



DIGNITY NETWORK CANADA  
**BEYOND BORDERS**

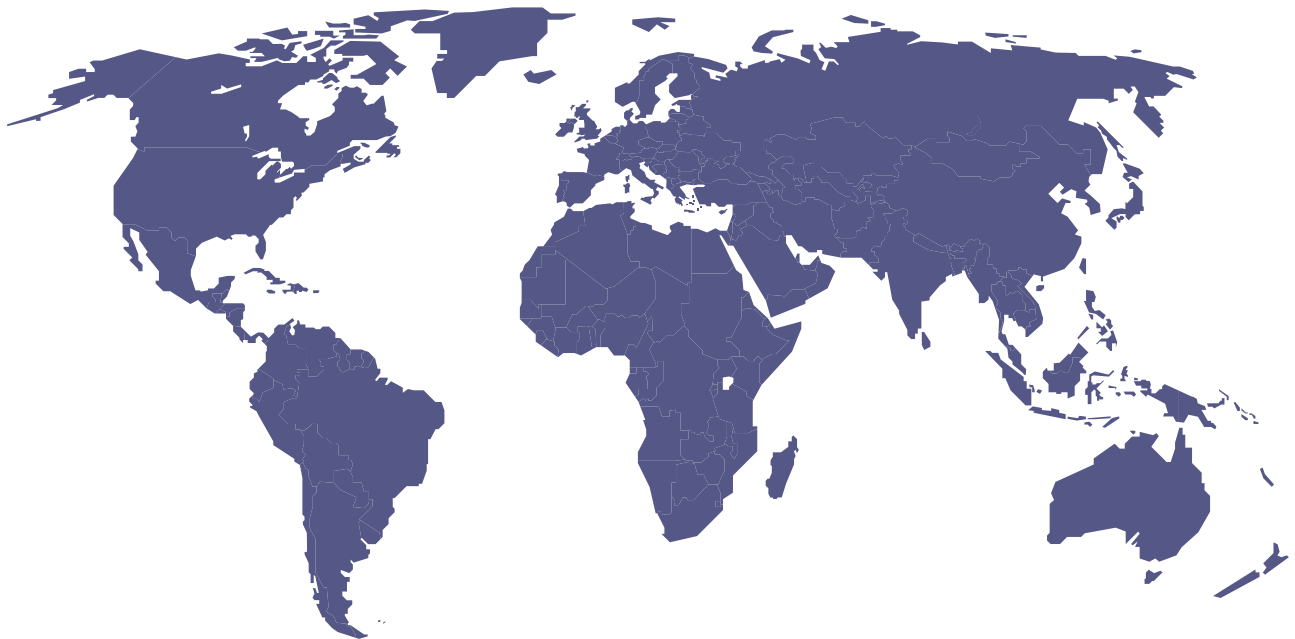
A CAMPAIGN SUPPORTING LGBTIQ  
MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD

CASE FOR SUPPORT  
2023



# **RIGHTS ARE NEVER GUARANTEED.**

**CANADA MUST PLAY A LEADING ROLE  
AROUND THE WORLD ADVANCING  
LGBTIQ HUMAN RIGHTS.**



That's why Dignity Network Canada is launching its first ever \$2 million Beyond Borders fundraising campaign. We are looking for a group of Canadian philanthropic leaders who care about human rights for LGBTIQ people around the world.

**YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL.**

# DIGNITY NETWORK CANADA IS THE NATIONAL NETWORK CONNECTING 2SLGBTIQ MOVEMENTS IN CANADA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

With 64 member organizations across the country, **Dignity Network Canada** (DNC) supports LGBTIQ human rights around the world on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

DNC is the primary organization and network connecting 2SLGBTIQ movements in Canada to the rest of the world. Collaboration is the key to our success and in our membership, we have organizations from across Canada working together to learn, advocate and make an impact.

# GLOBALLY, LGBTIQ HUMAN RIGHTS ARE AT RISK.

The struggle for equality and dignity for LGBTIQ people is a major human rights challenge. In many parts of the world, there is a significant backlash against this work. The time to respond is now, and Canada is well positioned to be a leader in protecting and advancing the rights of members of these communities.

69 out of 195

Number of countries that criminalize same-sex relations.

138 out of 195

Number of countries that fail to offer broad legal protections

Major legal and political setbacks

In countries such as Russia, Uganda and Ghana, anti-LGBTIQ movements have recently introduced harsh — and even violent — laws against LGBTIQ people.

A rise in anti-LGBTIQ hate and discrimination

Often tied to fundamentalist religion and authoritarianism, LGBTIQ movements are under increasing threats in many countries.

Despite the sobering state of LGBTIQ rights globally, there have been important advancements in many countries around LGBTIQ human rights. There are young and vibrant LGBTIQ human rights movements in many countries which are working hard to advance basic human rights today.

These movements need support and solidarity – and Canada has an increasingly important role to play in this work. Support is needed now to ensure Canada can step up and continue to play a leading role in the protection and advancement of LGBTIQ human rights around the world.

**PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE  
AND CANADA MUST PLAY  
A BIGGER ROLE SUPPORTING  
GLOBAL LGBTIQ MOVEMENTS.**

# ROLE OF DIGNITY NETWORK CANADA

In less than a decade, since its creation in 2015 as the Dignity Initiative, our coalition has been at the forefront of encouraging Canada to take on a leadership role in the world on LGBTIQ issues. We work with all political parties to encourage support for increasing Canada's impact in this area.

Along with our partners and network members:

- We have created regular dialogue between the Canadian government and civil society, in order to advance LGBTIQ human rights at the global level.
- We have worked to advocate, encourage and support Canada's increased participation in international bodies like the Equal Rights Coalition, the first inter-governmental coalition of countries supporting LGBTIQ human rights.

- We established, in partnership with our member Equitas, the first major Canadian fund to advance LGBTIQ human rights, the Act Together for Inclusion Fund. We are helping move funds to human rights defenders around the globe.
- We have been instrumental in ensuring the establishment of new Canadian funding programs that are now supporting the advancement of LGBTIQ human rights in many countries, including Cameroun, Colombia, Fiji, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Laos, Morocco, Peru, the Philippines, Uganda, Tunisia and Zambia.

**DIGNITY NETWORK CANADA  
HAS SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATED  
FOR AND HELPED LAUNCH  
A NEW \$17M FUND FOR  
GLOBAL LGBTIQ HUMAN RIGHTS.**



# THE ANTI-LGBTIQ LAW IN UGANDA: AN EXAMPLE OF DIGNITY NETWORK'S COLLABORATIVE AND RESPONSIVE APPROACH

A powerful example of this work is the collaboration and coordination of Canada's response to the anti-LGBTIQ legislation in Uganda. Dignity Network Canada, in collaboration with our members, has provided invaluable behind the scenes support to Uganda's LGBTIQ human rights organizations in their work to secure both financial and diplomatic support from the Canadian government. We also have worked behind the scenes to coordinate direct meetings between Members of Parliament in Canada and progressive Ugandan Members of Parliament in a long-term strategy to fight the anti-LGBTIQ legislation.

# CANADA PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE, THROUGH ITS ADVOCACY.

Over the past seven years, Dignity Network Canada has worked closely with the Canadian government to advance LGBTIQ human rights issues internationally; we advocate and offer education for our network here in Canada and abroad; and we work to engage the Canadian public around human rights for our communities around the world.

In recent years, Canada has become a voice for LGBTIQ people at spaces such as the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Organization for American States, and the International Organizations of la Francophonie. We must work to increase this involvement.

Canadian embassies abroad are increasingly allies for LGBTIQ human rights defenders and Canada is engaged in diplomacy around the world in support of LGBTIQ communities. Canada is also now vying for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council after a long absence and SOGIESC issues will be part of the campaign for this seat.

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Canada has made permanent a government assistance program supporting LGBTIQ refugees and developed a referral partnership with our member organization Rainbow Railroad.

And critical for the advancement and protection of human rights in many parts of the world, Canada is also now incorporating LGBTIQ human rights into its international assistance and development aid programming – due to the advocacy and work of Dignity Network Canada.

# EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A major part of Dignity Network Canada's work in the future will be to engage more Canadians in this global human rights movement. We are working with our members across the country to raise awareness of LGBTIQ human rights around the world. We have helped to support Pride organizations with International Grand Marshal programs and human rights education programs in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, and will expand this work in the future. With more Canadians aware and engaged on human rights issues facing LGBTIQ people globally, our advocacy will be more impactful.

# CALL FOR SUPPORT FOR DIGNITY NETWORK CANADA

We are living in an era where hard-fought-for rights are being challenged, and even reversed.

The momentum we have established needs to be continued. With your support, Dignity Network Canada will make significant additional contributions to the fight for LGBTIQ human rights over the next 4 years. This work will establish a powerful foundation in support of global LGBTIQ human rights for many years to come. Through additional partnerships with our members and the Government of Canada, we will sustain this work after the campaign concludes.

# FOR THIS CAMPAIGN WE HAVE FIVE MAIN GOALS

- 1. Create cross-party support for global LGBTIQ human rights.** We want to continue our non-partisan support across the Canadian parliament for international LGBTIQ human rights. Funds will be used to implement actionable strategies to engage with, educate and inform Canadian parliamentarians from all parties on the value of supporting global LGBTIQ human rights. This project involves close cooperation with the new Canadian Pride Caucus and key members of parliament engaged in global affairs. It is critical that support for LGBTIQ human rights becomes a cross-partisan issue. **Goal: \$400,000**
- 2. Increase overall Canadian leadership on global LGBTIQ human rights, including enhanced international assistance funding.** We will aim to develop a cross-organizational approach to encourage the Canadian government to increase the total envelope of Canadian humanitarian, development and human rights funding

for LGBTIQ issues. This work involves close liaison with organizations doing similar advocacy in other donor countries. This will include outreach and education to private donors and foundations on ways to leverage additional resources to support international human rights. The goal is to reach \$20M (from current \$5M) of Canada's international aid supporting global LGBTIQ human rights. This amount would **put Canada in the top three global donors to LGBTIQ human rights** and could support the work of thousands of human rights defenders in dozens of countries. In the face of rising hatred around the world, Canada must step up and be a leader. **Goal: \$400,000**

