



# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



**Astraea** LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

# CONTENTS

Letter from Executive Director .....	3
Achievements.....	4
Unique Collaborations Fueled the Global Movement for LGBTQI Rights .....	5
CommsLabs: Defending Human Rights Through Media and Tech...	6
Grantee Partners in Action .....	11
Art to End Silence.....	11
Building an LGBTQI Movement in West Africa .....	12
Undocumented, Unafraid and Organized.....	13
In Colombia, Trans* Women Demand Changes from Cops .....	14
Thank You! .....	15
Financial Statement of Activities .....	21
Board and Staff List .....	22
Letter from Board Chair .....	23



## VISION/MISSION

In 1977 a group of women came together across racial and class differences to build a truly just social movement that prioritized the needs and vision of lesbians and women of color. In order to do so, they realized they would need to fund the work themselves. Their uncompromising vision became the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice.

Astraea remains true to this founding lesbian feminist ethos, supporting movement building through four strategic pillars:

1. Grantmaking
2. Capacity Building and Leadership Development
3. Media and Communications
4. Philanthropic Advocacy

Today, Astraea works at the intersections of racial, gender and economic justice, connecting across issues, borders and generations to secure human rights and dignity for LGBTQI people everywhere.

Activists protest the Indian Supreme Court's reinstatement of the country's colonial era anti-sodomy law. Image courtesy of Sappho.



# DEAR FRIEND,



So much of our work is centered on long-term systemic change. Still, there are moments when our reach across borders, movements, stakeholders and strategies provides immediate insight that our unique role is not only necessary but *working*. It was a *joy* to lead Astraea though a year when the seeds of collaboration, advocacy, artistic intervention, research, travel, and community organizing bore so much fruit.

*Astraea has been making grants for thirty-seven years.* In 2014 we not only had our largest grantmaking cycle ever, but also awarded over 40% of our grants to first-time grantees! We're leaning into our expertise to reach more folks, support more work and remain nimble and relevant.

We take our table-setting seriously! When we talk about our *philanthropic advocacy*, we recognize the responsibility of being the only and longest-running public foundation in the world doing this work. How do we leverage the strengths of individuals, institutions, governments, artists and activists to ensure more resources flow where they are most needed? Through partnership and collaboration.

This was the inaugural year of *Funding Queerly*, a dynamic group of philanthropists under the age of 40, who believe the best resources are those that get to the frontlines of social change. Astraea is home to the *LGBTQ Racial Justice Fund*, a collaborative fund dedicated to ending racial disparities in the United States; we proudly chair the *Global Philanthropy Project*, a consortium of international funders of LGBTQI rights; and 2014 marked the second year of our *LGBT Global Development Partnership* with USAID.

Our grantee partners continue doing the most groundbreaking work around the globe. Astraea is committed to *developing leadership and building capacity* in order to sustain movements and momentum despite repressive laws, unequal access to services and health care, employment discrimination, the lack of family recognition, challenges to the ability to organize, racial and gender profiling, and the ongoing threat of violence and incarceration.

Astraea insists innovation is often born where the need is the greatest. Our *media and communications* efforts were hugely successful in 2014. CommsLabs, our media, communications and technology initiative, came out of incubation. Fifty technologists and LGBTQI human rights defenders came together in Bogotá, Colombia for our first lab successfully sharing skills and strategies across analog and digital technologies, and geographic and political borders.

And finally, the collaborations without which none of this stellar work could happen: 890 individuals and institutions invested from \$5 to \$1.7 million dollars because of their confidence in the efficacy of our work! I remain humbled and thrilled by the possibility of our co-creation. Please enjoy reading this glimpse into the incredible year we've shared.

In deep solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bob Alotta'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

J. Bob Alotta  
Executive Director

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## This year Astraea and grantee partners:

- **Broke grantmaking records.** 2014 was our biggest grantmaking year yet. We made over \$3 million in grants to 81 partners in 35 countries.
- **Monitored and closed “de-homosexualization clinics”** in Ecuador and advocated to reform the health code to regulate private and public clinics.
- **Fueled the #BlackLivesMatter movement for racial justice** via radical community organizing and uplifting the voices of black queer leaders.
- **Promoted the enforcement of Supreme Court rulings** on trans\* rights in India, including the creation of state welfare boards for trans\* Indians.
- **Passed the New York Community Safety Act**, the first law in the US to create an enforceable ban against police profiling based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- **Led a constitutional challenge** that successfully overturned the Anti-Homosexuality Act in Uganda.
- **Received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.** Astraea received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities.
- **Guaranteed relief to some 4 million undocumented immigrants** in the US via vibrant queer and \*trans participation in #Not1More campaign, which encouraged President Obama to take executive action in November 2014.
- **Started to build the legal foundation** for a challenge to criminalization of LGBTQ communities in Kenya.
- **Launched Fueling the Frontlines**, a three-year \$20M campaign to support the incredible work we do worldwide.
- **Raised national profile of trans\* women** in immigration detention and held direct actions to demand alternatives.
- **Secured the first-ever resolution at the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights** on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) issues, condemning violence based on SOGI in Africa.
- **Fueled the largest march** for trans\* rights in Turkey.
- **Secured partial adoption rights** for same sex couples in Colombia.
- **Achieved a seventh resolution** on LGBTI rights in Latin America.
- **Created the first CommsLabs.** Astraea launched the first-ever Media, Communications and Technology Lab (CommsLabs) in Bogotá, Colombia as part of the LGBT Global Development Partnership with the USAID.

