

Kaleidoscope Trust

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016

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FROM THE CHAIR

During 2015-16 we witnessed great strides in advancing the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people. In April 2015 the Maltese Parliament adopted the Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act recognizing the right of each person to their gender identity. In May 2015 my home country of Ireland became the first country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage by a popular referendum. In June 2015 the United States Supreme Court ruled state-level bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional allowing all Americans to enjoy the right to marry.

Elsewhere sexual and gender minorities continued to face denials of their rights, and, in many cases, escalating violence. In March 2016 we were disappointed that, once again, a bill to decriminalize homosexuality was defeated by India's Parliament, Lok Sabha. In Iraq and Syria so-called Islamic State targeted gay men often resulting in murder. At least 81 trans people were killed in 2015, that represents only the reported number and the majority of them were trans women of colour.

At the Kaleidoscope Trust we have continued to raise awareness of the high level of violence and discrimination LGBT people face across the Commonwealth wherein 90% of Commonwealth citizens live in jurisdictions where same-sex activity is a criminal offence. The colonial origin of these laws represents a unique problem for the Commonwealth and the UK - one to which we are compelled to find solutions.

We have seen enhanced commitment in the UK with the founding of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBT Rights and greater appetite within the Commonwealth to engage with the concerns and rights of LGBT people. Private sector initiatives like the Open for Business Coalition provide another potential pathway for change.

During 2015-16 the Trustees engaged in consolidating our strategy and professionalising our approach. As my term as Chair comes to an end I am confident that the Kaleidoscope Trust will continue to play a key role in the global movement to fight discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and make the world a better place for LGBT people.

John Fingleton

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My first year as Executive Director of the Kaleidoscope Trust was both rewarding and challenging. I worked hand in hand with our Trustees, staff, consultants and volunteers to strengthen our ability to fulfil our mission: to listen to the voices of LGBT people whose human rights are threatened by discrimination; amplify their messages and draw on their expertise to persuade public and political opinion to work as a catalyst for meaningful change.

I forged connections with many new colleagues and drew on my network to ensure the Trust and its partners engaged efforts to ensure that LGBT people are meaningfully included in the UN commitment to 'leave no one behind' in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Trust built on our record of developing strategic networks, bringing LGBTI activists together with British and international policy-makers and business leaders.

Our years of effort to enhance dialogue about the impact of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity within the Commonwealth led to a breakthrough and an unprecedented level of visibility of violence and discrimination that LGBT people face at the 2015 Commonwealth Summit. Our aim now is to capture the learning and good practice from our first five years of operation and turn visibility into action. I am truly grateful to all who have shown their strong support for our work and for my leadership.

Felicity Daly, DrPH

OUR TEAM

During 2015-2016, the Kaleidoscope Trust continued to professionalise as a well-established and recognised civil society organisation and a leading voice on the human rights of LGBT people in countries where they lack their equal rights. We are governed by a Board of Trustees and supported by a team of dedicated staff, consultants and volunteers. At the end of 2015 our long term team member Alistair Stewart who had served as Deputy Director, Acting Executive Director and Programme Manager left the trust to pursue new challenges in his native Australia.

The following individuals served on the Board of Trustees during 2015-2016:

Philippa Drew CB

Simon Fanshawe OBE

John Fingleton Chair

Daniela Herrmann Company Secretary

Rev Jide Macaulay

Sinéad McBrearty Treasurer

Trevor Phillips OBE

David Sampson

Winnie Sseruma

Sir Stephen Wall

Sean Winnett MBE

Former Members

Siddharth Deva Chair, until December 2015

Linda Jackson Treasurer, until December 2015

Dr. Purna Sen until July 2015

Sunil Pant until July 2015

BUILDING EFFECTIVE LGBT MOVEMENTS

The advancement of the rights of LGBTI people will result primarily from a deep change in culture within countries. While there can be many causes and catalysts for change, one that is essential is to have strong leaders. Whether professional LGBT activists or individuals who are out in their public or professional lives, they will be the ones who slowly but surely change the hearts and minds of those around them. Our vision is for a stronger and bolder cohort of LGBT leaders across countries who are better supported, better networked with each other, better equipped with evidence, better connected with decision-makers and those who influence them, so that their influence individually and collectively grows.

The Trust co-founded the Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN) in 2013 to provide a dedicated platform for promoting the human rights of LGBT people in the Commonwealth. A sustained pan-Commonwealth platform has provided unique opportunities for LGBT activists to engage with and be heard by Commonwealth institutions and their own member states. Throughout the year we actively engaged in the Network, served as Treasurer and raised essential resources to carry out our joint advocacy strategy.

