



INTERNATIONAL
TRANS FUND

Resourcing Trans Movements Worldwide

2019

**INTERNATIONAL
TRANS FUND**

**RESOURCING GLOBAL
TRANS MOVEMENTS**

COMMUNITY UPDATE



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Thank you

Abhina Aher, J. Bob Alotta, Max Appenroth, Kerry Ashforth, Ruth Baldacchino, Karen Bennett, Ymania Brown, Jack Byrne, Namita Chad, Chaber, Zhan Chiam, Bianca Cordero, Masen Davis, Yael Demedetskaya, Wiktor Dynarski, Julia Ehrt, Justus Einfeld, Rebecca Fox, Yuri Frank, Franco Fuica, Broden Giambrone, Chan Grey, Mauro Cabral Grinspan, Sarah Gunther, Claudia Vásquez Haro, Matthew Hart, Michael Heflin, Alex Rodrigo Castillo Hernández, Carter

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GREETINGS FROM THE ITF TEAM

The International Trans Fund (ITF) was announced two years ago at the ILGA World conference in Bangkok. During this time, the ITF has disbursed US\$1.14 million to 54 trans-led groups in 38 countries. We are the only global participatory grantmaker that is exclusively dedicated to supporting trans-led groups to secure the rights and improve the lived realities of trans people.

Since 2016, the ITF has grown into a thriving organization. Our commitment to participatory grantmaking places accountability, transparency and participation at the center of everything we do. We strive to embody the ethos of “nothing about us without us” in all aspects of our work, which means that trans people are in leadership and decision-making roles across the ITF.

There is no doubt that trans-led groups urgently need funding. *The State of Trans Organizing* report found that more than half (56%) of trans groups that responded to the survey had annual budgets of less than US\$10,000. Three quarters (75%) had annual budgets of less than US\$50,000. Moreover, not much had changed since 2013 (where 54% of groups reported having an annual budget of less than US\$10,000). While we know funding for trans rights is growing, it is not growing quickly enough to meet the needs and visions of trans communities.

In every corner of the globe, trans communities still face high levels of violence, stigmatization and exclusion. This is compounded by processes of (post) colonialism and imperialism, along with the rise of anti-trans extremism and the closing of civil society spaces which negatively impacts trans organizations and hinders movement sustainability. Despite all of this, trans-led groups are organizing, mobilizing and resisting. We are immensely proud to support the work of our grantee partners over the past two cycles who are working at the grassroots and on the frontlines: Thank you!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has been a part of supporting ITF to grow, particularly past and present members of our Steering Committee, Grant Making Panel, staff, interns, volunteers and our fiscal host, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. Our work would also not be possible without the generous support of our funders, who are not only driving critical resources to trans communities but also trusting and investing in trans leadership.

We are very happy to share this update on our progress over the past two years. There is still so much to do! We look forward to working with activists and funders to continue to resource change and uplift our communities.



Broden.
Mukasa.
Jay-René.

WHO WE ARE

The ITF is a participatory grantmaking fund that aims to increase the capacity of trans movements to self-organize and advocate for trans people's rights, self-determination and wellbeing. In order to support trans movements to advance trans people's human rights, we have identified three primary goals:

1. Build and sustain a mechanism to support trans-led groups of different sizes working on a range of issues at the international, regional, country, and local levels, with an emphasis on groups with access to fewer resources.
2. Increase resources and enhance access to resources to support trans movements by:
 - a. Increasing financial resources dedicated to trans-led organizations and groups through grantmaking.
 - b. Increasing access to non-financial resources for trans organizations, such as skills building, organizational strengthening, leadership development and activist support.
 - c. Increasing access to other and new donors.
3. Educate our peers in the philanthropic community on trans issues and influence other funders and strategic allies in trans-related commitments and strategies.

INVESTING IN TRANS LEADERSHIP

The ITF is defined by the leadership of grassroots trans activists. We are governed by a 13 member Steering Committee comprised of trans activists and funders from around the world who drive the ITF's strategy, governance and finance. The Grant Making Panel (GMP) is made up of 15 trans activists who review all eligible applications and select ITF's grantee partners. These decisions are ratified by the Steering Committee. The day-to-day work is led by Broden Giambone (Director), Mukasa (Program Officer) and Jay-René Kouassiaman (Program Associate). The ITF will soon be welcoming our new Capacity Building Officer to the team.

