

inroads 2022 Report

Our Abortion Justice Ecosystem

Nurturing the movements building a world free of abortion stigma





Content

03 Foreword from our Executive Director

08 Our global community

17 Busting abortion stigma through art and narrative change

21 Power building to support growth and resilience

23 Shifting power and amplifying stigma-busting voices

25 Powering abortion justice across the world

30 Join us

05 Who we are

14 Resourcing the movements

20 Community spaces for global solidarity and mutual learning

22 Tools and resources to strengthen our movements

24 Reshaping systems through our collective power

27 This year in numbers

31 Credits

Foreword from our Executive Director

Dear Community,



During 2022 we were honored to keep nurturing the resilience and persistence of our community making inroads on abortion stigma.

Major setbacks in the social relations and judicial systems in the Global North/Minority exacerbated our fears, changed markets, caused some new lines to be crossed and new walls to be erected. It was a year we saw coming as abortion activists have always needed to have their eyes on those ever present revanchist threats. Whether it be ongoing war in Ukraine, a temporary success of extreme right wing focus on forced birth in the United States, divisions among movements attempting to essentialize gender and exclude those of us who don't subscribe or fit their essentials, or ongoing migration and housing instability for millions, this year brought another set of challenges that our communities diversity and experience was uniquely prepared to stand against. We came together, and we have fights yet, as we always have.

While across the world abortion justice milestones and setbacks made headlines, often giving the impression of disjointed and isolated abortion movements, at the core our abortion community ecosystem was always connected, building bridges of solidarity, mutual learning, and care across borders.

In this letter to our powerful community, I want to encourage you keep your gaze wide even more when we are faced with never ending challenges. When we are afraid - isolated, besieged, exhausted- it makes some physical, some social sense to narrow our gaze. Our bodies do that narrowing to survive, get us laser focused on the specific threat to avoid or defeat it to get back to safety.

Narrowing in fear is what our bodies may tell us to do.

Our states and societies have told us we deserve less space, less grace, less respect for who we are and what we do, so why not give in to our biological and societal narrowing of focus?

Precisely when we're afraid and searching for the minimum to get by, that's when we need to look to our ideological, our emotional, our community, our intellectual, our lived, and our social abundance.

Our way out of fear is through feeling it, then connecting, affiliating, adapting, asking, saying it out loud, taking up space, trying, supporting each other, and showing up. That's what the inroads community and the abortion justice ecosystem embodies. Breaking away from narrow and stigmatizing narratives and realities, together. Building community and collective power across our abortion movements.

In order to widen our gaze and relish the abundances among us, we need to see each other, support each other, hold the line for each other, fight and care for each other to have what we all need to be safe, fed, and rested.

When we have those basic needs met, we can feel the fear but keep our horizons wide. The wider our horizons, the greater the abundances of political wins, of accompanying people who would have had no abortions or have their abortions alone, of new allies or supply lines, of people able to break silence.

As you continue this hard and scary work, and you feel the urge to narrow, know this community of people are ready to listen, to see, to support, to throw our gazes and arms open wide with you.

Katie Gillum
inroads Executive Director



Who we are

The International Network for the Reduction of Abortion Discrimination and Stigma (inroads) is a global network and community of practice dedicated to learning, skill-sharing, and making sustainable and measurable changes to reduce abortion stigma and its discriminatory outcomes locally and across the globe.



[Learn more about our current strategic goals and the values that guide our work here.](#)

Our vision

We envision a world where abortion care is centered around the needs, experiences, and leadership of those who have abortions, and where stigma, fear, and misinformation about abortion can be eradicated through collective culture change to eliminate abortion stigma. We as inroads members are creating a future where we, people who have, accompany, provide, research, and advocate for abortions, have the tools to transform systemic, legal, medical, and interpersonal levels of stigma so that **people can be free to experience abortion on their own terms.**

Our mission

We work towards freedom for past, present, and future abortion seekers by funding movements and strengthening connections within the global community of abortion advocates, artists, scholars, activists, journalists, community workers, and providers.



