

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

WOMEN'S VOICE AND LEADERSHIP - CARIBBEAN MULTI-YEAR FUNDING FOR CARIBBEAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND LGBTIQ ORGANIZATIONS

Overview

Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) Caribbean is a five-year (2019-2024), \$3.6 million USD project to support women's rights and feminist organizations to advance gender equality in the English-speaking Caribbean. Eligible countries are: Jamaica, Belize, Guyana and other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries. LOIs will be accepted from January 20, 2020 to February 14, 2020. LOIs will then be closed until a new cycle is announced.

The initiative is being implemented by Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, in collaboration with The Equality Fund (formerly The MATCH International Women's Fund), Canada's sole global fund for women, girls, and transgender people. The project is part of Global Affairs Canada's (GAC) broader Women's Voice and Leadership Program.

In order to advance women's rights and gender equality in the region, WVL-Caribbean will support the capacity, leadership, and agendas of grassroots women's rights organizations (WROs) and lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LBTIQ) groups that advance their own solutions to improve women's rights and gender equality in their own contexts. It aims to increase access to mutually-reinforcing key resources such as funding, capacity-building support, and networks and alliances that will enable these organizations to invest in their own priorities for change and strengthen the Caribbean women's movement as a whole.

Objectives

The ultimate outcome of the WVL- Caribbean initiative is to increase the enjoyment of human rights by women, girls, and trans people who are most affected by discrimination, poverty and violence to and advance gender equality in the region. This ultimate outcome will be achieved through the following intermediate outcomes:

- Improved management and sustainability of local women's rights organizations in the Caribbean, particularly those representing vulnerable and marginalized women and girls.
- Enhanced delivery of programming and advocacy by women's rights organizations to advance gender equality in the Caribbean.
- Increased effectiveness of national and sub-national women's rights platforms, networks and alliances to affect gender-sensitive policy change and policy implementation in the Caribbean.

Multi-Year Funding Mechanism

WVL-Caribbean has established a multi-year funding mechanism to support the work of WROs and LBTIQ organizations in the region. Selected organizations must be based or working in one of the identified priority countries: **Jamaica, Belize, Guyana or the following specified ODA-eligible countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname)**. The project will also consider applications by networks and consortia working in the above-mentioned countries.

Grant Allocations

The project will provide approximately 20 multi-year grants ranging from \$7,000 to \$15,000 USD per year over (3) three years. The purpose of these grants is to provide predictable funding to WROs and LGBTIQ organizations over a three-year period to enable them to implement their own programs and advocacy based on their own agendas and priorities.

General Grant Criteria

Potential grantees should be LGBTIQ rights organizations. It is considered an asset if applicants are engaged in cross-regional movement building efforts and networking. Grantees will be selected based on the following considerations:

- Groups and organizations that are governed, led and directed by and for women and lesbian, bisexual and trans (LBT) communities;
- Groups and organizations that are based and/or working in the following ODA eligible countries in CARICOM: **Jamaica, Belize, Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname;**
- Groups and organizations that are working toward long-term social change on issues affecting women and LGBTIQ people and/or people who face human rights violations based on gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics and/or sexual orientation;
- Groups and organizations with a potential to drive feminist movement-building;
- Groups and organizations that have been active for at least one year at the time of their application;
- Groups and organizations that have an organizational budget of less than CAD \$500,000 (approximately USD \$300,000); and
- Registered and non-registered groups and organizations will be considered in order to enable newer, often smaller organizations doing work locally to access funds where they have been unable to register due to local conditions. However, for-profit activities, political campaigning activities and activities aimed at proselytizing, will not be funded.

Grant Priorities

Multi-year grants will cover both activity and core costs, which include but are not limited to support for administrative functions, service provision, awareness raising and advocacy, feminist research, policy dialogue, consultation, networking and mobilizing.

Organizations and initiatives that support women and LGBTIQ activities facing multiple forms of discrimination will be prioritized. The project will also prioritize groups and organizations working directly and at the intersections of the following broad thematic areas of focus:

- Economic Justice;
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;
- Feminist Leadership and Movement-Building;
- Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans Rights; and
- Climate Change.

Exclusion Criteria

Please note that Astraea and the Women's Voices in Leadership Project do NOT fund the following:

- Organizations with no leadership of LGBTQI people
- Organizations with no involvement of lesbians or transgender people
- Private business or profit-making efforts (including business development)
- Organizations based in the Global North proposing projects with partners based in Astraea's funding regions
- Organizations with strong leadership from only 1 individual
- Individual projects (e.g. graduate research, fellowships, etc.)
- Projects that are sponsored by a university, college, or other academic institution
- Groups whose sole purpose is to provide charity to individuals, direct social service projects, research projects, or one-time events that are not linked to ongoing social change organizing strategies.
- Efforts that endorse candidates for public office (incl. political parties and election campaigns)
- Capital campaigns, endowments, or deficit financing
- Organizations with budgets of over \$300,000 USD

Application Process

Organizations will submit their applications to either the Equality Fund **or** Astraea (depending on their thematic areas of work and governance structures), through **ONE** of the following streams:

- If your organization identifies as a WRO, funded and led by women or girls, please apply through the Equality Fund, here: <https://equality-fund.smapply.io/>

If your organization identifies as an LBTIQ-led organization, please apply through Astraea, here: https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5722?SA=SNA&FID=35057

Astraea welcomes Letters of Interest from LBTIQ-led groups that fit the above criteria. Once you have submitted an online Letter of Interest, you will receive an emailed receipt. If your initial submission is successful, you will be notified in **mid-March 2020** and will be invited to submit a full proposal. The potential grant period would begin July 1, 2020.

The deadline for submitting a letter of interest is: **Friday, February 14th, 2020.**


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