The ITF believes that trans-led groups across the globe urgently need funding to organize, mobilize and resist. We exclusively fund trans-led groups which are defined as:

- (1) Trans people are in decision-making roles, including setting the organization's strategic and financial priorities and
- (2) Trans people make up 75% of the group's staff, and Board, spokespeople and/or decision-making body. If not, groups must demonstrate how trans people make budget, organizational and strategic decisions.

OUR HISTORY: ROOTED IN GLOBAL TRANS MOVEMENTS

The creation of the ITF was the culmination of the vision and persistence of a transnational group of trans activists and funders who wanted to create a participatory mechanism to ensure the flow of resources to trans movements. In 2013, GATE and American Jewish World Service (AJWS) undertook a survey of 340 trans and intersex groups from across all regions. This groundbreaking survey found that groups led by trans and intersex activists were severely under resourced—yet in the midst of this challenging funding context they were doing remarkably successful work to promote the rights and improve the lives of their constituents and communities. Later that year, trans activists and funders convened in Berlin to discuss the needs of trans communities and how to best financially support international trans movements. As a follow-up to this meeting, a group of funders and activists—including GATE, Arcus Foundation, the Global Philanthropy Project (GPP), Open Society Foundations (OSF), and Anonymous funder—agreed to organize a working meeting of trans activists and funders to explore the possible creation of a new fund to support global trans communities. In 2015, a working meeting was organized in Istanbul to discuss the creation of a new collaborative, activist-led fund to support worldwide trans communities, and the ITF was born. In 2016, the ITF formed an interim Steering Committee and held a worldwide series of participatory community consultations designed to assess the needs of global trans movements and determine the priorities and design of the ITF. Since 2016, we have gone from strength to strength.

Learn more about our history by downloading the following reports from our website:

1. *Advancing Trans* Movements Worldwide: A Meeting for Funders & Activists Working on Gender Diversity (2013)*
2. *International Trans* Fund Convening: A Meeting for Funders & Activists Working on Gender Diversity (2015)*

GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES

The ITF's grantmaking priorities are to:

- Fund a diversity of groups, including around regions, languages, gender identities, strategies and issues.
- Reach trans communities facing greater levels of marginalization (e.g. racism, classism, ageism, ableism, misogyny, etc.).
- Support trans groups whose work contributes to social justice, movement building and the liberation of trans people.

In addition to being trans-led, our eligibility requirements for grants are that groups must have an operating budget under US\$150,000, be comprised of more than one individual, focus on work that benefits the trans community and contributes to trans movement building, not just providing direct services. We accept written and video applications in five languages (English, French, Russian, simplified Chinese and Spanish).



Launching the ITF in Bangkok, 2016



Grant Making Panel meeting in Johannesburg, 2018



Steering Committee meeting in Bangkok, 2017

A LOOK BACK AT THE LAST TWO YEARS

Grantmaking

The ITF disbursed **US\$1.14 million** to **54** trans-led groups in **38 countries** in our first two grant cycles. There were **8 groups** that were funded in both cycles.

2017
GRANT CYCLE:

US\$500,000 was awarded to 29 trans-led groups in 23 countries

2018
GRANT CYCLE:

US\$640,000 was awarded to 33 trans-led groups in 25 countries

“The funding from ITF was the oil to our organizing, it made the work bearable and we managed to meet, network, and to share our stories through the support we received.
– **Queerston Media (Sweden)**”

“

The ITF grant has given us the opportunity to pay our member leaders to support all of our programs across the board. Knowing that we have a fund who totally understands and supports our work has given us all the confidence to continue to be bold in our work and advocacy.

– **Trans(forming) (USA)**

”



ILGA World, Bangkok, 2016

Grant Making Panel excursion in Mexico, 2017





Steering Committee meeting in Johannesburg, 2018

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Type of Funding

Trans-led groups are best placed to decide how money should be spent. During the past two cycles, groups have been able to apply for general/core support or project grants.