Values

Community Care



The network values care in the abortions we want to destigmatize, in the work we do, and in the way we treat each other as fellow members in the network. We seek a world where abortions are considered normal and allowed to have the meaning and valence relevant to the person having that abortion; where people can access the abortions they need or want, with dignity and humanity. We believe support, exchange, and uplifting each other are integral to the work of ending stigma.

Equity



We come together with different needs, unequal backgrounds, and diverse contexts, and we acknowledge and consciously address these. We intentionally turn systems upside-down to see them better, remake them, or dismantle those preventing our success and progress. We hold an intersectional feminist approach, that understands our intersecting social identities and experiences, to co-create our collective liberation. We center lived experiences of abortion and abortion stigma, we shift narratives of scarcity to abundance, and we challenge the power.

Authentic Engagement



Experience is expertise at inroads, and thus there are multiple ways to “make inroads” on abortion stigma. Members share, be, learn, listen, act, make decisions, and steer the direction of the network. When we engage in a circular process of reflection and action, we connect and create the community of practice. We nurture our differences as strengths that allow us to generate spaces of honest learning, shared desires, and radical support.

Fearless Passion



We are aflame with the conviction that a conscious, committed, and multifaceted strategy will pave the way for a world without abortion stigma. We challenge any boundaries or binaries that are put on us--they have no place in our liberation--and we vibrantly celebrate each other’s successes and observe the failures. We are one and many, authentic and creative, accountable to only ourselves and our communities. We will end abortion stigma, and we will do it together.

Branches of our work

How do we bust abortion stigma and support the reproductive justice movement?

Community Resourcing

Through a participatory and community-centric grantmaking model, we provide flexible funding that supports local, regional, and global abortion stigma busting work and the reproductive justice movement.

Solidarity and Power Building

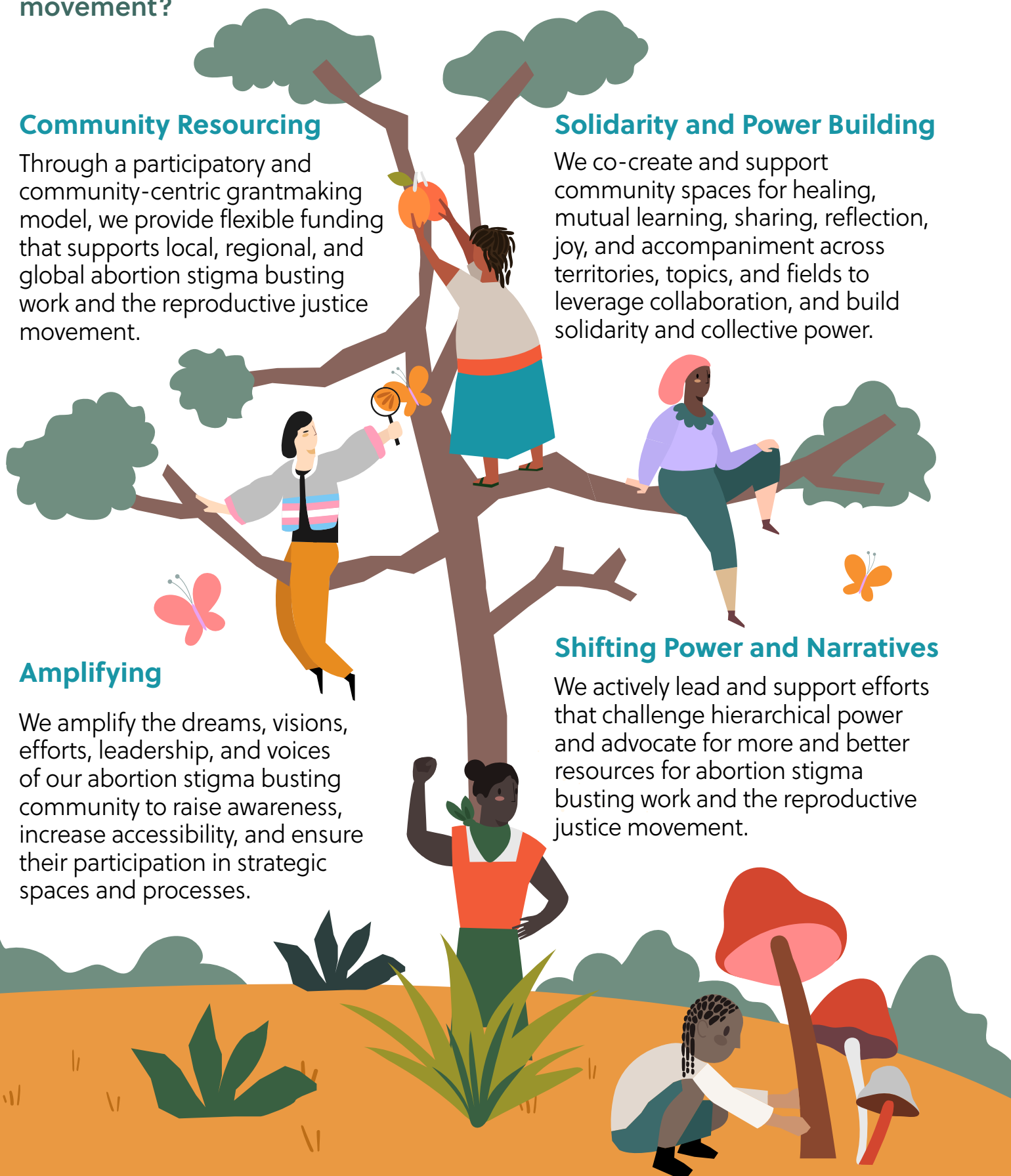
We co-create and support community spaces for healing, mutual learning, sharing, reflection, joy, and accompaniment across territories, topics, and fields to leverage collaboration, and build solidarity and collective power.

