InterPride Solidarity Fund

Report on 2015 Solidarity Grant Program
InterPride is committed to supporting the development and growth of Pride events around the world. One of the main ways we do this is through our Solidarity Fund.

Currently, injustice and inequality exist around the world for many LGBTI people and communities. In much of the world, accessing funding support for even the smallest public actions and events is an enormous challenge. InterPride’s Solidarity Fund is designed to address this gap.

The mission of InterPride’s Solidarity Committee is to distribute the voluntarily collected funds from our membership and sponsors, to organizations that are helping to create change and promote a better understanding of the LGBTI communities. The committee does this by awarding grants to community-based events around the world, with a focus on places where public LGBTI events face challenges and hostility.

Since the fund was launched in 2013, grants have been awarded to help produce an LGBTI film festival in Macedonia, a mass LGBTI wedding in The Philippines, and Pride gatherings in Uganda and The Bahamas.

In 2015, we expanded the Solidarity Fund. We issued a formal international call for applicants. We developed an international Advisory Group to guide our growth, evaluate our processes and provide valuable advice to our Solidarity Fund Committee.

The Advisory Group includes a range of international funders who are familiar with LGBTI community activism and organizations around the world, particularly in the global south and east.

This report summarizes our new process, funding results and recommendations for future fund development. The report also acknowledges the wonderful contributions of volunteers and donors to the Solidarity Fund at the end of the document.
Funding Criteria & Process 2015

This year the Solidarity Fund developed the following granting criteria:

- Projects must take place in the 2015 calendar year.
- Projects in the global south and east (outside the USA/Canada, western Europe and Australia/NZ) would be a priority for the fund.
- Projects must support specific local events and activities that support LGBTI communities, including local Pride events.
- Projects must be time-limited, such as political marches, parades, community gatherings, film festivals, special events, and celebrations.
- Project funding is allowed to cover costs such as staff time, advertising, space or equipment rentals, registration fees, purchase of materials.

What we will not fund:

- Individuals not connected to an organization
- Ongoing operating costs for organizations
- Ongoing program costs
- Capacity building or training
- Paying off organizational debt

These criteria were developed by the leadership of the Solidarity Fund Committee and reviewed by members of our Advisory Committee. Criteria were publicized on InterPride’s website throughout the application period.
In much of the world accessing funding support for public actions and events is an enormous challenge and we are thrilled to be able to expand our support this year” - Dallas Barnes, Co-Chair of the Solidarity Subcommittee of InterPride.

The timelines for this year’s Solidarity Fund were as follows:

- March - Recruitment of International Advisory group
- April 1 - Call for applications circulated through various international channels, including assistance from our Advisory Committee
- April 30 - Deadline for filling out online application form
- May 9 - Review Process by InterPride’s Solidarity Fund volunteers
- May 11 - Finalists reviewed by Advisory committee
- May 16 - InterPride Board Approval
- May 18 - Funding decisions relayed to applicants
- June - Funding wired to successful applicants

All applicants were required to submit two letters of reference in addition to their online proposal.

Applicants are also required to submit a brief completion report to InterPride within 30 days after completion of the event or project. We will be reporting out on the outcomes of these grants in 2016 once all events have occurred.
Application Results

Through our online application system, InterPride received the following applications by region:

South Asia (India) - 11
Africa - 9
East Asia - 6
Eastern Europe - 4
Latin America - 3
USA - 3
Caribbean - 1

Total: 37 applications

An initial review of the applications screened out all those who had incomplete applications including those without references.

The final number of applications reviewed by the review committee was 26. The committee was given the task of choosing 8-10 applicants and keeping the total grant amount under $12,000.

The final recommended number of applicants was 9 with a total grant amount of $12,000 granted. The successful grantees are listed on the following pages.

“The Pride movement looks different from country to country, but one thing that unites these events is the importance of building community and finding support among people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities”, Doug Kerr, Co-Chair of the Solidarity Subcommittee.
Grantees for 2015

The following are the successful grantees for 2015

**Biliitis Resource Centre (Sofia, Bulgaria)**

$1500 to cover expenses of Sofia Pride Art Week in June 2015, including a photo exhibit called “All Love is Equal” and a video/photo exhibition on the history of the global LGBT rights movement.