2017
GRANT CYCLE:



48% of grants were for general/core support.
52% of grants were for projects

2018
GRANT CYCLE:



61% of grants were for general/core support
39% of grants were for projects



Grant Making Panel members: Karishma, Tina and Max

“

Access to flexible funding is a big challenge for small and medium transgender rights organizations in Pakistan, most of the donors do not support transgender rights-related work and where funding is available the process is bureaucratic and complex. ITF is one of the very few donors who has helped TransAction to strengthen and emerge as a strong transgender movement from the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

– **TransAction (Pakistan)**

”



Grant Making Panel meeting with COPRED, Mexico City, 2017 (photo: Karina Buendia)

“

Without ITF we would have no support to lay the foundation of our work. As a trans-led group, it is rare for us to feel comfortable with most funders. We feel ITF understands our context and greatest struggles. The grant allowed us to play an important role in national movements against dangerous trans legislation, it has allowed us to move beyond conventional forms of NGO activism and incorporate the arts into our work.

– **Samabhabona (Baishamyia Durikaron Samiti Regst.) (India)**

”



ITF Co-Chairs: Masen & Ymanica



Grant Making Panel members: Max & Jack



Grant Sizes

The ITF generally awards annual grants of **US\$10,000 to US\$30,000**. The average grant size in the **first cycle** was **US\$17,241** and the average grant size in the **second cycle** was **US\$19,394**.

Applications Received

Each year the ITF receives a high volume of applications from across the globe. We screen each one and determine eligibility based on our criteria. All eligible applications are reviewed by at least two GMP members.



Broden at meeting with COPRED, Mexico City, 2017

2017
GRANT CYCLE:

256 applications received

177 found to be eligible and reviewed by the GMP

2018
GRANT CYCLE:

384 applications received

300 found to be eligible and reviewed by the GMP

There was a **69%** increase in eligible applications from the first to second grant cycles. This was a result of a clearer application process and better outreach, including delivering **8** funding webinars.

GRANTS BY LOCATION

The ITF funds trans-led groups in every region of the world. Over the past two cycles, the majority of ITF funding has gone to groups working in the Global South. However, we also know that groups working in the Global North face enormous funding gaps so we fund groups working intersectionally on issues such as racial justice, immigration, economic empowerment and prisoners' justice.