### **3. Develop targeted Canadian responses in specific regions.**

Working closely with the Canadian government, and our members with specific expertise and relationships in several regions will work to enhance Canadian support in the regions for LGBTIQ human rights. We will support areas where Canadian organizations and government have stronger relations and possible leadership roles to advance

LGBTIQ human rights – including the Caribbean, Latin America, francophone Africa, and South Asia. This includes proactively working with Canadian embassies, regional and local organizations. **Goal: \$400,000**

**4. Strengthen Canadian organizations that support LGBTIQ human rights work internationally.** As a network, DNC provides invaluable opportunities to connect, amplify and learn across organizations. Building upon our current work in the Act Together for Inclusion Fund (ACTIF), as many as 20 Canadian organizations currently involved in international LGBTIQ human rights work will be strengthened by the capacity building programs and resources that DNC creates to collaborate and share their work at the global level. In the next two years we will be expanding our support to more Canadian organizations in order to ensure that LGBTIQ issues and human rights are part of their international cooperation work in dozens of countries around the world. **Goal: \$400,000**



**5. Engage and educate the Canadian public around support of global LGBTIQ human rights.** A key pillar that underpins this work is to increase education and awareness among the Canadian public of the global struggle for human rights for LGBTIQ people. In collaboration with our member organizations, we will work with Canadian media, influencers, community organizations such as Pride festivals and Pride centres to increase awareness and support for our global movement. **Goal: \$400,000**

To achieve these goals, Dignity Network Canada needs your support to grow. The Beyond Borders campaign will enable the network to bring on board additional specialists with the skills, the dedication, and the passion to make this all happen.

Through our close partnership with our member organization, Rainbow Railroad, you can support the Beyond Borders campaign through a donation. Dignity Network Canada is a federally incorporated, nonprofit organization with a national Board of Directors, a global advisory board, professional staff in Toronto and Montreal, and supporters across the country.

We welcome conversations with donors who share our values and vision related to LGBTIQ human rights. We wish to enter into relationships with donors who feel a shared responsibility to address systemic and historic inequalities.

We invite donors to consider unrestricted support to permit Dignity Network Canada to work on priorities as they emerge.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO  
ENSURE THAT CANADA INCREASES  
ITS SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL  
MOVEMENT AT THIS CRITICAL  
TIME IN HISTORY FOR OUR RIGHTS  
AROUND THE WORLD.**

# OUR MEMBERSHIP

Action Against Hunger Canada  
Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights  
African Centre for Refugees  
in Ontario, Canada  
AGIR: Action LGBTQ with Immigrants  
and Refugees  
Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention  
Amnesty International Canada /  
Amnistie Internationale Canada  
Asian Community AIDS Services  
Avocats sans frontières Canada (ASFC)  
BlackCAP  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network /  
Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida  
Canadian Labour Congress  
Canadian Partnership for Women  
and Children's Health  
Capital Pride / La Fierté dans la Capitale  
Capital Rainbow Refuge  
CECI  
CGLCC – Canada's LGBTQ+  
Chamber of Commerce

Chaire de recherche sur  
l'homophobie, UQAM  
Coalition des familles LGBTQ+  
Conseil québécois LGBTQ  
CUSO International  
Dignity Canada Dignité Catholics  
Egale Canada  
Égides: Alliance internationale francophone  
pour l'égalité et les diversités  
Enchanté Network / Réseau Enchanté  
Ensemble pour le respect et de la dignité  
Equality Fund  
Equitas  
Fierté Canada Pride  
Fierté Montréal  
Fondation Émergence  
Fondation Massimadi  
FrancoQueer  
Halifax Pride  
Inter Pares  
Intersex Canada

Journalists for Human Rights

JusticeTrans

KyivPride Canada

LGBT Family Coalition /  
Coalition des familles LGBT

LGBT Purge Fund

MacEwan Centre for Sexual  
and Gender Diversity

Metropolitan Community Church Toronto

Morgane Oger Foundation

OCASI – Ontario Council of  
Agencies Serving Immigrants

Oxfam Canada

Oxfam Québec

Polonia Inclusive

Pride at Work Canada

Pride Toronto

Quebec Lesbian Network

QueerTech

Rainbow Faith and Freedom

Rainbow Railroad

Rainbow Refugee Association  
of Nova Scotia

Rainbow Refugee Society

Reaching Out Winnipeg

Stephen Lewis Foundation

The Canadian Centre for Gender  
and Sexual Diversity / Le centre  
canadien de la diversité de genres  
et de la sexualité

The United Church of Canada /  
L'Église Unie du Canada

Women's International League for Peace  
and Freedom (WILPF) Canada

Women Transforming Cities  
International Society

WUSC (World University Services of Canada)

YMCA GTA

**[WWW.DIGNITYNETWORK.CA](http://WWW.DIGNITYNETWORK.CA)**