycle from conceptualization to evaluation could be a tangible step toward achieving this goal.

Decolonizing funding also includes **addressing the global disparity in funding**. The Pre-Conference stressed the stark disparity in funding between trans and gender diverse organizations in the Global North and those in the Global South. To address this imbalance, future funding strategies must prioritize local and regional organizations, particularly those that are embedded in their communities and have a deep understanding of the unique challenges they face. This could involve creating dedicated funding streams for organizations in under-resourced regions, as well as providing support for capacity building and leadership development.

Flexible and unrestricted funding

Another critical takeaway was the need for more flexible and unrestricted funding. **Traditional funding models, with their stringent requirements and rigid project designs, were seen as inadequate for addressing the dynamic and often unpredictable challenges faced by trans and gender diverse organizations.**

Participants emphasized the **importance of long-term funding commitments** that allow organizations to plan strategically and respond to crises as they arise. This kind of funding would enable trans and gender diverse organizations to focus on their core missions without being hampered by bureaucratic constraints.

In a context where anti-gender opposition is well-funded and highly organized, trans and gender diverse movements need financial support that allows for both stability and adaptability. This might involve multi-year grants that focus on institutional strengthening, crisis management, and strategic advocacy.

Paradoxically, there are lessons to be learned from our adversaries, anti-rights groups, which are successfully securing long-term, flexible support that enables them to advance their agendas. **Trans and gender diverse movements can benefit from adopting similar models, where funding is seen as an opportunity for transformation rather than a means to enforce compliance with rigid criteria.** This approach would allow trans and gender diverse organizations to experiment, innovate, and build synergies that enhance their impact.

Additionally, there is a **need for more collaborative efforts among donors** themselves, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and collective action.

Building capacity through strategic investment

The Pre-Conference drew attention to **the importance of investing in capacity building for trans and gender diverse organizations**. This includes not only financial support but also **resources for training, leadership development, and organizational growth**. Participants pointed out that many trans and gender diverse organizations, especially those in the Global South, operate with limited budgets and face significant barriers to sustainability. **Strategic investment in these organizations' capacity would empower them to become more resilient and effective in their advocacy efforts.**

Moving forward, investing in capacity building also includes **investing in the development of stronger, more equitable partnerships between donors and trans and gender diverse organizations**. Building these partnerships on trust and mutual respect is essential for creating a funding environment that truly supports the needs of trans and gender diverse communities.

The role of intermediary organizations and fostering a culture of accountability

Intermediary organizations were recognized as crucial players in the funding ecosystem. **These organizations often have deep connections with local communities and can bridge the gap between large donors and grassroots initiatives**. However, the Pre-Conference also stressed that **intermediaries must avoid replicating the colonial practices of traditional donors**. Instead, they should focus on **supporting the autonomy of local organizations, providing flexible funding, and fostering equitable partnerships**.

This also leads to conversations on **the importance of fostering transparency and accountability in the funding process**. This includes not only holding donors accountable to the communities they serve, but also ensuring that grantees are transparent about their use of funds and the impact of their work.



From the networking space at the Global Trans Conference

The Donor Pre-Conference provided a crucial platform for addressing the current challenges and opportunities in funding trans and gender diverse movements. The discussions underlined the need for a radical rethinking of how funding is structured and delivered, with a focus on decolonization, flexibility, capacity building, and equitable partnerships.

As we move forward, it is essential that these insights are translated into concrete actions that not only support the survival of trans and gender diverse organizations, but also empower them to thrive and lead the charge for human rights globally. By embracing these strategies, the donor community can play a pivotal role in creating a more just and equitable world for trans and gender diverse individuals.

The road ahead is challenging, but with a collective commitment to these principles, we can build a funding ecosystem that truly reflects the values of equity, autonomy, and resilience.