Amplifying

We amplify the dreams, visions, efforts, leadership, and voices of our abortion stigma busting community to raise awareness, increase accessibility, and ensure their participation in strategic spaces and processes.

Shifting Power and Narratives

We actively lead and support efforts that challenge hierarchical power and advocate for more and better resources for abortion stigma busting work and the reproductive justice movement.



Our flourishing Global community



Members

2,100+ members
from 119 countries.



Grantee Partner Countries

141 projects from 113 grantee
partners in 45 countries.



Staff Countries

9 members from: Colombia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Saint Lucia,
United States of America, United Kingdom and Venezuela.



These are numbers as of December 31, 2022. The number of members and countries represented is constantly growing.

2022 Members Survey Reflections

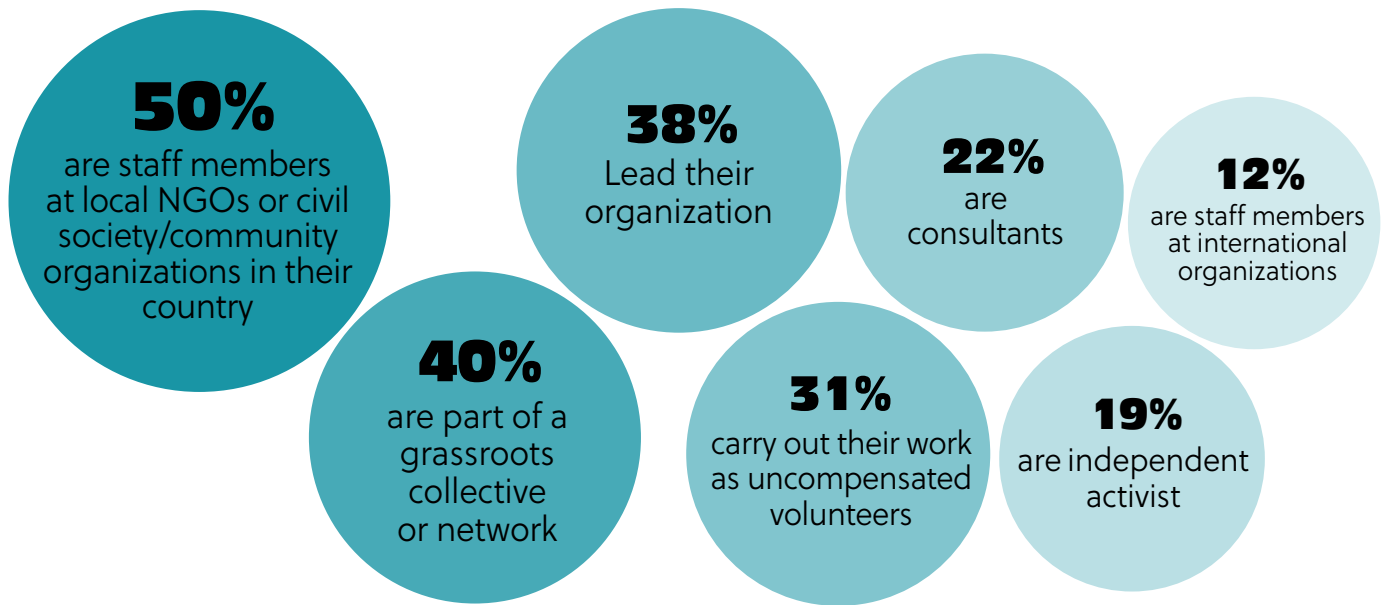
Our members' focus on diverse areas of work and often lead efforts with multilayered approaches to bust abortion stigma and achieve reproductive justice. These are the categories they selected to best describe the focus areas of their work on abortion.



65%	Campaigning & communications
56%	Community Activist
55%	Policy change
43%	Program Implementation
32%	Research and evaluation
30%	Individual Activist
29%	Accompanying abortions (Abortion doula, escort, or acompañante)
27%	Providing abortions outside health systems
23%	Art and culture change
18%	Providing abortions in health systems
17%	Academia
8%	Fundraiser
7%	Funding abortions (Donor, foundation, fund)

1 240 members participated in this survey carried out at the end of 2022.

Sharing about their role & work to bust abortion stigma, members that completed the survey indicated that:



The impact of being part of the inroads community

Surveyed inroads member sharing about the impact the inroads community has in their work, indicating that being part of inroads:



84% feel part of a global movement to end abortion stigma.

81% understanding of abortion stigma has increased.

67% feel that inroads is a source of care and solidarity in their work to end stigma.



"For me inroads is a oasis for abortion right activists. In this space, I feel comfortable and supported. I get new ideas and support. It means a lot for me."

Member from Thailand

61% feel that their access to relevant abortion stigma resources has increased.



"I have learned so much and evolved into a better-equipped advocate for ending stigma and improving access. I went from being afraid and averse to using the word abortion to being proud to use it."

Member from the United States



"I have become a lot more unapologetic in my work - feeling pride for my peers who do abortion work has helped me feel more secure and proud in my own work."

Member from Sweden

59% capacity to design stigma reduction activities has increased.

54% ability to measure abortion stigma has increased.

40% ability to amplify resources and tools with the movement has increased.

38% have developed new partnerships in their work to end stigma.



"I am more comfortable discussing abortion issues and the network equipped me with the knowledge that made me confident to take initiatives to challenge abortion stigma in my community."

Member from Rwanda



"Feeling part of a global movement and fighting for the elimination of the stigma associated with abortion worldwide makes my daily work much more pleasant, feeling more support and confident to work on abortion."