2017
GRANT CYCLE:



59%

of grants went to trans-led groups in the **Global South**

41%

of grants went to trans-led groups in the **Global North**

2018
GRANT CYCLE:



67%

of grants went to trans-led groups in the **Global South**

33%

of grants went to trans-led groups in the **Global North**

Grant Making Panel meeting in Johannesburg, 2018



Funding by Region in ITF's 2017 Grant Cycle

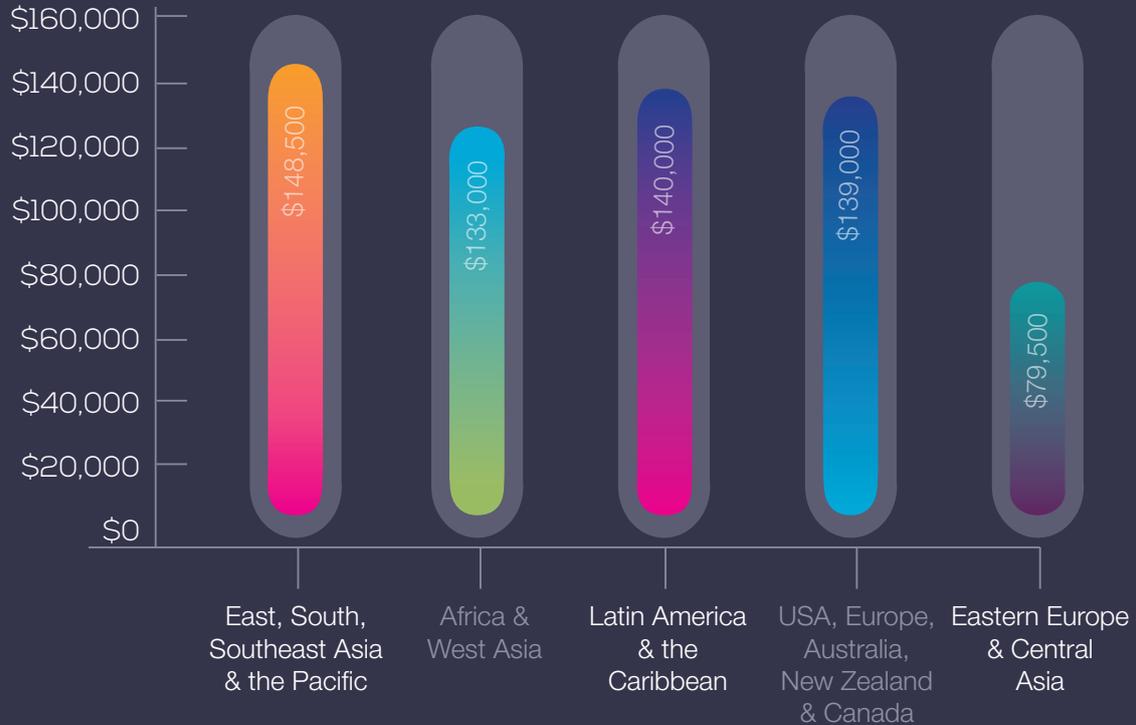


- US\$90,000 (18%) of total funding went to 6 groups in East, South, Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- US\$100,000 (20%) of total funding went to 4 groups in Africa and West Asia
- US\$100,000 (20%) of total funding went to 6 groups in Latin America and the Caribbean
- US\$110,000 (22%) of total funding went to 7 groups in USA, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada
- US\$100,000 (20%) of total funding went to 6 groups in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Grant Making Panel meeting in Mexico City, 2017



Funding by Region in ITF's 2018 Grant Cycle



- US\$148,500 (23%) of total funding went to 7 groups in East, South, Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- US\$133,000 (21%) of total funding went to 7 groups in Africa and West Asia
- US\$140,000 (22%) of total funding went to 7 groups in Latin America and the Caribbean
- US\$139,000 (22%) of total funding went to 7 groups in USA, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada
- US\$79,500 (12%) of total funding went to 5 groups in Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Steering Committee meeting in Nairobi, 2017

2019



The ITF
has made
grants to
trans-led
groups in

38
countries*

The ITF has supported trans-led networks in the following regions:

- **Balkans**
- **East Africa**
- **Europe**
- **Post-Soviet states**
- **West Africa**

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 01
Argentina | 13
Ireland | 25
Samoa |
| 02
Brazil | 14
Kenya | 26
Slovenia |
| 03
Bulgaria | 15
Malaysia | 27
South Africa |
| 04
Canada | 16
Malawi | 28
Sri Lanka |
| 05
Chile | 17
Mexico | 29
Sweden |
| 06
China | 18
New Zealand | 30
Thailand |
| 07
El Salvador | 19
Nicaragua | 31
Togo |
| 08
France | 20
Nigeria | 32
Tunisia |
| 09
Guatemala | 21
Northern Ireland | 33
Turkey |
| 10
Hungary | 22
Pakistan | 34
Uganda |
| 11
India | 23
Poland | 35
United Kingdom |
| 12
Indonesia | 24
Russia | 36
United States |

*2 countries cannot be named due to safety and security of grantee partners



Pesantren Waria (AL FATAH)
(Indonesia)



Cólectivo Intercultural
TRANSgrediendo
(United States)

GROUPS WITH ACCESS TO FEWER RESOURCES

The ITF funds a diversity of trans-led groups, with an emphasis on groups with access to fewer resources.

2017 GRANT CYCLE:

55% of grantee partners had no or limited funding (US\$10,000 and under) in the previous year

31% of grantee partners had a budget of US\$10,001 - US\$50,000 in the previous year

14% of ITF grantee partners had a budget of US\$50,001 or more in the previous year



2018 GRANT CYCLE:

36% of grantee partners had no or limited funding (US\$10,000 and under) in the previous year

46% of grantee partners had a budget of US\$10,001 - US\$50,000 in the previous year

18% of grantee partners had a budget of US\$50,001 or more in the previous year

We strive to get resources to groups that may not have access to other funding. In ITF's first and second grant cycles, 52% of grantee partners were not formally registered.



Queerston Media
(Sweden)

MEETINGS

Each year the ITF brings our Steering Committee together for an in-person meeting which provides critical support, guidance and oversight to the organization. This includes discussions and decisions on strategy, governance and finance. Our Steering Committee met in Bangkok, Thailand (2017) and Johannesburg, South Africa (2018).

The Grant Making Panel (GMP) reviews all eligible applications to the ITF and comes together once each year to discuss the top applications and select our grantee partners. This decision is then ratified by the Steering Committee. The GMP met for the first time in Mexico City, Mexico (2017) and Johannesburg, South Africa (2018).

OUTREACH

The ITF is deeply committed to making the application process accessible, transparent and just. Each year we publish an application form and guidelines. These guidelines are available on our website in English, French, Russian, simplified Chinese and Spanish.

