

**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF INQUIRY
FOR ASTRAEA'S INTERNATIONAL FUND'S PANEL GRANTS?**

(Starting in the summer of 2009, non-grantees interested in support for the International Fund must submit a letter of inquiry through which it will be determined whether they can proceed to submit a full proposal. Acceptance of full applications from organizations that are not current grantee partners is **by invitation only** and unsolicited proposals will not be considered.

Current grantee partners should follow the instructions for submission of the grant renewal application form)

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- **All Letters of Inquiry must be submitted “Attention International Fund—Letter of Inquiry FY 09-10” on the subject line to grants@astraeafoundation.org. We accept Letters of Inquiry on a rolling basis (there is no specific deadline for prospective applicants). Only complete letters will be reviewed.**
 - **We will only reply to those organizations we will invite to submit a proposal. Those organizations will receive a response within a few weeks. Organizations that do not get a reply to their Letter of Inquiry after several weeks should assume that their Inquiry has not been selected.**

Criteria Check Self-Exercise: Do not submit this section as part of your inquiry

--Is your organization located in Africa, the Americas (except for Puerto Rico¹ and Cuba²), Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, or the Middle East?

--Is your organization primarily governed by and composed of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, gender non-conforming, or queer-identified?

--Does your organization work towards concrete social change to eliminate root causes of oppression and inequality faced by LGBTI people, as well as others who are penalized, persecuted or harassed for their gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation?

--Is your organization's budget under \$500,000 USD?

--Has your organization been active for at least one year?

If you answered yes to the **all the above questions**, then you are eligible to submit a letter of inquiry.

However, due to limited resources and funding strategy, Astraea is unable to support all organizations that may fit our criteria and even that fit our priorities. In particular, we do not and cannot support all LGBTI organizations doing important work outside the U.S. The process is competitive and selective and the organizations we support reflect our mission and values and fit the context of their locations. In the past few years we have supported 30-40% of applicants to this fund. Before you submit a letter of inquiry, take the time to assess whether and how much your organization fits Astraea's priorities for this fund and what is the likelihood of being invited to submit a full proposal by answering the questions below. Please note that if you are invited to submit a full proposal you will need to provide specific examples and details of how your organization matches many if not most of the Astraea priorities hinted at in the following questions:

Priorities Check Self-Exercise: Do not submit this section as part of your inquiry

-- Is your organization based in a country or location that does not yet have significant LGBTI movement resources or where Astraea has never made a grant? *You can check the grants section of our website for information on locations of current and past grants for the International Fund*

¹ Organizations based in Puerto Rico are considered under Astraea's US General Fund. Organizations in this category should review the criteria of our domestic program to assess eligibility

² Due to current U.S. government restrictions, we are unable to consider organizations based in Cuba

--Is your organization directed by and targeted to lesbians, bisexual, or queer women or transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming people or does the majority of the leadership fit within those categories?

--Is your organization led by people within LGBTI communities who are historically under-resourced, such as youth, elders, ethnic minorities, migrants/refugees, low-income people, people with disabilities, sex workers, etc.?

-- Does the organization have active participation and leadership from the communities most affected by issues that the group works on?

--Does the organization demonstrate an understanding of the connections amongst different oppressions facing LGBTI peoples, and have a commitment to address other forms of oppression such as oppression based on class, race, ethnicity, age, physical and mental ability, gender, national identity, and religious affiliation?

--Does the organization develop leadership and build communities' capacity to achieve social change, particularly proposals that strengthen an organization's ability to organize? (Community Organizing may be defined as activities that actively engage people affected by societal problems in the process of identifying and pursuing solutions.)

--Does your organization **actively** work in alliance and/or builds coalition with other justice movement organizations (e.g. feminist and women's rights movements, sex worker rights, human rights, people's rights, etc.)?

--Do your internal and/or external organizational practices reflect social justice principles (e.g. clear structures and processes for accountability to communities being served, gender and social equity in employment practices, etc)?

--Does your organization have limited access to traditional sources of funding?

FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

Please note that Astraea's **International Fund does not provide support for the following:**

- Organizations based in the U.S or its territories³, Canada, Western Europe, Australia, or New Zealand
- Organizations led and staffed by people who are not LGBTIQ-identified
- Organizations whose existence or activities cannot be verified by anyone in the country or the region where they operate
- Organizations with strong leadership from only 1 individual
- Organizations with budgets of over \$500,000USD
- Groups whose sole purpose is to generate income or to provide charity to individuals, direct social service projects, research projects, or one-time events that are not part of, or linked to, ongoing social change organizing strategies
- International organizations proposing projects with local partners
- Private business or profit-making efforts (including business development)
- Efforts that endorse candidates for public office (incl. political parties and election campaigns)
- Capital campaigns, endowments, or deficit financing
- Projects that are based in or sponsored by a university, college, or other academic institution
- Individual projects (e.g. graduate research, fellowships, etc.)

³ Organizations based in the U.S. should review the criteria for our US General Fund, to assess eligibility for our domestic program.