*Trans\* is a term used to refer to the entire range of possible gender identities that fall under the broad definition of trans\*, including many specific to local cultures and contexts.*

*LGBTQI\*\* is the inclusive term Astraea uses to refer to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans\*, Queer and Intersex communities.*

*Fast Company states, “After raising and giving away \$20.5 million in grants to 1,400 organizations in 43 states and 85 countries, it’s fair to say that Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice is quite literally putting a new face on philanthropy.”*



SASOD member Uelli Verbeke at the 1st Caribbean Women and Sexual Diversity Conference. Image courtesy of SASOD.

# UNIQUE COLLABORATIONS FUELED THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR LGBTQI RIGHTS

"I'm excited to be a donor to Astraea and part of the Funding Queerly Giving Circle they support because of its history of funding the most courageous and boundary-pushing organizing in the LGBTQ community."



—Jason Franklin, Astraea donor and member of Funding Queerly Giving Circle, 2014

## Philanthropic Advocacy

As a philanthropic advocate, Astraea advances the work of preeminent institutional partnerships: the **LGBT Global Development Partnership**, the **Global Philanthropy Project (GPP)**, the **LGBTQ Racial Justice Fund (RJF)** and the **Funding Queerly Giving Circle**—all dedicated to increasing resources for LGBTQI human rights.

## The LGBT Global Development Partnership Model

The LGBT Global Development Partnership harnesses Astraea's track record as a leading philanthropic advocate, representing the first-ever relationship between the federal government and a public foundation to expand international LGBT rights. The Partnership brings together the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, the **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)**, the **Astraea Foundation**, the **Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute (GLVI)**, the **Williams Institute**, and **Olivia Companies** in an initiative dedicated to furthering LGBT equality in targeted countries, including Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, India, Kenya, Peru, South Africa, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia.



Astraea grantee partners and other LGBTI leaders at a Rainbow Leaders convening in Sweden.

Astraea works closely with RFSL, the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights, in the development and implementation of their Rainbow Leaders training. Rainbow Leaders is an intensive leadership development program for emerging and experienced LGBTI activists alike. As a result of Astraea's outreach, nearly half of the participants in the May 2014 training came from Astraea grantee partners in Partnership countries.

# COMMSLABS: DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH MEDIA AND TECH



CommsLabs Bogotá, Colombia. Photo credit: Ben Parker

In July 2014 Astraea launched the first-ever **Media, Communications and Technology Lab** (*Comms-Labs*) in Bogotá, Colombia, as part of the *LGBT Global Development Partnership* with USAID. With more than 35 activists from Latin America and 12 technologists and communications practitioners from around the world, the group worked together to create new media strategies and digital advocacy tools specifically designed to meet the needs of LGBT human rights defenders.

At the *CommsLabs* in Colombia, Astraea grantee **Red Lésbica CATTRACHAS**, a collective whose main objective is to advance and protect the human rights of LGBT people in Honduras, presented their *Observatorio* tool. The *Observatorio* is a database that CATTRACHAS has used since 2008 to monitor and identify trends in human rights violations and violence against LGBT people; it works by grabbing tagged words (murder, gay, homicide, lesbian) from online newspapers and media outlets.

**CATTRACHAS** then follows up, opens a case and provides support with reporting and services for the survivors. Astraea grantee partners **Colombia Diversa**, **Caribe Afirmativo** and **Santamaría Fundación** were also present at the *CommsLabs*. These organizations have been collaborating with **CATTRACHAS** since 2011, using the *Observatorio* to track human rights violations in Colombia. Together they've built a robust system that allows them to monitor violence and hate crimes against the LGBT community. Other organizations, such as **No Tengo Miedo**, a Peru-based grantee partner, and **Mujer y Mujer**, an Ecuador-based grantee partner, learned about the *Observatorio* and its regional impact for the first time at *CommsLabs*, and have made plans to implement it in their countries. As a direct result of the *CommsLabs*, **CATTRACHAS** strengthened the *Observatorio* with support from one of the trainers, and was able to make it available online for other organizations to use.

## The CommsLabs project aims to:

1. **Develop social networks**, communications and organizational strategies that are accessible, secure, and relevant;
2. **Increase skills** among the next generation of LGBTQI activists;
3. **Create a radical network** of activists and technologists that strengthens the defense of LGBTQI human rights;
4. **Solidify partnerships** and alliances between LGBTQI communities and human rights defenders using technology; and,
5. **Build innovative tools** to monitor incidents of violence against LGBTQI people.

"I'm particularly excited about the work Astraea is doing around building the technology and communications capacity of community based organizations."

—Surina Khan, Astraea donor





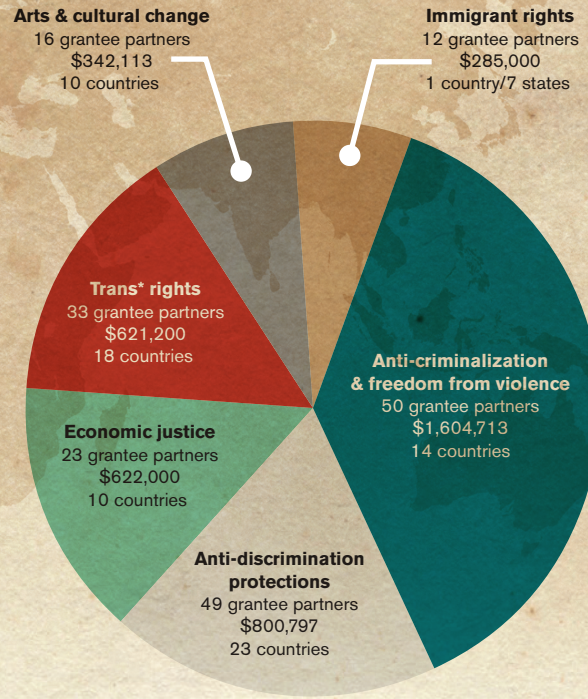
“I see the Internet and social media in general as a tremendous tool for movement building and information sharing. But I also see the importance of face to face organizing, research and publishing, convening (especially across difference), and sharing of every sort. A movement cannot rely on just one of these forms of networking and strategizing.”