Member from Mexico

For them, the most useful aspects of being an inroads member are:

72%

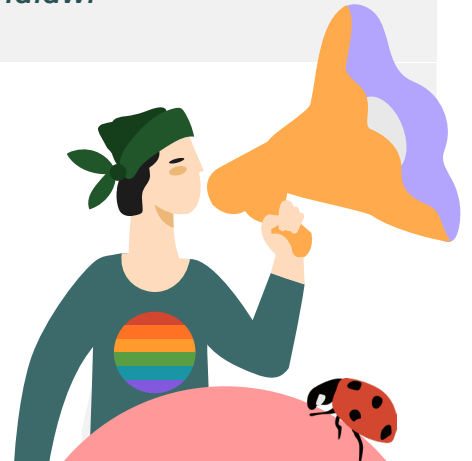
having access to tools and resources on abortion stigma



"In our country, abortion is criminalized, and when I was joining and starting my advocacy work, I was afraid even to mention the word. Through this community, I have learned and evolved, and I am comfortable and bold these days when talking about abortions."
Member from Malawi



Our local context of legal restrictions and growing fundamentalism can be intimidating and forces us to be extra-careful when promoting abortion rights. However, being part of inroads reassures me of the importance of our local work and provides me with the confidence that a global community has my back. Discussions from the inroads community are constantly inspiring my work and activism."
Member from Brazil



66%

feeling part of a wider community working on abortion stigma

63%

building relationships with other individuals/ organisations working on abortion stigma



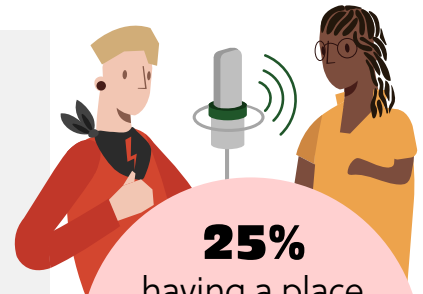
"inroads helped me understand and collaborate with international organizations and activists and compare/analyze abortion laws and policies of other countries with mine. I have also adapted successful campaign strategies from member organizations that have been impactful."
Member from India

47%

having access to funding opportunities for work on abortion stigma



*"Connections with organizations and people working for abortion, a forum where I can discuss and share my learnings and observation, where I learn about funding for safe abortion. It is not only a source of capacity building for me, but it builds the capacity of my organization."
Member from Pakistan*



25% having a place to ask questions and seek support for their work on abortion stigma

Dismantling stigmatizing narratives to break away from the isolation and silence that abortion stigma imposes at all levels, including within the reproductive justice movement, is at the core of inroads and our community's abortion stigma-busting work.



We are proud to share that 76% of surveyed members affirmed that since joining inroads their comfort level to openly discussing their work on abortion has increased.

Resourcing the **movements**

In 2022, inroads leveraged over \$90,000 USD to support the creative, resilient, and powerful abortion stigma-busting efforts of the inroads community and wider reproductive justice movements.

Participatory Grantmaking:

\$58,000 to support the efforts of 12 Grantee Partners from 11 countries.

Narrative Change Fellowship:

\$20,000 to support the stigma-busting and culture transforming artistic projects of 19 fellows.

Honoring the work and wisdom of our community:

\$16,550 USD to honor the contributions of 40 members for diverse key roles that nurture the community and movement at large.



PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING

Since 2014, inroads has devoted **\$996,918.15 USD** to supporting 113 stigma-busting community organizations in 45 countries. Funding from inroads supports members with flexible and participatory grant opportunities to support the care, resistance, and persistence of members leading vital abortion justice efforts, in order to co-create a future where people can experience abortion on their own terms.

We are committed to reimagining traditional grantmaking practices to build participatory processes so that our community can define and determine a resource distribution that is aligned with their vision, goals, context, and needs. **Our community are the experts, and it is our commitment to ensure that they hold the power.**



[Learn about inroads participatory grantmaking practices.](#)



PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING 2022 SEED GRANTS

The 2022 Seed Grants call for proposals had two core purposes:



Purpose: Blooming

Funds to support the healing, well-being, and community care needs of groups to sustain their abortion justice work.



Purpose: Pollination

Funds to support innovative stigma reduction projects that result in efforts, tools, processes, and events that can easily pollinate and nourish other members of the abortion ecosystem.

During our 2022 Seed Grant cycle, we received over **100 proposals** and devoted \$58,000 to resourcing grassroots groups from Brazil, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, India, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, and Venezuela with seed funding of around **\$5,000 USD per grant**.