From the closing plenary of the Global Trans Conference

From left to right: Marcela Romero, Erika Castellanos, Brent Allan, Jemma Samitpol, Best Chitsanupong Nithiwana, and Miles Tanhira

Looking Forward: The Conference as a Catalyst for the Future of the Trans and Gender Diverse Movement

The Global Trans Conference represented a significant milestone in the history of the global trans and gender diverse movement. It was not just a standalone event but the culmination of months of intensive organizing and strategic coordination by the Organizing Committee made up of 12 trans- and gender diverse-led regional and global organizations. The collaborative effort of the Conference Organizing Committee made possible the first global trans conference since 2010 and the only one of its scale and scope to date.

Conference Organizing Committee

- [APCOM](#) is a network of organizations that works to improve the health and rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men, and people within SOGIESC communities across Asia and the Pacific. (SOGIESC — sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics).
- [Asia Pacific Transgender Network \(APTN\)](#) is a trans-led organization that supports and advocates for the rights of trans and gender diverse people in Asia and the Pacific.
- [East Africa Trans Health and Advocacy Network \(EATHAN\)](#) is a network of trans diverse activists and organizations in East Africa working to improve the livelihoods of gender diverse people in East Africa.
- [European Sex Workers Rights Alliance \(ESWA\)](#) is a network of sex work organizations working together to support the human and labor rights of sex workers throughout Europe and Central Asia.



- **Gender Dynamix (GDx)** is an LGBTIQ-led organization that works to advance, promote and defend the rights of trans and gender nonconforming persons in South Africa, Africa, and globally, using a human rights framework.
- **International Trans Fund (ITF)** is a participatory grantmaking fund made up of trans activists and donors. The ITF aims to increase the capacity of the trans movement to self-organize and advocate for trans people's rights, self-determination, and well-being.
- **RedLacTrans** is a network of trans-led organizations that works to achieve respect for the human rights of trans persons across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Transgender Europe (TGEU)** is a trans-led nonprofit for the rights and well-being of trans people in Europe and Central Asia.
- **Trans United Europe** is a trans Black and People of Color (BPOC)-led organization that strives for the empowerment of the BPOC trans community at a local, national, and international level.
- **Transgender Law Center** is a US-based trans-led organization that works to change law, policy, and attitudes so that all people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or expression.
- **Transgender Red Umbrella (TGRU)** is a network of trans and gender diverse sex worker activists and groups dedicated to promoting the rights, well-being, and empowerment of trans individuals and gender diverse communities in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region.
- **United Caribbean Trans Network (UCTrans)** is a network of trans-led organizations in the Caribbean that promotes the protection and recognition of the human rights of trans persons in the region.



Organizing the Conference to Strengthen the Global Movement

Organizing the Global Trans Conference was a massive feat, made possible through the dedication and collaboration of diverse trans- and gender diverse-led organizations across the globe. Together, we demonstrated remarkable strategic thinking and commitment to creating a truly global event. Over 200 attendees, including 130 scholarship recipients, came together to share their experiences, learn from one another, and strategize about the future of the movement. This effort required meticulous planning, from selecting participants to ensuring regional and demographic balance, to logistics and accessibility that included visa support, travel, and accommodation arrangements.

The Conference served as a powerful example of movement building that started well before the event itself. The process of organizing such a large-scale event catalyzed deeper relationships and strategic alliances within the trans and gender diverse movement, setting the stage for ongoing collaboration and shared advocacy efforts.

This Conference is not an isolated event. It is a key component of GATE's broader global strategy, which is deeply embedded in the global trans and gender diverse movement's efforts over the past several decades. It is also not an endpoint, but a springboard for

future initiatives. The outcomes and discussions from this Conference that will be integral to shaping and advancing future initiatives, and will continue to influence and drive major community actions and events in the coming years.



Logistics behind the scenes

From left to right: Liesl Theron, and Cori Zaccagnino

A Broader Impact: Beyond the LGBTQI Sector – Positioning Trans and Gender Diverse Issues Within the Global AIDS Conversation

Another significant aspect of the Global Trans Conference was its positioning as an affiliated independent event of the 2024 International AIDS Conference. This connection emphasized the importance of trans and gender diverse representation in global health discussions, particularly in the HIV response. The Global Trans Conference acted as a catalyst for trans and gender diverse inclusion in the global HIV response and broader global health agendas, underscoring that **the fight for trans and gender diverse rights is intrinsically linked to broader human rights and health equity issues.**

The impact of the Conference extended into the International AIDS Conference itself, where trans and gender diverse activists made their presence felt. During the AIDS Conference opening ceremony, 20 trans and gender diverse activists made a significant impact by interrupting the proceedings to read aloud the [Global Trans and Gender Diverse Declaration](#). This Declaration, initially launched at the closing of the Global Trans Conference, serves as a powerful tool for activists to take back to their communities, where it will continue to inform and strengthen their ongoing work. This bold action demonstrated the Conference's influence and the determination of trans and gender diverse activists to ensure that their voices are heard in global forums.