—Jean Hardisty, Astraera donor

CommsLabs Bogotá, Colombia. Photo credit: Ben Parker

# ASTRAEA SUPPORTED 81 GRANTEE PARTNERS IN 35 COUNTRIES, MAKING \$3.1 MILLION IN GRANTS



\*Astraea grantee partners work on multiple issues, so a single grant often contributes to multiple thematic areas.

## Grantmaking

Astraea funds grassroots LGBTQI organizations working for racial, economic and gender justice. In all of our grantmaking, we prioritize the leadership of lesbians, trans\* people, and people of color. This year, our grantmaking strategically focused on the following thematic concerns:



**Anti-Criminalization and Freedom from Violence** Astraea supports groups led by LGBTQI youth, sex workers and people of color that organize against police and state violence, educate communities about their rights, and fight laws and policies that criminalize LGBTQI lives.



**Immigrant Rights** In the United States, Astraea fuels the grassroots LGBTQI immigrant movement that is building a new generation of leaders, fighting harsh deportation and detention policies, and demanding self-determination for all.



**Anti-Discrimination Protections** Astraea supports grantee partners working to change laws and policies so LGBTQI people can live with safety and dignity, including family protections, anti-discrimination provisions, and equality in health and education.



**Trans\* Rights** As a feminist and gender justice funder, Astraea supports trans\* activism that works to build the power of trans\* communities and secure human rights for trans\* and gender non-conforming people.



**Arts and Cultural Change** Because societies must change along with laws and policies, Astraea supports progressive LGBTQI artists and organizations that use arts and media as tools for transforming social attitudes and envisioning new realities.



**Economic Justice** Astraea supports organizations and campaigns advancing economic justice for LGBTQI communities, including securing access to housing, education, employment and welfare.



# Grantee Partners

## AFRICA

**Forum for the Empowerment of Women**  
Johannesburg, South Africa

**Freedom and Roam Uganda**  
Kampala, Uganda

**Gender Dynamix**  
Johannesburg, South Africa

**Iranti-Org**  
Johannesburg, South Africa

**Limpopo LGBTI Proudly Out**  
Limpopo, South Africa

**National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission**  
Nairobi, Kenya

**None on Record**  
Nairobi, Kenya

**Queer African Youth Network - QAYN**  
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

**Rainbow Women of Kenya**  
Mombasa, Kenya

**Social, Health and Empowerment Feminist Collective of Transgender Women of Africa**  
East London, South Africa

**The OTHER Foundation**  
Johannesburg, South Africa

**Trans Bantu Association of Zambia**  
Lusaka, Zambia

**Transgender and Intersex Africa**  
Pretoria, South Africa

**Transgender Education and Advocacy - TEA**  
Nairobi, Kenya

**UHA1 - East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative**  
Nairobi, Kenya

**Voices of Women in Western Kenya**  
Kisumu, Kenya

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**Alternative Law Forum**  
Bangalore, India

**GALANG**  
Quezon City, Philippines

**Nirangal**  
Tamil Nadu, India

**Nirantar**  
Delhi, India

**Nutongxueshe - NTXS**  
Hong Kong, China

**Sangama**  
Bangalore, India

**Sappho for Equality**  
Kolkata, India

**Sayoni**  
Singapore, Singapore

**Transgender Resource Center**  
Hong Kong, China

**Vikalp Women's Group**  
Gujurat, India

**Women's Coalition of Hong Kong**  
SAR, Hong Kong

## EUROPE

**Centre for Equality and Liberty for the LGBT Community in Kosovo**  
Pristina, Kosovo

**CURE Foundation**  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Gayten-LGBT - Center for the Promotion of LGBTIQ Human Rights**  
Belgrade, Serbia

**Kampania Przeciw Homofobii - KPH**  
Warsaw, Poland

**Lesbian Organization Rijeka - LORI**  
Rijeka, Croatia

**LGBTIQA Association Okvir**  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Roma Women's Center "Rromnjako Ilo"**  
Novi Becej, Serbia

**Sarajevo Open Centre**  
Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Side by Side LGBT International Film Festival**  
Saint Petersburg, Russia

**SKUC-LL**  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Stichting T-Image**  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Transvanilla Transgender Association**  
Budapest, Hungary

**Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund c/o International Labour Organization**  
Genève, Switzerland

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**ÁGORA Club**  
Pasto, Colombia