We also value the importance of interactive learning and host funding webinars. For the second cycle, the ITF delivered 8 webinars in 3 languages to 148 people in 65 countries.

PHILANTHROPIC ADVOCACY

The ITF joined GATE, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, American Jewish World Service, Global Philanthropy Project and the Intersex Human Rights Fund at Astraea to promote *The State of Trans Organizing* and *The State of Intersex Organizing* reports. This included meetings with government funders in Sweden, Netherlands and the US. ITF representatives have also participated in a variety of funder convenings at Changing Faces Changing, Spaces (Kenya, 2017), ILGA-Europe (Poland, 2017), Ariadne European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights conference (France, 2018), the Equal Rights Coalition Global Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development (Canada, 2018) and the East Africa Study Circle (Uganda, 2018).

In addition, ITF representatives have also participated in community conferences such as Pan Africa ILGA (Botswana, 2018), Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference (US, 2018) and the Transgender Europe Council (Belgium, 2018).

LITE Organization (Malawi)





GRANTEE LIST

2017 GRANTEE PARTNERS

East, South, Southeast Asia and the Pacific

- Anonymous (China)
- Anonymous (East Asia)
- Modern Awareness Society (MAS) (India)
- Samabhabona (Baishammya Durikoron Samiti Regst.) (India)
- Samoa Fa'afafine Association Inc. (Samoa)
- TransAction (Pakistan)

Africa and West Asia

- Anonymous (Turkey)
- Horizontale Versatile (Tunisia)
- Jinsiangu (Kenya)
- Trans Wellness Project (South Africa)

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Colectivo de Hombres Trans Trans-Formacion de Guatemala (Guatemala)
- HT Apolo (Nicaragua)
- OTRANS Argentina (Argentina)
- Sindicato de Trabajadoras Domésticas y Oficios Varios Transgeneras (SITRADOVTRANS) (Nicaragua)
- Traves Chile Recoleta (Chile)
- Yucatrans (Mexico)

USA, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada

- ASTT(e)Q – Action Santé Travesti(e)s et Transsexuel(le)s du Québec (Canada)
- Cólectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo (United States)
- Gender Minorities Aotearoa (Aotearoa/New Zealand)
- Irish Trans Student Alliance (Ireland)
- Ouest Trans (France)
- Queerstion Media (Sweden)
- Trans(forming) (United States)

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- Anonymous (Central Asia)
- Anonymous (Russia)
- Anonymous (Regional - Post-Soviet)
- Anonymous (Russia)
- Trans Intersex and Allies (Bulgaria)
- Institute Transfeminist Initiative TransAkcija (Slovenia)

2018 GRANTEE PARTNERS

East, South, Southeast Asia and the Pacific

- Pertubuhan Pembangunan Kebajikan dan Persekitaran Positif Malaysia (SEED) (Malaysia)
- Pesantren Waria (AL FATAH) (Indonesia)
- Samabhabona (Baishamya Durikaron Samiti Regst.) (India)
- Samoa Fa'afafine Association Inc. (Samoa)
- The Foundation of Transgender Alliance for Human Rights (TGA) (Thailand)
- Transgender Welfare Equity & Empowerment Trust (TWEET) Foundation (India)
- Venasa Transgender Network (Sri Lanka)

Africa and West Asia

- EATHAN - East Africa Trans Health & Advocacy Network (Regional – East Africa)
- Lite Organization (Malawi)
- TIP for Human Rights in Nigeria (THRIN) (Nigeria)
- Transgender and Intersex Africa (South Africa)
- Transgender Equality Uganda (Uganda)
- UNITY (Togo)
- West African Trans Forum/Forum Trans* de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (WATF/FTAO) (Regional - West Africa)

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Anonymous (Caribbean)
- Asociación Generación de Hombres Trans de El

Salvador (El Salvador)

- Colectivo de Hombres trans Trans-Formación (Guatemala)
- Grupo TransRevolução (Brazil)
- Instituto Brasileño Trans de Educación (IBTE) (Brazil)
- OTRANS Argentina (Argentina)
- Proyecto Muxhe (Mexico)

USA, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada

- Colectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo (United States)
- GenderJam NI (Northern Ireland)
- Gender Minorities Aotearoa (Aotearoa/New Zealand)
- My Generation (United Kingdom)
- Trans(forming) (United States)
- Trans Black and People of Colour (TBPOC) in Europe (Regional – Europe)
- Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering (TAKE) (United States)