Trans and gender diverse demonstration with the reading of the Global Trans and Gender Diverse Declaration at the Opening Session of the AIDS Conference, Munich, Germany

Photo credit: Steve Forrest / IAS

A Future Shaped by Collective Action: Building on the Momentum of the Global Trans Conference

The success of the Global Trans Conference is a testament to the strength and resilience of the trans and gender diverse movement. However, its impact will only be fully realized if the momentum generated is sustained and built upon in the coming years.

Several key strategies emerged from the Conference that will shape the future of the movement.

Key strategies

- 1. Strengthening global solidarity:** The Conference highlighted the importance of global solidarity among trans and gender diverse organizations. The relationships and networks built during the Conference will be crucial for coordinating future advocacy efforts and responding to global challenges, particularly the rising tide of anti-gender and anti-rights movements.
- 2. Integrating trans and gender diverse issues into broader agendas:** By aligning with the International AIDS Conference, the Global Trans Conference successfully integrated trans and gender diverse issues into broader global health and human rights agendas. This strategy should be replicated in other global forums, ensuring that trans and gender diverse voices are included in discussions that impact their lives.
- 3. Capacity building and resource mobilization:** The Conference reinforced the need for continued capacity building within the trans and gender diverse movement. This includes securing sustainable funding, providing leadership development opportunities, and supporting grassroots organizations. The lessons learned from organizing the Conference should inform future capacity-building initiatives.

The Unite! Advocate! Thrive! Global Trans Conference has set a new precedent for the trans and gender diverse movement, demonstrating what can be achieved through collective action and strategic collaboration. However, while the Conference provided a valuable platform for discussions, it is clear that discussions alone are not sufficient. The real challenge lies in translating these conversations into concrete actions that address the complex challenges facing trans and gender diverse people today. The rise of anti-gender and anti-rights movements, coupled with ongoing social and environmental crises, underscores the urgency of this work.

The path ahead requires sustained effort, collaboration, and a commitment to making the discussions at this Conference count in meaningful ways. It is now up to the activists, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders to ensure that the insights and strategies developed during the Conference are implemented effectively, with the support of allies, donors, and collaborators. As the movement progresses, it is essential to maintain the momentum generated by the Conference, continuing to build on the relationships, strategies, and advocacy efforts that emerged from this historic event. The Conference was not just a moment in time but a crucial step in a much longer journey towards global equality and justice for trans and gender diverse people.

*From the closing plenary,
from left to right:
Erika Castellanos, Brent Allan,
Jemma Samitpol, and
Best Chitsanupong Nithiwana*



Reflecting on the Future of GATE's Strategic Direction: Insights from the Global Trans Conference and Its Donor Pre-Conference

As we approach the conclusion of GATE's [current strategic plan \(2022—2026\)](#) and prepare to embark on the process of developing our next strategy, it is both timely and essential to reflect on the key insights that emerged from the Global Trans Conference.

The thematic tracks of the Conference — Health, Human Rights, and Movement Building — offered rich, strategic takeaways that resonate deeply with the goals and objectives outlined in GATE's current plan. These reflections are intended to serve as food for thought, providing a foundation to build and evolve our strategies in the coming years.



Left, from left to right:
Best Chitsanupong Nithiwana,
and Miles Tanhira

Below, from left to right: Jay Mulucha, Liberty Matthyse, and Erika Castellanos





Strategic Takeaways

Human Rights Strategy



The Conference's Human Rights track provided a critical forum for addressing the complex and intersectional challenges faced by the global trans and gender diverse community. The discussions emphasized the need for global solidarity, intersectionality in advocacy, and strategic communication to counteract the rising tide of anti-gender movements. These themes resonate strongly with GATE's current goal of advancing the human rights of trans and gender diverse individuals through advocacy, political mobilization, and knowledge production.