Starting early in 2015 the Kaleidoscope Trust focused on planning, in close collaboration with TCEN members and other partner organisations, to raise LGBT visibility at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) Chaired by Malta in November 2015. The Trust hosted representatives from TCEN in October 2015 for three days of strategic engagement to finalise a shared advocacy platform for CHOGM with two headline asks: opposition to violence on any grounds and the need to implement the Sustainable Development Goals/Agenda 2030 in a fully inclusive manner. Experienced Commonwealth policy experts provided TCEN members with a deeper understanding of the procedural issues required to effectively influence outcomes of the CHOGM.

The meeting was held the week before negotiations opened on the Commonwealth Leaders' Communiqué and there were timely interventions

with key stakeholders in the diplomatic community as well as engagement with UK Parliamentary allies and among Commonwealth civil society organisations. The law firm of Baker McKenzie hosted a public panel providing LGBT activists from Belize, Kenya, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Tonga an opportunity to share how they are challenging discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity at their national level and to explain why they find a focus on the Commonwealth an important forum for the campaign for global LGBT equality.

In November the Trust was able to send a delegation of eight TCEN members from all regions of the Commonwealth to Malta. Together we achieved several historic outcomes at the 2015 CHOGM. For the first time the human rights of LGBTI people were discussed on the official agenda of the Commonwealth People's Forum. Two sessions on the rights of LGBTI people were held: the first, an innovative Policy Dialogue between LGBTI civil society and policy makers which was Chaired by a DFID Minister and the second provided a platform to LGBT activists alone. Both were exceptionally well attended.

TCEN delegates also attended the first ever Commonwealth Women's Forum where the Trust's Executive Director made the only dedicated presentation on sexual and gender minority women's issues. TCEN members also informed the approaches to gender and sexuality issues taken up by delegates to the Youth Forum from the Commonwealth Youth Gender and Equality Network (CYGEN). Outcomes of this engagement are clear in the language supporting the rights of LGBT people that appeared in the People's, Women's and Youth Forum statements. The Malta Declaration from the People's Forum was particularly strong on SOGI using language directly informed by the key advocacy positions developed by the Kaleidoscope Trust in conjunction with TCEN.

At the first ever open debate among candidates for Secretary General the TCEN member from St Lucia was called on to ask how the candidates would advance the rights of LGBTI people in the Commonwealth. Baroness Patricia Scotland's response focused on helping member states understand the "direct correlation the human capacity, social development in a country and its wealth" and she said that she hopes the Commonwealth will have "a real conversation, where we acknowledge the humanity in each other and bring out the best that there can be."

During a meeting between civil society and Commonwealth Foreign Ministers the TCEN member from Barbados raised the need for anti-discrimination legislation and protection laws for LGBTI people across the

Commonwealth. Canada and the Bahamas spoke in support of her intervention and St Vincent and the Grenadines echoed Pope Francis' sentiments 'who am I to judge'. After she spoke not one country spoke against - in the past after any mention of LGBTI issues Ministers would have objected - that's progress!

The TCEN delegation resulted in the rights of LGBTI people being consistently raised across civil society by a group that was diverse in terms of identity, ethnicity, gender, faith and country of origin and achieved an unprecedented level of visibility of the issues facing LGBTI people at CHOGM 2015. Language ultimately included in the Heads' Communiqué which was suggested by LGBTI civil society emphasised "the need to protect individuals from all forms of violence and discrimination".

The trust was honoured to be able to engage with these activists, our colleagues at the Royal Commonwealth Society and our supporters at the Commonwealth Foundation. We are very energised having seen tangible results of the Trust and TCEN's efforts over the last several years and look forward to continuing our engagement with the Commonwealth Secretariat under Patricia Scotland's leadership. Our aim now is to capture the learning and good practice from the 2015 process and implement a programme of activities to turn visibility into action at CHOGM 2018 Chaired by the UK.

In March the Trust coordinated the nomination for TCEN to select a new group of leaders who will work together to address inequality throughout the Commonwealth. The officers of TCEN's Management Committee are:

Chair - EQUAL GROUND, Sri Lanka
Co-Chair - Access Chapter 2, South Africa
Secretary - United Belize Advocacy Movement
Treasurer - Kaleidoscope Trust, UK

The management committee is also comprised of Regional Representatives and these are now drawn from every part of the Commonwealth including:

Africa - Sexual Minorities Uganda
Americas - United and Strong, St Lucia
Asia - Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Bangladesh
Europe - Malta Gay Rights Movement
Pacific - Pacific Sexual Diversity Network

With the support of the Management Committee the Trust is seeking ways to support and expand the TCEN membership and work with LGBT activists in Commonwealth member states who have yet to engage their national governments around a coordination approach to ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and engender a 'Commonwealth solution to a Commonwealth problem.'