**Aireana - Grupo por los Derechos de las Lesbianas**  
Asunción, Paraguay

**Asociación Silueta X**  
Guayaquil, Ecuador

**Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities**  
Caribbean

**Caribe Afirmativo**  
Cartagena, Colombia

**Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation**  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

**Colectiva Lésbica Todas Somos Guatemala**  
Guatemala City, Guatemala

**Colectivo No Tengo Miedo**  
Lima, Peru

**Colectivo Sentimos Diverso**  
Quito, Ecuador

**Colombia Diversa**  
Bogotá, Colombia

**Comunidad Diversidad**  
La Paz, Bolivia

**Corporación Promoción de la Mujer/Taller de Comunicación Mujer**  
Quito, Ecuador

**Encuentro Lésbico Feminista de LAC**  
Bogotá, Colombia

**Femme en Action Contre la Stigmatisation et la Discrimination Sexuelle**  
Port au Prince, Haiti

**Fundación de Desarrollo Humano Integral Causana**  
Quito, Ecuador

**Fundación Sentiido**  
Bogotá, Colombia

**Grupo Latinoamericano de Estudio Formación y Acción Feminista - GLEFAS**  
Bogotá, Colombia

**Grupo Safo**  
Managua, Nicaragua

**International Network of Women's Funds**  
Mexico City, Mexico

**Lesbianas Independientes, Socialistas y Feministas**  
Lima, Perú

**Movimiento de Acción Lésbica Feminista**  
Aguascalientes, México

**Mujer y Mujer**  
Guayaquil, Ecuador

**Mujeres Al Borde**  
Bogotá, Colombia

**Mujeres Y Cultura Subterránea, A.C.**  
Nezahualcoyotl, México

**Mulabi - Espacio Latinoamericano de Sexualidades y Derechos**  
Guadalupe, Costa Rica

**Organización de Transexuales por la Dignidad de la Diversidad**  
Rancagua, Chile

**Organización Trans Reinas de la Noche**  
Guatemala City, Guatemala

**Red Lésbica 'CATRACHAS'**  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Santamaría Fundación GLBT**  
Cali, Colombia

**Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination - SASOD**  
Georgetown, Guyana

**United and Strong**  
Castries, Saint Lucia

**Woman's Way Foundation**  
Paramaribo, Suriname

**MIDDLE EAST**  
**alQaws for Sexual and Gender Diversity in Palestinian Society**  
Jerusalem, Israel

**Aswat - Palestinian Gay Women**  
Haifa, Israel

**Istanbul LGTT**  
Istanbul, Turkey

**UNITED STATES**  
**Affinity Community Services<sup>†</sup>**  
Chicago, IL

**All Out**  
New York, NY

**Allgo<sup>†</sup>**  
Austin, TX

**Arcoiris Liberation Team**  
Phoenix, AZ

**Arizona Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project - AZ QUIP<sup>†</sup>**  
AZ

**Audre Lorde Project**  
New York, NY

**Black and Pink**  
Boston, MA

**BreakOUT!<sup>†</sup>**  
New Orleans, LA

**Casa Ruby**  
Washington, DC

**Chicana Latina Foundation**  
Burlingame, CA

**CODE2040**  
San Francisco, CA

**Colorado Anti-Violence Project**  
Denver, CO

**EDGE Funders Alliance**  
San Francisco, CA

**EI/La Para Translatinas**  
San Francisco, CA

**Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Freedom Inc.<sup>†</sup>**  
Madison, WI

**Funders for LGBTQ Issues<sup>††</sup>**  
New York, NY

**Gay-Straight Alliance Network<sup>††</sup>**  
San Francisco, CA

**Gender Expansion Project<sup>†</sup>**  
Missoula, MT

**Gender Justice Los Angeles<sup>†</sup>**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees**  
Sebastopol, CA

**Hearts on a Wire Collective**  
Philadelphia, PA

**Immigrant Youth Coalition**  
Los Angeles, CA

**International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission**  
New York, NY

**International Human Rights Funders Group**  
New York, NY

**Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana<sup>††</sup>**  
New Orleans, LA

**Making Money Make Change / Resource Generation**  
New York, NY

**Missouri GSA Network<sup>†</sup>**  
St. Louis, MO

**National Center for Lesbian Rights**  
San Francisco, CA

**New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice<sup>††</sup>**  
New Orleans, LA

**Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Inc.<sup>††</sup>**  
Jackson, MS

**PFLAG Portland Black Chapter<sup>†</sup>**  
Portland, OR

**Power Inside**  
Baltimore, MD

**Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty and Genocide<sup>††</sup>**  
Atlanta, GA

**Providence Youth Student Movement-PrYSM<sup>†</sup>**  
Providence, RI

**Racial Justice Action Center<sup>††</sup>**  
Atlanta, GA

**Resource Generation**  
New York, NY

**Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN)**  
College Park, GA

**Southerners on New Ground**  
Atlanta, GA

**Trans Youth Support Network<sup>†</sup>**  
Minneapolis, MN

**Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project<sup>†</sup>**  
Oakland, CA

**United We Dream Network - Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project**  
Washington, DC

**Victory Institute**  
Washington, DC

**Williams Institute**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Donor Advised Fund Grantees**

**MARSHA DAY MEMORIAL FUND**

**BRAC USA**  
New York, NY

**Fractured Atlas**  
New York, NY

**Grameen Foundation**  
Washington, DC

**African Women's Development Fund USA**  
San Jose, CA

**The Feminist Press**  
New York, NY

**The Middle Project**  
New York, NY

**Project Enterprise**  
New York, NY

**Sirleaf Market Women's Fund - SMWF-USA**  
New York, NY

**PASS THE BUTTER FUND Coalition on Homelessness**  
San Francisco, CA

**ROOTS AND WINGS FUND**  
**Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund**  
New York, NY

**Lesbian Herstory Archives**  
Brooklyn, NY

**National Center for Lesbian Rights**  
San Francisco, CA

**National Women's Health Network**  
Washington, DC

**The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center**  
New York, NY

<sup>†</sup>In partnership with the Funding Queerly Giving Circle

<sup>††</sup>In partnership with the Racial Justice Fund

# GRANTEE PARTNERS IN ACTION

## ART TO END SILENCE

TGNC

In 2011, in rural West Bengal, India, Swapna Mondal, 23, and Sucheta Mondal, 19, lay down in a field, their waists tied together with a hand-woven towel. They drank from a bottle of pesticide and were discovered dead the following morning, along with a five-page suicide note.