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

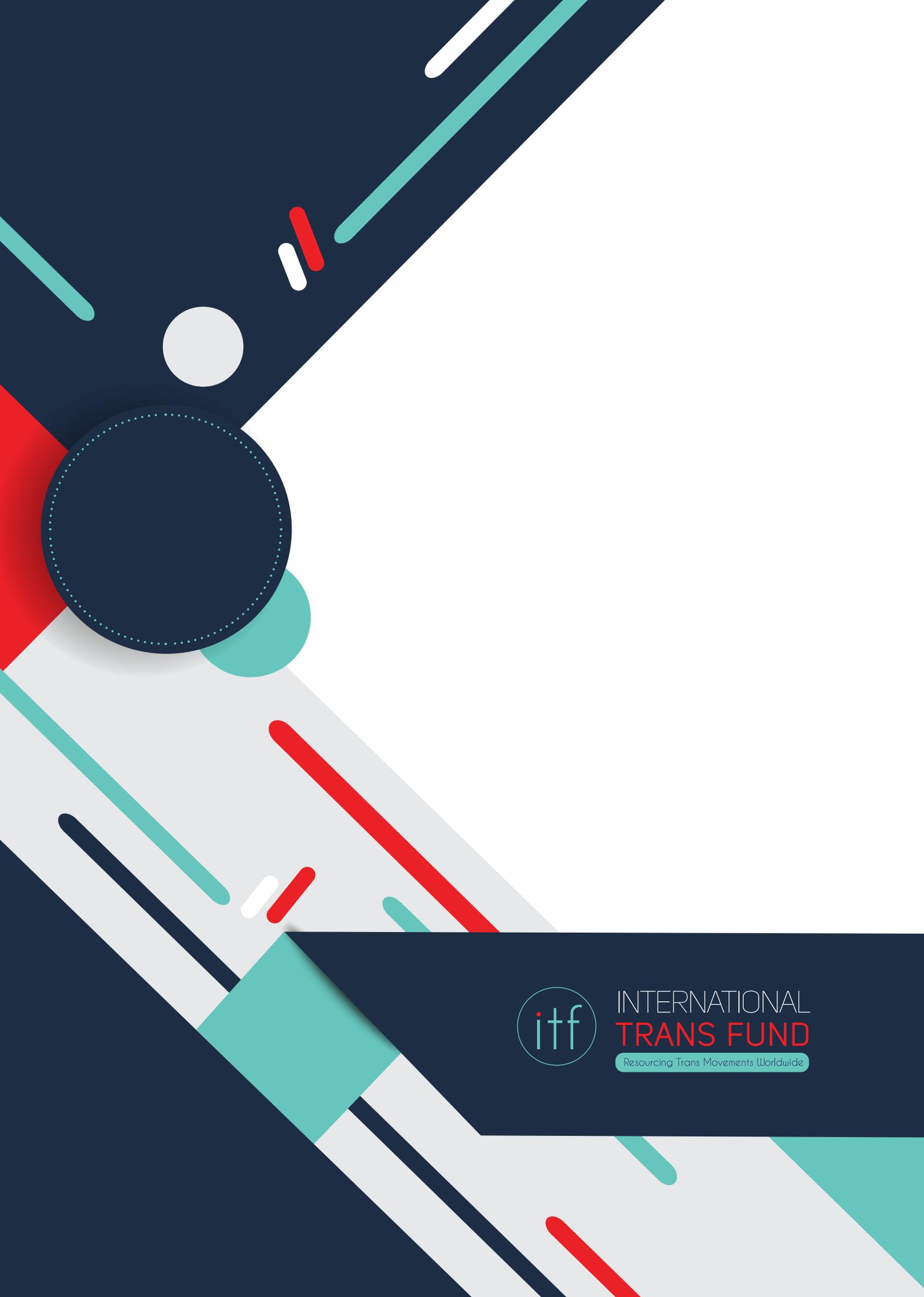
- Anonymous (Central Asia)
- T*Revers (Russia)
- Trans-Fuzja Foundation (Poland)
- Trans Mreža Balkan (TMB) (Regional – Balkans)
- Transvanilla Transgender Association (Hungary)



TransAction
(Pakistan)

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The ITF is grateful for support over the last two years from Arcus Foundation, Anonymous funder, Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, American Jewish World Service, Levi Strauss Foundation and GiveOut.



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