The Trust has also contributed to the development of other Commonwealth civil society platforms challenging discrimination. In May we participated in the launch of the Commonwealth Youth Gender and Equality Network (CYGEN). Convened by the Royal Commonwealth Society, the network brings together young experts from over 20 countries. At their inaugural meeting, the Trust's Programme Manager supported young Commonwealth experts on the challenges facing people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics to develop policy recommendations. CYGEN issued a statement that urged Commonwealth institutions to *"include an understanding of the needs of people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identities, gender expression and sex characteristics, developed in consultation with civil society"*.

We are also helping UK based activists to understand the opportunities and challenges in focusing on the Commonwealth. In February our Executive Director attended ACT UP London's launch of their Silence = 40 campaign which aims to fight the criminalisation of homosexuality across the Commonwealth, given that criminalisation is a driver of HIV infection as well as increasing stigma and discrimination. She spoke about the historic firsts that were achieved by TCEN at the Malta CHOGM and helped inform how ACT UP might position their campaign. She stressed how important collaboration will be among UK Civil Society groups will be in order to ensure the best possible results for the UK based CHOGM in 2018.

The Trust has also leveraged support for LGBT activists living in the UK who have left their home countries after facing persecution on the basis of their sexuality or gender identity. We funded Out & Proud Diamond Group to travel to Canterbury Cathedral in January 2016 to protest against the Anglican Primates meeting. This high level meeting of the global Anglican Church included the heads of the Church of Nigeria, the Church of Uganda and others with a record for discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. They called on the Primates

to support LGBTI people in the Church and outside the Church and to campaign against persecution of LGBTI people.

Following the protest, Archbishop Revd Justin Welby personally apologised to the activists from Out and Proud Diamond Group and all LGBT people for the "hurt and pain" caused by the Anglican Church, stating that it is a "constant source of deep sadness that people are persecuted for their sexuality". The Trust is seeking other opportunities to support the Archbishop of Canterbury and other religious leaders to reconcile the position of their faith community in ways that respect the rights of LGBT people.

The Trust is one among many peer organisations who work in solidarity with LGBT organisations around the world. In October we collaborated with Stonewall's International team to co-host the annual meeting of the Amsterdam Network which we are both members of. The Network brings together European and American civil society organisations and funders who support LGBTI movements internationally, including through lobbying their own governments to ensure they are doing no harm to LGBTI people. During the London meeting members benefited from discussion about their partnerships abroad and the ethics of and approaches to supporting LGBT activism in countries outside one's own constituency.

We reviewed how the Sustainable Development Goals could be used as a framework to challenge discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and hold governments to account on their commitment and ensure LGBTI people are included in the benefits of social and economic development. The Trust contributed to the Network's thinking around tracking Official Development Assistance which donor governments, like the UK, contribute to advance social and economic development in recipient countries. With better data we will be able to hold governments to account to fund their commitment to 'leave no one behind'. We have further refined our research on resource tracking through analysis of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development database and publications of our findings are forthcoming.

MOBILISING LEADERSHIP

Throughout the year we utilised our established relationships with UK parliamentarians and officials who oversee foreign and development policy and relations with the Commonwealth to spread awareness among policy-makers about the situation of LGBT people in countries where they lack their equal rights, particularly in Commonwealth member states. We urge UK leaders to use their power, influence and voice in support of the human rights of LGBT people and generate debate and discussion to effect real change for LGBT communities abroad.

Since the May 2015 general election we have endeavoured to raise global LGBT concerns on the agendas of parliamentarians as well as ministers and officials at the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). After the election we wrote to all new LGBT MPs calling on them to act on LGBT rights internationally and work with us to make sure that LGBT rights are included in foreign and development policy and practice. We also wrote to all Ministers at DFID and the FCO and soon afterwards met with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DFID and the Head of Human Rights at the FCO. We continue to advise both departments around ways to ensure that the United Kingdom does all it can to support the global struggle against discrimination and criminalisation based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

We welcomed DFID's new 'approach on LGBT rights' and have taken several opportunities to help inform its implementation. In January our Executive Director attended a roundtable discussion with Baroness Verma, then Minister at DFID, with colleagues from international development non-governmental organisations to identify opportunities to support implementation of the new approach. The Trust is particularly concerned that LGBT rights defenders in Commonwealth countries are able to access DFID funding. We have stressed to DFID that the approach should be

undertaken with enhanced cross government cohesion, particularly identifying synergies with the FCO's human rights work.