Global solidarity against anti-gender and anti-rights movements

As detailed above, one of the most pressing themes that emerged from the Conference was the need for global solidarity against anti-gender and anti-rights movements. The rise of these movements presents a significant threat to the rights of trans and gender diverse individuals worldwide, and the Conference participants stressed the importance of building strong, resilient advocacy networks that can effectively counter these forces.

Recommendations to GATE

While GATE's strategic plan emphasizes the importance of coalition-building and advocacy within human rights frameworks, Conference participants called on GATE for a more coordinated global response and coalition forming beyond the traditional LGBTQI sector. This might involve strengthening our alliances with other social justice movements, particularly those that intersect with trans and gender diverse rights, such as feminist, migrant, and sex worker movements. By fostering deeper connections and mutual support, we can create a more unified front against the growing anti-gender opposition.

Intersectionality and cross-movement collaboration

The theme of intersectionality and cross-movement collaboration was also central to the Human Rights track. The Conference centered on the importance of recognizing and addressing the multiple, overlapping forms of oppression that affect trans and gender diverse individuals, particularly those who belong to other marginalized groups.

Recommendations to GATE

Although this aligns with GATE's commitment to supporting and strengthening community-based leadership and advocating collectively for human rights, the insights from the Conference suggest that there may be opportunities to deepen GATE's intersectional approach. Beyond streamlining intersectionality into our programs, this could include developing targeted advocacy efforts focusing on specific trans and gender diverse sub-populations. This would lead to more intentional collaboration with movements that focus on intersecting issues, such as migration, disability rights, and economic justice.

Strategic communication

Strategic communication was another key area of focus during the Conference. The participants stressed the need for effective communication strategies that can counter misinformation and disinformation, particularly in the face of anti-gender rhetoric.

Recommendations to GATE

While GATE's current strategic plan includes objectives related to knowledge production and dissemination, and while communications strongly support the organization's programmatic strategy, the Conference insights suggest that we may need to place a greater emphasis on developing communication-focused programs. These programs would position strategic communications as a key theme to our efforts, drawing from recent GATE efforts that address the role of effective messaging in countering anti-gender opposition and advocating for trans and gender diverse rights on a broader scale. By centering communications, we can create targeted campaigns aimed at influencing policymakers, engaging media outlets, and educating the public, ultimately working to shift narratives and policies in favor of trans and gender diverse rights on a global scale.

Challenge of hostile contexts

The Human Rights track also addressed the challenges of advocating for trans and gender diverse rights in hostile contexts. The Conference participants shared strategies for resilience and adaptability, emphasizing the need for advocacy efforts that are responsive to the specific legal, cultural, and political environments in which trans and gender diverse communities live.

Recommendations to GATE

While GATE's strategic plan acknowledges the importance of contextualized advocacy, the Conference emphasized the need for even greater flexibility and responsiveness in our approach. This could involve developing tailored advocacy strategies for different regions, supporting local activists who operate in particularly hostile environments, and ensuring that our global advocacy efforts are informed by the lived experiences of those on the ground.

Responding to emergency situations

Finally, the participants drew attention to the critical role of trans and gender diverse-led organizations in responding to emergency situations. Whether during the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the COVID-19 crisis, or the countless environmental catastrophes or economic downturns, trans and gender diverse organizations have repeatedly demonstrated their capacity to provide immediate and effective support to their communities, often filling the gaps where governments and the general public fall short. It is crucial that these organizations are empowered to take key decision-making roles in emergency measures, given their deep understanding of the complexities and challenges faced by our communities. We need to seize a seat at the table to ensure our voices are heard and that our needs and priorities are met.