“We love each other,” the note read. “We decided to commit suicide as our relationship was not accepted by society. We request that we be cremated together.”

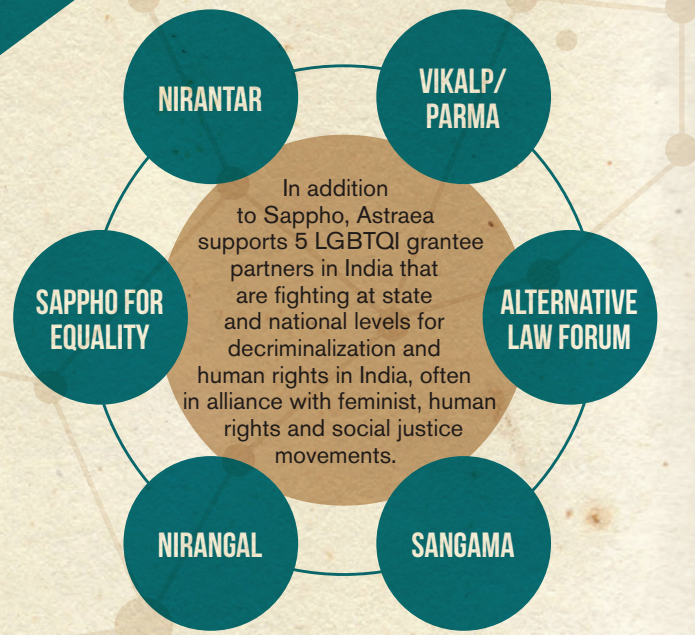
The two women had been in a relationship for four years. After villagers began to suspect that the two were romantically involved, Sucheta’s parents forced her to marry a neighborhood boy. Six months later, the lovers killed themselves. Local newspapers printed contradictory reports, some claiming that the deaths were murders.

That’s when **Sappho**, a West Bengal-based group that works primarily with lesbians, bisexual women and trans men, decided to launch its own investigation. **Sappho** members interviewed Swapna’s parents, Sucheta’s mother and husband, local police and neighbors.



Image courtesy of Sappho

“We can only plan two years at a time because we don’t even know if we will be shut down.”



**Sappho** created a 16-minute documentary about the facts, subsequently producing a narrative film that imagines what Swapna and Sucheta’s lives would have been like if they’d lived.

“The film is part of the public program held in rural villages,” said one of **Sappho’s** founders, Shubhaghata Ghosh. “We screen the fact and the fantasy. After the screening we host a public conversation with the students and their parents and friends.” This is radically different from when **Sappho** was formed in 1999. “Back then,” according to Ghosh, “discussing sexuality was a taboo and the word lesbian was not recognized.”

But the struggle continues: in 2013, India’s Supreme Court overturned a 2009 Delhi High Court decision that decriminalized homosexuality, reinstating a section of the Indian Penal Code that criminalizes sexual activities “against the order of nature.”

“We can only plan two years at a time because we don’t even know if we will be shut down,” says co-founder, Minakshi Sanyal. “Activists and academics are expecting a lot from **Sappho**. Despite our grief, we have to hope for the best and see what happens in 2016.”

Astraea has been funding **Sappho** for 8 years (1996-present).

# BUILDING AN LGBTQI MOVEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

“We realized there was no magazine that was bringing in different voices and perspectives of queer life or showing the richness of queer life on the African continent,” says Mariam Armisen, founder of **Queer African Youth Network (QAYN)** and *Q-zine*, the only arts and culture publication for LGBTQI African youth. When so much of the discourse about LGBTQI life in Africa is negative, oversimplified and generated outside the continent, *Q-zine* provides a creative forum for queer communities “to talk about our lives and to take ownership over the discourse that shapes our identities and lived realities.”

This kind of platform is particularly meaningful in West Africa, a region that is deeply under-resourced and where nascent LGBTQI organizers face significant isolation. Based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, **QAYN** was founded in 2010 to build a movement and community of queer activists to end this isolation. They are a feminist and queer women-led network working to support and build the leadership of young LBQ women (ages 17-35) in the region. They’ve run a successful leadership incubator program since 2012, and their *Q-zine* magazine reaches close to 7,000 readers. They build knowledge by producing research on the landscape for LGBTQI rights in francophone West Africa, and their work is helping to open up space for LGBTQI activism to grow and flourish.

They recently ran a powerful *16 Days of Activism* social media campaign with audiovisual narratives highlighting violence against gender non-conforming queer women. **QAYN** brought together researchers, interviewers, illustrators, audio technicians and survivors of violence to produce 16 personal stories of LBQWSW\* survivors of violence, which were published and amplified each day of the campaign. The overwhelmingly positive response garnered 400 new followers and sparked much discussion.

In their print publication on the campaign, QAYN wrote: “This campaign is a call to action...to ensure that victims of violence no longer suffer, in silence, in shame and guilt - and above all, they are not resigned to this reality.”



Image courtesy of QAYN, illustrated by Xonanji.

“We realized there was no magazine that was cultural, bringing in different voices and perspectives of queer life or showing the richness of queer life on the continent.”

Astraea has funded **QAYN** (Queer African Youth Network) for 2 years (2013-present).

\*QAYN uses the acronym LBQWSW for “lesbian, bisexual and queer women, and women who have sex with women” to include those who may not self-identify as LBQ women.