These resources are supporting vital efforts that include the creation of abortion support hotlines and community spaces, the development of abortion guides and convenings centering the needs of underserved communities, community care efforts and mutual learning spaces for local abortion activists to thrive, radical stigma-busting activism and narrative change initiatives, stigma-free abortion care training for medical students, and more.



[Click here to meet our 2022 Grantee Partners!](#)



Busting abortion stigma through narrative change and the arts

Artists Busting Abortion Stigma Fellowship

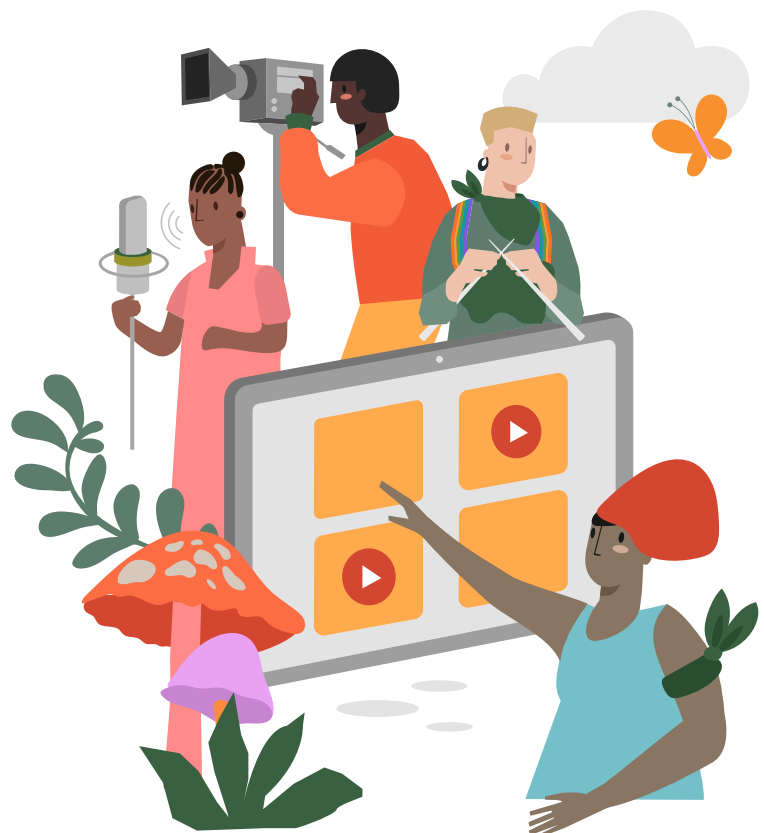
Our worlds are shaped by the stories that surround us, and our abortions are impacted by these frames and details. Narratives around abortion that are stigmatizing can cloud up our worlds by restricting access, care, and support. They create systems that deny health and care for all, both in fully legal and restricted abortion settings, and especially impact marginalized communities including queer, disabled, poor, Black, Indigenous, and displaced people.

We know that stigma-busting narratives that call for a world where everyone can have the abortions they wish to can precipitate real, radical change that is rooted in our right to bodily autonomy and to liberation.

Aligned with our goal of shifting power & narratives and resourcing the communities powering the reproductive justice movement, inroads held the Artists Busting Abortion Stigma fellowship in 2022 to support and advance the work of 19 inroads members using their diverse artistic talents to center destigmatizing narratives.

The powerful art projects of the inroads Artists Busting Abortion Stigma Fellowship are now available on our website. The stigma-busting offerings include zines, an illustrated children's book, podcasts, a music video, documentary, knitting patterns, and more.