Recommendations to GATE

GATE's current strategic plan centers on the importance of supporting the safety, development, and well-being of activists, but there is an opportunity for growth in explicitly integrating trans and gender diverse-led emergency support systems within GATE's strategic framework. This would involve not only contributing to building these systems but also advocating for their inclusion in broader emergency planning and response frameworks at national and international levels. By doing so, GATE can ensure that trans and gender diverse communities are not just recipients of aid but are recognized as critical actors in the design and execution of emergency responses.



Reflecting on these insights, it is evident that GATE's current human rights strategies are on the right track and that the global movement is keen on opportunities to enhance them further. Strengthening global solidarity, deepening our intersectional approach, and sharpening our strategic communication efforts are all potential areas for growth as we look toward the future.

Read the full [Human Rights Thematic Report](#) from the Global Trans Conference



From the Conference awards ceremony, from left to right: Erika Castellanos, Justus Eisfeld, Mauro Cabral Grinspan, and Naomhán O'Connor

Health Strategy



The Health track at the Global Trans Conference underscored the urgent need to address health disparities within trans and gender diverse communities. The discussions centered around the importance of advocacy for equitable access to health services, community-led research, differentiated service delivery, and participatory co-design. These themes align closely with GATE's existing goal to advance health rights and access to health services for trans and gender diverse individuals.



Participants engaging in a breakout session

Access and equity

Access and equity emerged as a critical theme during the Conference, highlighting the pervasive structural barriers, such as poverty, legal discrimination, and insurance restrictions, that hinder trans and gender diverse individuals from accessing quality healthcare.

Recommendations to GATE

The points raised align with GATE's ongoing advocacy for universal health coverage (UHC) and legal reforms, as outlined in our current strategic plan. The Conference emphasized that GATE needs a more nuanced approach to equity, one that not only addresses these structural barriers but also actively promotes the inclusion of marginalized sub-groups within the trans and gender diverse community. Modeling our current work on improving the inclusion of transmasculine communities, this could involve expanding our focus on advocacy efforts that target specific populations, such as trans sex workers, undocumented migrants, and those in rural settings.

Community-led research

Another significant takeaway was the importance of community-led research. The Conference showcased successful models of community-driven health initiatives, such as the Tangerine Clinic in Thailand, which has been instrumental in advancing trans- and gender diverse-competent care.

Recommendations to GATE

This approach aligns with GATE's current strategy, which includes promoting community-based healthcare and holistic service delivery. The emphasis on community-led initiatives at the Conference suggests that GATE might consider expanding its support for such models, ensuring that they are not only sustained, but also scaled to reach broader populations. GATE could also support trans- and gender diverse-led health rights advocacy by providing access to information resources and providing a platform for trans- and gender diverse-led organizations to share research and knowledge, in order to strengthen evidence-based advocacy.

Differentiated service delivery

In the realm of differentiated service delivery, the Conference participants called for healthcare services that are tailored to the diverse needs of trans and gender diverse individuals. This includes a comprehensive range of healthcare services, including gender-affirming care, treatment for survivors of gender-based violence, and mental health support, delivered in a way that respects the specific needs of those receiving the care.

Recommendations to GATE

While GATE's strategic plan already emphasizes differentiated service delivery and has worked on developing tools and resources to strengthen trans and gender diverse competency in healthcare settings, the Conference insights highlight the need for a more robust framework from GATE that ensures trans- and gender diverse-competent healthcare is not just available, but accessible and effective across different regions and healthcare systems.

Participatory and inclusive policymaking

Lastly, the theme of participatory and inclusive policymaking was a powerful reminder of the importance of involving trans and gender diverse communities in the design and implementation of health programs. The idea that “nothing about us without us” should guide our approach to health advocacy is not new, but the Conference reinforced the necessity of making this principle central to all our health-related initiatives.

Recommendations to GATE

GATE’s current focus on holistic and community-based healthcare can be further enriched by deepening our commitment to participatory design processes, ensuring that the voices of those most affected by health policies and services are at the forefront of decision-making.

As we consider these insights, it is clear that GATE’s existing strategies are well-aligned with the key themes of the Health track. Fortunately, there is room for growth and refinement. Expanding our support for community-led health initiatives, enhancing our advocacy for equitable access to differentiated services, and deepening our commitment to participatory co-design are potential areas where we can build upon our current successes.