We also called for cross Whitehall coordination to strengthen a coherent approach to UK's promotion and protection of the rights of LGBT people around the world in our Foreign Affairs Committee inquiry on Human Rights. We stressed that funding should be allocated to community based LGBT organisations, highlighted the need to promote LGBT rights within UN agencies and with the private sector, and encouraged sharing of good practice on LGBT rights across missions. We strongly urged the FCO to seize the unique opportunity of the UK's hosting of the next CHOGM in 2018 in order to promote the end of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in other Commonwealth member states.

Since early 2013 the Parliamentary Friends of the Kaleidoscope Trust, which was chaired by Crispin Blunt MP, served as a forum for regular briefings with Parliamentarians. In June 2015 MPs and Peers across party lines formed an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Global LGBT Rights to serve as a dedicated forum to help tackle breaches of LGBT rights around the world and push LGBT rights issues forward in Parliament.

The Trust attended the APPG's inaugural event hosted by our Patron - and the new APPG's Patron, Speaker of the House Rt Hon John Bercow MP, alongside other UK domestic and international LGBT groups and business leaders. The group's Chair, Nick Herbert MP, acknowledged the importance of the Kaleidoscope Trust's Parliamentary Friends in laying the foundations for the current APPG. After its founding the APPG launched an enquiry into LGBT rights abuses internationally to understand the pressing issues. The Trust submitted written evidence to the inquiry and were called before the officers of the APPG to provide oral evidence.

The Trust also helps inform policy makers in other countries working to combat violence and discrimination against LGBT people. In June we had the privilege of meeting Special Envoy Randy Berry, the US State Department's senior diplomat promoting the human rights of LGBT people. When Special Envoy Berry visited the UK again in September the Trust hosted a roundtable that allowed him to meet members of the diplomatic community working on Commonwealth approaches to human rights. We hosted representatives of Australia, Bahamas, Canada, the UK and key civil society partners to brief the Special Envoy on developments regarding our advocacy to

advance the human rights of LGBT people in Commonwealth countries. We explored what we can collectively do, particularly in partnership with TCEN to maximise opportunities at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in November.

In May we held the last in our series of round-table discussions with High Commissioners to the UK, drawn from both criminalising and non-criminalising Commonwealth member states. Run in conjunction with the Royal Commonwealth Society, these discussions provided participants a place to listen, learn and share the challenges they face in advancing the human rights of LGBT people and support their access to basic services, including health and education, in their respective countries.

Over the year the leadership of the Commonwealth Secretariat changed and following the end of his term the Trust wrote to express our gratitude to Kamallesh Sharma for the increasingly strong statements of support for an end to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the Commonwealth. Secretary-General Sharma's statement marking the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia 2015 stated that LGBT Commonwealth citizens remain victims of stigma and discrimination and suffer persecution, violence and marginalisation and he urged member states to *"find ways of working together to strengthen universal rights so that all our citizens are able to enjoy what should be their Commonwealth birth right."*

We welcomed the election of the new Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, Baroness Scotland of Asthal. In March just before taking up her post the Secretary General designate held a gathering at Wilton Park aimed to provide her with a range of perspectives on some contentious issues she may face when advancing Commonwealth values, particularly human rights and to get insights into the priorities key Commonwealth partners are asserting. The Trust's Executive Director reflected on the breakthrough on visibility around LGBT concerns achieved in Malta and relayed how much the Trust and TCEN members appreciated the Baroness' positive remarks on advancing a conversation on the rights of LGBT people amongst member states. We offered the Trust's support for Secretary-General Scotland's efforts and made a commitment to ensure that the perspectives of LGBT activists from member states in the global south shapes civil society's strategy towards the next CHOGM.

RAISING VISIBILITY

Although successful campaigns for the rights of LGBT people can only be waged from within a country, activists at the forefront need the support of their allies around the world. The Trust is committed to raising awareness of the challenges faced by LGBT people in countries where they lack their equal rights and we offer a series of events throughout the year and publish research to help the UK public understand these contexts. We are passionate about finding ways to effectively support LGBT activists and organisations on the ground and learning from their expertise to develop innovative ways to meet the challenges they face.