**Hong Kong Pride (Hong Kong, China)**

$1000 to cover expenses of the Hong Kong Parade in November 2015, including parade promotional expenses and production of the parade including stage and sound systems.

**Women’s Initiatives (Tirupati, India)**

$1250 to support three public events involving song, drama, and speeches to create visibility for LGBTI communities in three southern states: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

**Nazariya Foundation (New Delhi, India)**

$1250 to support a two-day cultural event as a prelude to Delhi Queer Pride in November 2015. Funds will be used for performers to explore nuances of caste, religion, gender, ethnicity and sexuality.

**Ishtar MSM (Nairobi, Kenya)**

$1000 to support costs of a flash mob/community event for the members of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya. The event will bring visibility to the coalition members at a major shopping mall in the central business district of Nairobi.
Grantees for 2015 (continued)

Mozaika EuroPride (Riga, Latvia)
$1500 to cover costs related to EuroPride 2015, the first such event in a post-Soviet country. Funds will be used for various event costs such as entertainment costs, staging and sound equipment and advertising.

LGBT Centre Mongolia (Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia)
$1500 to cover costs related to Equality and Pride Days in August & September 2015, including a pride launch public concert and the Beyond the Blue Skies Queer Film Festival.

Health Development Initiative (Kigali, Rwanda)
$1500 to cover costs of a competitive arts event for the LGBTI community on World AIDS Day on December 1st 2015. The funds will cover the costs of prizes for best performers and artists.

Gender DynamiX (Cape Town, South Africa)
$1500 to cover the costs of Khumbulani Pride, an annual campaign to remember the victims of homophobia and hate crimes in South Africa. Funds to be used for a film screening of trans* stories, a panel discussion on trans* rights and a march to create awareness of issues facing trans* and gender non-confirming people.
Recommendations for 2016

The following are recommendations for the future development of the fund based on our evaluation of 2015 process and grants.

Recommendation 1: For 2016, begin the grant cycle much earlier in the year. Many organizations were not able to apply in 2015 as their events took place in May or June. Ideally, the grant application should open in January, with a February deadline, March review and April approval.

Recommendation 2: Improve the application form with clear criteria on evaluation linked to each question. Try and ensure that organizations keep their responses simple and clarify the activities of the event from the general activities of the organization.

Recommendation 3: Explore the idea of inviting some past grantee representatives onto the review committee. Look to funder best practices around how to engage with activists in grantmaking review.

Recommendation 4: Provide a stronger orientation to both advisory members and volunteer review committee members. Clearly explain the criteria and how to evaluate each application.

Recommendation 5: Hold back a small amount of funding for a discretionary pot – maybe 10% of the total granting amount – for use past the deadline. Be transparent and clear on the website about how this will be decided and how to apply.
Acknowledgments

We would acknowledge the contributions of the following volunteers:

**InterPride Solidarity Fund Advisory Committee:**

Namita Chad, Astrea Lesbian Foundation for Social Justice  
Matthew Hart, The Lafayette Practice  
Kent Klindera, AmFar  
Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Stephen Lewis Foundation  
Erica Lim, Arcus Foundation  
Zohra Moosa, Mama Cash Foundation  
Addison Smith, Wellspring Advisors

**InterPride Solidarity Fund Review Committee**

Dallas Barnes. Co-Chair  
Doug Kerr. Co-Chair  
Cain Williamson, Human Rights Committee Chair  
J. Andrew Baker  
Sue Doster  
Heather Hay  
Brett Hayhoe  
Michele Irimia-Bernabe  
Justin Long (Human Rights Campaign)  
Alan Reiff

Report from Dallas Barnes & Doug Kerr, Co-Chairs of the InterPride Solidarity Fund
The Solidarity Fund would not be possible without the generous contributions of individual and organizational donors. A huge thank you to the following:

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