# UNDOCUMENTED, UNAFRAID AND ORGANIZED

“LGBTQI people are not outsiders, we are not ‘things,’ and we are tired of being asked to prove that we are not ‘criminals.’ We live in a country that criminalizes our very existence,” said Astraea grantee partner **Southerners on New Ground** (SONG) in a recent statement. **SONG** works to highlight the impact of immigration enforcement on LGBTQI people in the American South, a region that has seen a striking number of anti-immigrant measures in recent years. Because queer and trans\* immigrants are more likely than their peers to come into contact with law enforcement, and less likely to have access to status through family relationships, they are disproportionately undocumented, detained and deported.

This year, **SONG** joined the #Not1More campaign to bring an end to unjust deportations. LGBTQI immigrants in detention centers experience appalling human rights violations, including violence, rape, and torture in the form of solitary confinement. While trans\* women make up only 1 out of 500 detained immigrants in the US, they comprise one-fifth of all confirmed sexual assault cases in state detention facilities. Further, findings by the Congressional Research Service showed that as many as 40 percent of sexual abuse allegations occurring in state ICE detention centers are not reported. Dispirited by the abuse and their lack of legal



SONG and Familia at the #Not1More march. Photo credit: Namita Chad

ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE LGBTQI IMMIGRANTS IS UNDOCUMENTED — A TOTAL OF 260,000 PEOPLE IN THE US.



*According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Secure Communities (S-Comm) led to the deportation of more than 368,000 immigrants before being discontinued.*

recourse, **SONG, Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement**, and ally **Transgender Law Center** report that “many LGBTQI detainees simply give up, accepting deportation rather than continuing to fight for the asylum for which they qualify.”

In part due to organizing efforts from the #Not1More campaign and others, President Obama took executive action in November 2014, offering limited relief to some 4 million undocumented immigrants. Astraea grantee partners celebrated this victory brought about by the determination and sustained organizing of communities coming together. Unfortunately, many LGBTQI people

“We support Astraea because we are able to reach small grassroots organizations doing vital work fighting gender and sexuality-based oppression, both in the US and around the world, that we would never be able to find on our own.”



—Astraea donors, Hosea Baskin and Sarah Buttenweiser

will be excluded from the President’s relief because they cannot access family reunification and because they continue to be profiled and targeted by law enforcement. Astraea grantee partners **SONG, Familia** and many others will continue to fight until LGBTQI immigrants no longer have to live in fear.

Astraea has been funding **SONG** for 19 years (1996-present).

Astraea began supporting **Familia** in 2014 through our newly launched LGBTQI immigrant rights cohort.

# IN COLOMBIA, TRANS\* WOMEN DEMAND CHANGES FROM COPS

A common issue faced by Colombian trans women is extremely high levels of violence: between 2008 and 2013, the number of murders of trans people in Colombia was fourth-highest in the world. Despite these deaths and other violent assaults, no one person has been charged, according to **Santamaría Fundación**'s Director of Institutional Processes, Déborah Skenassy, "trans women don't have access to health or justice because our bodies aren't legitimized. We exist at the margins of the state."

The police, she adds, are often part of the problem, denying help or arresting trans women without justification. **Santamaría Fundación** has documented 150 accounts of police abuse that have so far been ignored by superiors.



Santamaría Fundación marches for trans women's visibility and rights at the Marcha Fucsia in Colombia. Image courtesy of Santamaría Fundación.

"Thanks to Astraea, we have an office to talk about all this stuff and politicize ourselves," Skenassy said. "More than an office, it is actually our home."

To counter this trend, **Santamaría Fundación** met with 35 trans women to discuss recent violations by the police. Their recommendations comprised a formal proposal to be presented by members of **Santamaría Fundación** to Cali's police captain.

**Santamaría Fundación** builds trans women's leadership by offering programs like the *escuela de formación política*, or political education. Twice a month the initiative brings together

about 40 women of diverse ages and ethnicities to explore topics such as civil rights, sexuality and gender diversity, and political participation.

**MORE THAN 1,250 MURDERS OF TRANS PEOPLE HAVE OCCURED IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA SINCE 2008.**



Source: *Transgender Europe's Trans Murder Monitoring Project, 2014*

Astraea is **Santamaría Fundación's** most constant funder and the only one providing general operating support. Astraea has funded Santamaría Fundación for 4 years (2011-present).



Santamaría Fundación organizes and hosts a police training in Colombia. Image courtesy of Santamaría Fundación

# THANK YOU!

Astraea supports activists and organizations globally where the opportunities, the needs, and, often, the risks are greatest. And we could not do it without you. Your generosity empowers change-makers all over the world, fostering powerful collaborations, growing leadership capacity, and fueling the grassroots movements required to create a world where everyone can live with dignity.<sup>1</sup>

**Fueling the Frontlines** is the Astraea's 3-year, \$20 million campaign to provide critical resources and support to grassroots LGBTQI activists and organizations across the globe. The campaign supports activism and action in areas where the need for resources is greatest, with Astraea's support often representing the first major infusion of funding for a vast majority of our grantee partners. Campaign supporters are individuals, institutions, government agencies, donor alliances and private-sector companies committed to achieving justice, respect and equality for everyone. We invite you to join us in this work.

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<sup>1</sup>Astraea is deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed money, time, or talent to support this work. We have taken great care to check all names and giving levels in this report. We apologize for any errors, and ask that you please let us know if our records are not correct.



Astraea supporters at Chicago Fueling the Frontlines Awards. Image courtesy of Mystic Photography.

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Photo courtesy of CUAV.