Annual Lectures

This year we continued our successful lecture series in partnership with our corporate sponsors, J.P. Morgan and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Our lectures were attended by activists, business leaders, media, our supporters, policy-makers and researchers.

To mark the International Day Against Homophobia and Bipobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), the Trust hosted an event in May 2015 at J.P. Morgan's lecture theatre in London's Canary Wharf. With the support from our sponsors we brought together three young activists from around the Commonwealth who discussed the challenges tackled by LGBTI youth in keeping with the global focus on LGBTI Youth for IDAHOBIT 2015. Donnya D. Piggott, co-founder and Executive Director of Barbados Gays, Lesbians and All-Sexuals Against Discrimination (B-GLAD); Leng Montgomery, Trans* activist from the UK; and Silas Mukangu, a sexual health and rights activist from Kenya, each delivered a presentation within the annual lecture. These young leaders talked about how they are stepping up to meet challenges they and their peers face and how they are forging understanding and acceptance within their own communities.

Our Third Annual Human Rights Lecture held in January 2016 at J.P. Morgan's Great Hall was delivered by Baroness Sandip Verma, then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development. Baroness Verma discussed

the economic cost of oppressing minorities and the importance of ensuring 'no one is left behind' as promised by world leaders who endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals. She also shared DFID's approach to advancing the rights of LGBT people, which was published soon after the event, including: the need to build the evidence base, the focus on facilitating and strengthening LGBT voices in the global south to drive local change, the need to strengthen international organisations' positions around the rights of LGBT people, and to ensure that LGBT issues are addressed across all of DFID's programmes. The Baroness acknowledged the Trust's and the Commonwealth Equality Network's role in promoting greater dialogue on LGBTI rights at the CHOGM, which she also contributed to, and the importance of maintaining momentum.

Research

In April 2015 the Trust and the Royal Commonwealth Society launched a groundbreaking new report *Collaboration and Consensus*, which considers how to work on challenges faced by LGBT people through Commonwealth processes. The report examines some of the ways in which Commonwealth institutions, nations and civil society can begin to use some of the unique mechanisms of the Commonwealth to address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This report is the first in a series of papers looking at how the rights of LGBT people can be addressed within the Commonwealth context.

In November we released our biennial report, *Speaking Out 2015: the rights of LGBTI people across the Commonwealth*, which documents the Commonwealth's poor record in protecting the rights of its LGBTI citizens. Drawing on contributions from LGBTI human rights organisations from across the Commonwealth, *Speaking Out 2015* includes testimonies from LGBTI people in almost every Commonwealth country to reveal pervasive and debilitating discrimination and violence. The facts and compelling voices we present in this report were a key way to urge Commonwealth decision makers to take action to overcome the discrimination and violence faced by LGBTI people during our advocacy at the 2015 CHOGM.

The Trust collaborated with the Brunswick Group to support the development of their report, *Open for Business: the economic and business case for global LGB&T inclusion*. We supported the lead author Jon Miller by reaching out to

key activists and organisations in the global LGBT community to canvas their views on the formation of the Open for Business coalition of companies and explore how evidence supporting the business case for diversity can be useful in their local, national and regional level advocacy.

The Trust contributed to efforts to build a global evidence base on LGBTI inclusion. The United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights convened an Expert Group Meeting on Measuring LGBTI Inclusion in New York in September 2015 which our Executive Director attended. She worked with other participants to identify the highest priority data gaps related to LGBTI peoples' experience of: health disparities, economic disempowerment, civic and political participation and personal security, violence and discrimination. In December this was followed up in a consultation organised by OutRight Action International and ILGA. Our Executive Director worked at this meeting alongside over 50 LGBTI rights activists to provide feedback to UNDP on the development of a new LGBTI inclusion index.

The index would represent an important step towards ensuring that LGBTI persons are represented in data collected by governments. These UN agencies have committed to spearheading a 'data revolution' to ensure that implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is inclusive of LGBTI people's needs and rights. The Trust looks forward to continuing to realise the ambition of this project through partnerships with the UN, civil society and academia.

In March 2016 the Trust and University College London Institute of Education co-hosted a research seminar on LGBT Rights to Development held at the London International Development Centre (LIDC). The seminar explored themes of research on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression being carried out in the Bloomsbury colleges that are members of the LIDC and also allowed the Trust to share current research agendas, particularly the development of the UNDP inclusion index. The seminar provided an opportunity for LIDC member faculty and students and practitioners in non-governmental organisations to discuss their research and identify new opportunities to contribute to the research around LGBT peoples' right to development.

