

London Report 2024: The short read

The evidence in this report is informed by the experiences and expertise of 72 LGBT+ organisations, groups and projects across London as gathered through a survey and interviews between May - July 2023.

London LGBT+ organisations operate in extremely difficult systemic and political contexts, working relentlessly against rising anti-LGBT+ violence, the hostile environment, criminalisation, the cost-of-living crisis and the worsening material reality of LGBT+ Londoners. The report has two main purposes:

(1) To contribute to the evidence base on the challenges and visions of LGBT+ organisations, so that they in turn can use it to build cases of support; and (2) To outline clear actions that key organisations inside LGBT+ sectors and beyond can take to support the sustainability, resources and resilience of London's LGBT+ organisations.

Key facts and figures

Over half (52.7%) of London's LGBT+ organisations have an annual income of £10,000 or less.	Almost 2 in 3 (58.1%) London LGBT+ organisations are fully run by volunteers.
68.9% of London LGBT+ organisations are concerned about finding funding for core services in the next 12 months.	Near half (47.3%) of London LGBT+ organisations are worried about their staff and volunteers burning out.

Income breakdown of responding organisations:

Zero	9.5%
Up to £1,000	18.9%
£1,001 - £10,000	24.3%
£10,001 - £20,000	2.7%
£20,001 - £50,000	10.8%
£50,001 - £100,000	8.1%
£100,001 - £500,000	6.8%
£500,000 - £1M	8.1%
Above £1M	10.8%

The top sources of income reported are grants (67.2%); donations (64.2%); individual giving (38.8%); event tickets (20.9%); trading (19.4%) and local authority funding (16.4%).

Asking LGBT+ organisations what they think their biggest challenges in the coming year will be: 68.9% said finding funding for core services; 51.4% said capacity and 50% said increased demand on activities and services.

LGBT+ sector snapshots

- Nearly half (48.8%) of volunteer-led organisations have an annual income of £1,000 or less, and 67% of volunteer-led organisations have used personal funds at least once to run an activity or service at their organisation.
- LGBT+ people are more at risk of insecure housing conditions due to structural barriers, and LGBT+ housing organisations of all sizes experience unprecedented demand of their services.
- LGBT+ organisations working within a health context navigate scepticism and often hostility when working to improve health outcomes, especially for trans, non-binary and gender diverse people.
- In February 2024 the only national charity dedicated to support LGBT+ people over 50, Opening Doors, closed their operations due to ongoing financial challenges. This is an immeasurable loss for older LGBT+ people and a shock to UK LGBT+ sectors.
- LGBT+ faith groups in our sample find it challenging to access funding to sustain themselves, and they also feel excluded from LGBT+ spaces due to lack of faith literacy in LGBT+ communities.

Key asks from London LGBT+ organisations

Better access to long-term unrestricted funding

Increased collaboration in and beyond LGBT+ sectors

More support for intersectional organisations

More accessible, inclusive and sober LGBT+ spaces

Urgent investment into LGBT+ specialist services

LGBT+ awareness training for all public services

LGBT+ sectors have access to just 0.6% of charity funding, and our evidence demonstrates the pressing need for more funding to ensure not only the survival but also the future development of London LGBT+ organisations. The above asks are fully actionable with coordination and adequate funding. Now is the time for businesses, funders, local authorities, and statutory services to increase their investment into LGBT+ organisations.