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Elissa Breitbart  
Elizabeth Bremner & Karen Crow  
B. Jean Brown\*  
Denslow Brown & Linda Smith  
Pamela Calvert  
Mary Ellen S. Capek & Susan Hallgarth  
Maria J. Cartagena  
Donna Cassidy  
Judith N. Clarke  
Rhonda Copelon\*  
Theodora Yang Copley  
Jeanne Cordova & Lynn H. Ballen  
Jennifer A. Dryfoos  
Sally Duplaix\*  
Rosalind Dutton & Jill Gates Smith  
Elana Dykewomon & Susan Levinkind  
Tucker Pamella Farley  
Edrie Ferdun & Jan Felshin  
Tracy Duvivier Gary & Inka von Sternenfels  
Sheila Gershen & Sy Margaret Baldwin  
Dipti Ghosh & Meggy Gotuaco  
Miles Goff  
Sue Goldwomon  
Jewelle Gomez & Diane Sabin  
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Sheryl Kaplan  
Barbara Karwhite  
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## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Kara Andrade • Ana Artigas • Tracy Baim • Kellan Baker • Angela Barnes & Sofia Anastopoulos • Hope Barrett • Juanita Belmar • Jim Bennett & Terry Vanden Hoek • Maia Lis Benson • Amy Bloom • Jennifer Brier & Kat Hindmand • Elly Bulkin • Alderman James Cappleman • Evette Cardona & Mona Noriega • State Representative Kelly Cassidy & Kelley Quinn • Jeff Chartrand • Michelle Clarkin • Cathy Cohen & Beth Richie • Tatiana Cordero • Telesh Cordero • William Cordery



Astraea was rated 4 out of 4 stars by Charity Navigator

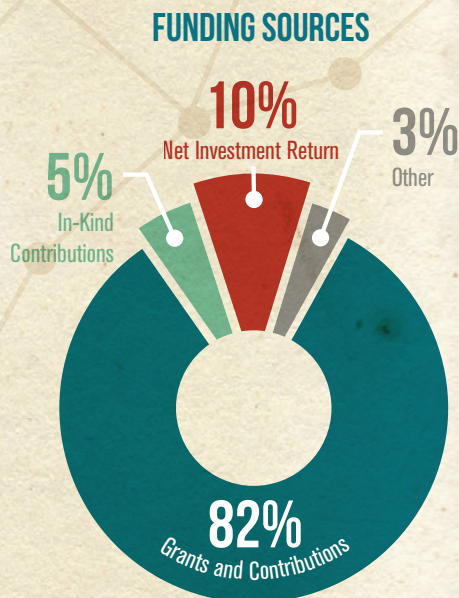
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Based on audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2014.

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	All Funds
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## FUNDING SOURCES

Grants and Contributions	1,933,133	3,254,850		5,187,983
In-kind Contributions	292,571			292,571
Net Investment Return	25,587	600,289		625,877
Other Income	91,209	74,831		196,040
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,372,500</b>	<b>3,929,970</b>		<b>6,302,470</b>
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	3,914,735	(3,914,735)		-
<b>Total Revenue after Releases</b>	<b>6,287,235</b>	<b>15,235</b>		<b>6,302,470</b>



## EXPENSES

### Program Services

Grants Awarded	3,145,152			3,145,152
Other Program Services	1,974,891			1,974,891
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>5,120,043</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,120,043</b>

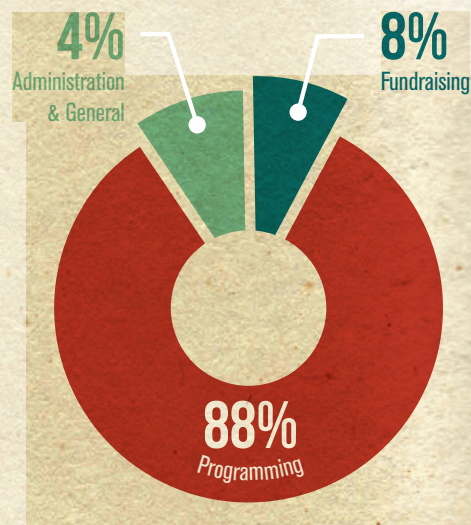
### Supporting Services

Administrative and General	477,285	32,520		509,806
Fundraising	587,099			587,099
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>1,064,384</b>	<b>32,520</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,096,904</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,184,427</b>	<b>32,520</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,216,947</b>
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Changes in Net Assets	102,808	(17,285)	-	85,523
Net Assets as of June 30, 2013	557,572	5,518,117	2,958,315	9,034,004
Net Assets as of June 30, 2014	660,380	5,500,832	2,958,315	9,119,527