In November 2015 the Trust and the APPG on Global LGBT Rights hosted the launch of a ground-breaking report *Standing Out: Transgender Candidates*

and Elected Officials Around the World published by The LGBTQ Representation and Rights Research Initiative of the University of North Carolina. The report was presented by its authors Logan S. Casey and Andrew Reynolds and commented on by a panel chaired by Ben Howlett MP and included Sara Brown former Cambridge city Counsellor and Bemz Benedito, a candidate in the Philippines. These trans officials discussed how the findings of the research reflected their personal challenges within parliamentary systems and official bodies and what can be done to promote greater representation of trans people in these roles.

Media

Throughout the year we received comprehensive coverage in the media, allowing us to comment and participate in public debate on global LGBT rights. Over the course of the year we were featured in *The Advocate*, BuzzFeed, *Erasing 76 Crimes*, *Gay Star News*, *Gay Star Business*, *The Guardian*, *Herald Scotland*, *The Independent*, *KaleidoScot*, *Malta Today*, *QX Magazine* and *PinkNews*.

Our work generated content in prominent mainstream publications, such as the *the Guardian's* June 2015 feature on the fight within the global LGBT community for basic human rights and the *Independent's* November 2015 coverage of our role in promoting LGBT rights in the Commonwealth.

The Trust's Executive Director was interviewed for a BBC World television broadcast in July 2015 to speak about what charities and human rights organisations can do in cases of government and non-state persecution in response to the brutal campaign against gay men in Iraq and Syria.

Our social media platforms continued to enhance our visibility and we are very grateful to our volunteer Andrea Speziale-Bagliacca for keeping our feeds full of interesting posts. In October 2015 we undertook a review of our social media impact with the help of Shape History. They worked with us to launch a video that drew attention to some of the LGBT human rights defenders who were part of our delegation to Malta for the 2015 CHOGM. We received great feedback on the messages of video which featured TCEN members reflecting on what keeps them resilient as they conduct their vital activism.

OUR SUPPORTERS

The Trust is funded through major gifts from individuals and corporations, small gifts from online donations and fund-raising events as well as by grants awarded by trusts and foundations.

Over the past year the Trust's fundraising efforts diversified as an increase of individuals sought to support the work of the Kaleidoscope Trust in various ways. Challenge events fundraising continue to grow through our Virgin Giving and Just Giving platforms with supporters participating in a wide range of sporting events, such as the extreme obstacle course Tough Mudder and the Prudential Ride from London to Surrey.

Fashion label Clustar and designers Lawrence Goldberg and Lorna Onabanjo held fashion shows in London and Manchester to present their creations whilst fundraising for the Trust among their audience. Several couples kindly asked their wedding guests to donate to the Trust in lieu of gifts. Students also fundraised for us during campus awareness raising events. Two of our long-time supporters hosted fundraising cocktail parties in their London homes in October and November allowing guests to learn more about our work in an informal setting.

In January 2016 we held our annual Gala Dinner and charity auction at The Hyatt Regency Churchill Hotel in London, sponsored by Fingleton Associates, EUK Consulting, EY, The Hippodrome Casino, Hyatt Regency, J.P. Morgan and The Providores and Tapa Room with media partner Pink News. The audience of 200 heard why our President Rt. Hon John Bercow MP, the House of Commons Speaker, strongly supports our work, learned more about our role in coordinating the Commonwealth Equality Network, listed to the co-founder of the network, Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, a LGBT rights activist from Sri Lanka and were treated to a performance from British singer-songwriter Dan Gillespie Sells.

The proceeds raised from the night came close to £60,000 which allowed us to continue our advocacy work and support to LGBT activists abroad. The gala's success depended on a team comprised of Trustees, consultants, staff and volunteers and the generous support of Lord Cashman, Philippa Drew, Troels Levering, Simon Millson, John Roberts and Anthony Watson.

The Trust was pleased to draw on the second instalment of a three year grant for core funding from the Esmé Fairbairn Foundation, in memory of Paul Cottingham and the contribution he made to the Trust. We received support from Network for Social Change to undertake a project review and partner survey that informed our strategic planning and the development of our portfolio of projects. We also welcomed a grant from the J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust.

Our advocacy programme for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting was supported with funding from the Baring Foundation, the government of Canada, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Royal Commonwealth Society and an individual donor. The Trust also benefitted from the continued generous support of JP Morgan and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer for our lecture series on IDAHOBIT and Human Rights Day.