Read the full [Health Thematic Report](#) from the Global Trans Conference



Movement Building Strategy

The Movement Building track focused on creating resilient, inclusive, and sustainable trans and gender diverse movements capable of withstanding the challenges posed by anti-rights groups and political opposition. The discussions revolved around the need for unity, strategic alliances, and resource mobilization, all of which are crucial components of GATE's existing strategy to strengthen trans and gender diverse movements.

Unity and intersectionality

The theme of unity and intersectionality was particularly resonant during the Conference. Participants emphasized the importance of building a united movement that recognizes the interconnectedness of various forms of oppression, and works collectively to address them. This theme included the need to address internal power dynamics within the trans and gender diverse movement, which can include competition for resources and the marginalization of certain groups within the community.

Recommendations to GATE

GATE's current strategic plan acknowledges the importance of inclusive leadership and capacity building, however, the Conference insights suggest that there is room to further emphasize the importance of intersectionality in our movement-building efforts. This could look like targeted approaches to develop capacity-building and engagement-strengthening programs that prioritize the empowerment of under-represented voices within the movement.



From the Movement Building breakout session, "South-South Cross-Regional Movement Building — Reflecting and Imagining Towards Asia, Pacific, and African Initiatives."

Facilitated by Anwar Ogrm, Joe Wong, Joey Joleen Mataele, and Sylvester Kazibwe

Resource mobilization and competition for resources

Resource mobilization and competition for resources emerged as one of the most significant challenges discussed at the Conference. Conference participants noted that unequal access to resources can exacerbate tensions within the movement, and participants from low- and middle-income countries highlighted the ongoing struggle to secure the necessary resources to sustain their activism and community work.

Recommendations to GATE

GATE's strategic plan includes objectives related to increasing financial support for trans and gender diverse movements, which aligns with the Conference's urgent call to action to diversify our funding strategies. Strengthening this plan could involve exploring and supporting alternative models of resource mobilization, such as self-sustaining initiatives, social enterprises, or community-based fundraising efforts. Additionally, there may be opportunities to advocate for more adapted and flexible funding from current donors and to recruit new donors beyond traditional LGBTQI philanthropy. These efforts should ensure that resources are increased and distributed equitably across different regions and sub-groups within the trans and gender diverse community.

Cross-movement collaboration

The Conference also emphasized the importance of cross-movement collaboration as a means of strengthening the trans and gender diverse movement. By building alliances with other social justice movements, trans and gender diverse activists can amplify their impact and create a more robust network of support.

Recommendations to GATE

While GATE's current strategy already emphasizes the importance of partnerships and alliances, the Conference insights suggest that we could do more to formalize and strengthen these relationships, as well as be more creative when it comes to mapping potential partners. This might involve developing joint advocacy campaigns with other movements, sharing resources and knowledge, and creating platforms for ongoing collaboration and mutual support. Similarly to the key points of the Health and Human Rights tracks, this would lead to more intentional collaboration with movements that focus on intersecting issues.

Address internal challenges

Conference participants discussed the need to address internal challenges within the trans and gender diverse movement, such as competition for resources, leadership imbalances, and the exclusion of marginalized voices.

Recommendations to GATE

GATE's strategic plan recognizes the importance of centering the expansion of trans and gender diverse movements by increasing access to financial and technical resources and strengthening institutional and political capacity. The Conference insights suggest that these areas may require additional focus. This could involve creating more opportunities for leadership development within the trans and gender diverse community, particularly for those who have been historically under-represented, such as trans and gender diverse sex workers, individuals from low-income backgrounds, those living in rural areas, and those with disabilities. This could include mentorship programs, leadership training, and opportunities for emerging leaders. By ensuring that leadership within the trans and gender diverse movement reflects the full diversity of the community, GATE can help to foster a stronger and more inclusive and representative movement.

Build trust and strengthen collaboration within the movement

Lastly, the need to build trust and strengthen collaboration within the movement were recurring themes in the discussions. This involves not only addressing power imbalances, but also creating spaces for honest dialogue and conflict resolution.