## EXPENSES



# BOARD AND STAFF LIST

as of January 2015

## STAFF

### J. Bob Alotta

Executive Director

### Jayson Berkshire

Executive Assistant

### Michelle Blankenship

Finance Consultant

### Sangeeta Budhiraja

Director of Institutional Partnerships

### Graham Bridgeman

Development Officer, Individual Gifts

### Namita Chad

Program Officer

### Ana Conner

Development Assistant

### mónica enríquez-enríquez

Program Officer

### Ariel Federow

Development Associate

### Sarah Gunther

Director of Programs

### Jalise Hackle

Junior Accountant

### Denise Kleis

HR Consultant

### Joy Michael

Senior Accountant

### Kellea Miller

USAID Consultant

### Susan Neiman

Chief Financial Officer

### Janhavi Pakrashi

Communications Assistant

### Naomi Sobel

Development Officer, Major Gifts

### Brenda Salas Neves

Grants Manager

### Gina L. Taglieri

Director of Development

### Simone Williams

Administrative Assistant

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Katherine Acey

## BOARD

### Miriam Zoila Pérez

Board Chair

### Jarrett Lucas

Vice Chair & Board Secretary

### Wendy Stark

Board Treasurer

### Cynthia Rothschild

Audit Committee Chair

### Ryan Li Dahlstrom

Board Recruitment & Education Committee Chair

### Maria De La Cruz

Board Secretary

### Urooj Arshad

### Jennifer Brier

### William Cordery

### limay Ho

### Perna Lal

### Nitika Raj

### Judene Walden

### Susan Wefald

## CAMPAIGN COUNCIL

Jennifer Brier

Jeff Chartrand

Will Cordery

Ryan Li Dahlstrom

Maria De La Cruz

Marcia Gallo

Christopher Harris

Jarrett Lucas

Dorothy Sanders

A. Sparks

Judene Walden

Barbara Wright

## ANNUAL REPORT TEAM CONTRIBUTORS

J. Bob Alotta

Michelle Blankenship

Graham Bridgeman

Sangeeta Budhiraja

Namita Chad

Bridget de Gersigny

mónica enríquez-enríquez

Ariel Federow

Sarah Gunther

Joy Michael

Kellea Miller

Brenda Salas Neves

Naomi Sobel

Gina Taglieri

## Editor

Bridget de Gersigny

## Copy Writer

Puck Lo, Research Action Design

## Designer

Ivy Climacosa, Design Action Collective

## Printer

Union Solidarity Graphics

Printed with vegetable based inks on paper with recycled content

# DEAR FRIEND,



In many ways it's hard to believe that I've been on the board of Astraea for 6 years, but in other ways it's incredible it's only been that long. When I joined the board in 2009, the organization was at the beginning of a major phase of transition. Katherine Acey, long-time Executive Director and powerhouse leader, was transitioning out of her role. The new leader had yet to be identified, and of course, our economy and political climate were going through seismic change on the heels of the economy crashing and President Obama's election. No biggie.

I joined as a still (relatively) young person in the movement, and think that in many ways Astraea has given me more than I've given in the time since. It's been an incredible honor serving this organization during such a pivotal time. Over these years I've seen so many dedicated people step up in service of the mission: building resources and power for an international LGBTQI movement. Even as we were dealing with major organizational change, our Astraea foremothers were always in the room, and the values that guided them have stayed with us as the board has navigated all the change of these last years.



The beauty of this moment is being able to reflect back and see how far we've come. While change is likely the only constant, Astraea is no longer in transition, and instead solidly into its next amazing era under the helm of J. Bob Alotta, a visionary leader I've had the pleasure of working with during my time as Board Chair. Alongside an incredible staff, I'm constantly awed by the leaps Astraea is taking in her journey toward building an even larger base of support for the global LGBTQI movement.

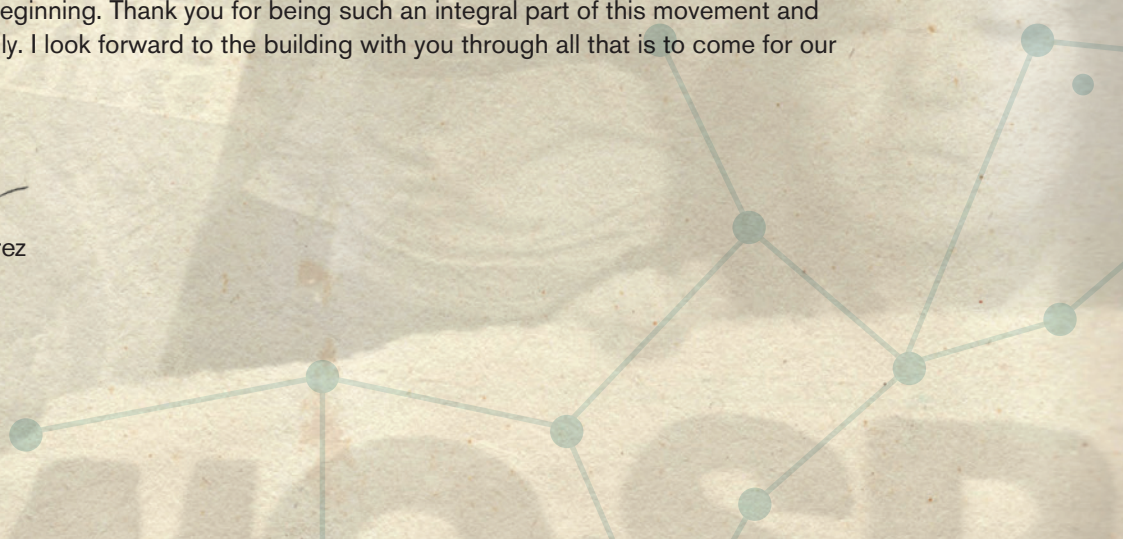
The Fueling the Frontlines campaign is just one example of the bold moves Astraea is making, and I know it will be just one of many more to come.

While my time on the Astraea board is soon coming to a close, I know my relationship with Astraea is just beginning. Thank you for being such an integral part of this movement and the Astraea family. I look forward to the building with you through all that is to come for our community.

En solidaridad,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miriam Zoila Pérez".

Miriam Zoila Pérez  
Board Chair



# CREATE THE WORLD YOU WANT TO LIVE IN

JOIN ASTRAEA IN FUELING THE FRONTLINES  
FOR GLOBAL LGBTQI JUSTICE



**Astraea** LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

*Funding Change and Strengthening Communities Around the World*

116 East 16th Street, Seventh Floor, New York, NY 10003  
P 212.529.8021 | F 212.982.3321  
development@astraeafoundation.org

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