[Click on each image or visit the fellowship page to learn more.](#)





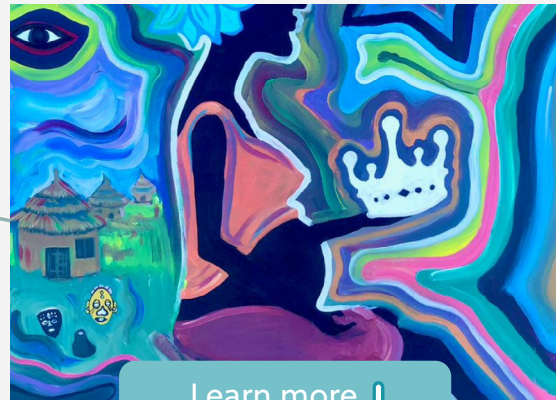
Learn more



Learn more



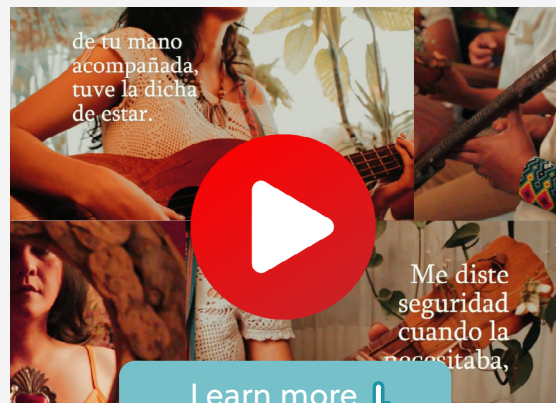
Learn more



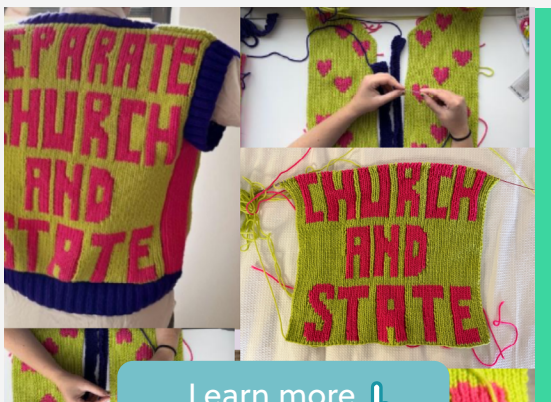
Learn more



Learn more



Learn more



Learn more



Learn more

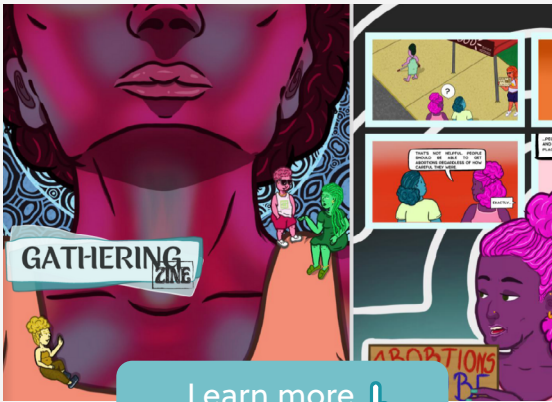




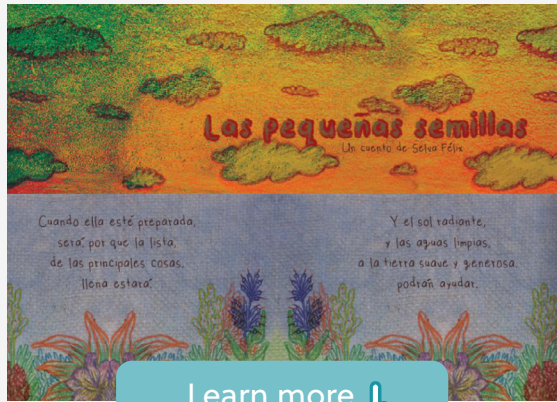
[Learn more](#)



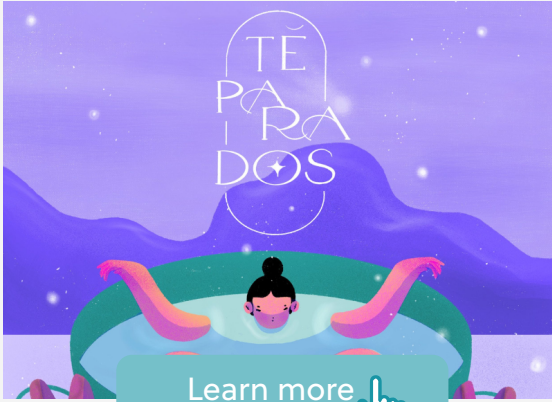
[Learn more](#)