Recommendations to GATE

GATE could play a critical role in facilitating these conversations, helping to bridge divides and build a more cohesive and united movement. By prioritizing these internal challenges, GATE can strengthen the overall resilience and effectiveness of the trans and gender diverse movement, ensuring that it is well-equipped to face external threats while also nurturing internal solidarity.

Read the full [Movement Building Thematic Report](#) from the Global Trans Conference



In summary, the Global Trans Conference provided a wealth of insights that align closely with GATE's current strategic priorities, while also highlighting areas where our approach could be refined and expanded. As we look toward the future and begin the process of developing our next strategic plan, these insights offer valuable guidance. By deepening our focus on financial sustainability, enhancing safety and well-being programs, strengthening advocacy and communication efforts, and addressing internal challenges within the movement, GATE can continue to support and empower the global trans and gender diverse community.

As we move forward, it will be crucial to remain adaptable and responsive to the evolving needs of the trans and gender diverse community. The lessons learned from the Conference, combined with the data from our capacity needs survey, provide a strong foundation upon which to build. By continuing to prioritize collaboration, resilience, and intersectionality, GATE can help to ensure that the trans and gender diverse movement not only survives but thrives in the face of ongoing challenges.

Conclusion

As we conclude this transformative Conference, it is crucial to reflect on the significant insights and outcomes that have emerged from our gathering in Munich. Throughout the plenaries, breakout sessions, the Donor Pre-Conference, and the subsequent events at the International AIDS Conference, we engaged deeply with the human rights dimensions of our struggles, addressing critical issues such as criminalization, and the intersecting stigmatizations and marginalizations that impact our lives and rights. These discussions were critical explorations of the real-world issues that our communities face daily.

We also spotlighted the resilience and strength of our community through best practices such as community-led initiatives, collaborative advocacy, and the effective use of digital platforms. These strategies have showcased how grassroots movements can lead to significant social change, even in the face of formidable opposition and crises.

Looking to the future, the outcomes of these presentations and discussions will significantly influence GATE's strategic planning. Our strategic priorities will focus on strengthening our

organizational capacity, enabling us to better support local and global initiatives, and ensuring that our advocacy is both impactful and sustainable. Combating misinformation through strategic communications will be essential in countering the pervasive

narratives that undermine our rights. Furthermore, fostering global solidarity will create a united front against anti-gender movements, amplifying our collective voice and ensuring that no one is left behind.



From left to right: Ymania Brown, and Mauro Cabral Grinspan

One of the most inspiring takeaways from this Conference is the importance of respect and collaboration. As our Palestinian speaker, Iyan Hayadi, eloquently stated, the essence of migration and movement must be respected:

“Migration and movement are natural parts of life. You come wanting to learn from the people because they've been there for generations, thousands of years. The loss of any culture is a loss to all of humanity.”

This profound message resonates deeply with our journey as trans and gender diverse individuals and communities. **As we advocate for our rights and navigate different spaces, let us carry this respect and willingness to learn and grow together. Recognizing the unique struggles of our diverse community is crucial to ensuring that we move forward with dignity and solidarity.**



Top left, from left to right, from the Human Rights breakout session, “Strategic Communications — Capturing Hearts and Minds for Trans Advocacy”: Monika Pacyfka Tichy, and Hannah Willard

Top right, from left to right, Hannah Willard, Monika Pacyfka Tichy, and Naomhán O'Connor

Below: Participants engaging in a breakout session



The Global Trans Conference has been a platform for dialogue and a catalyst for future actions. It has been more than just a converging of voices; it has been a powerful testament to our collective resilience, determination, and commitment to advancing the rights of trans and gender diverse individuals globally.

Finally, as stated in the [Global Trans and Gender Diverse Declaration](#),

“We will not disappear; we have survived hate and violence and will continue to thrive. We declare our right to exist, to feel safe, and to thrive in a world that values us for who we are.”

This Declaration encapsulates our commitment to continue to unite, advocate, and thrive, drawing strength from our shared experiences and the collective fight for our trans agenda.



GATE's Erika Castellanos sharing a joke with the audience at the opening session of the Conference

This

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