[Learn more](#)



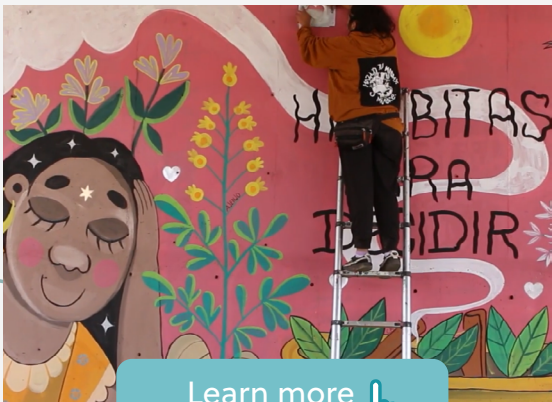
[Learn more](#)



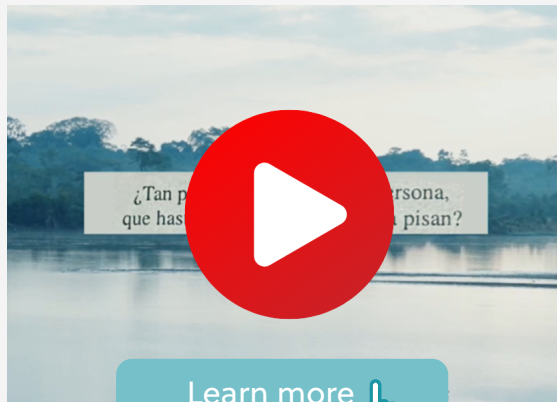
[Learn more](#)



[Learn more](#)



[Learn more](#)



[Learn more](#)



Community spaces for global solidarity and mutual learning

In partnership with our community, inroads organized the following member-led spaces to foster mutual learning, relationship building, solidarity, and participatory collective power. All spaces included English, Spanish, and French interpretation availability.



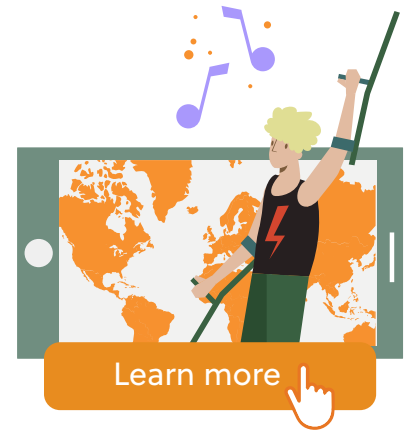
inroads Queer Abortions Festival

A 5 day virtual festival with multiple sessions centering the voices of LGBTQIA+ members, to gather and engage with questions, reflective activities, and practices that bust queer abortion stigma. Workbooks were created and published to facilitate similar spaces with local member communities.



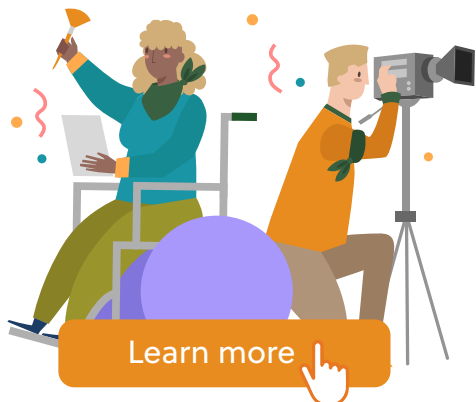
Care-Mapping

A convening space for inroads members, staff, and board to gather and reflect on how to map and integrate community care practices within our own spaces. A workbook was created and published to facilitate similar spaces with local communities.



Blooming inroads Gathering

A virtual convening space to celebrate and reflect on a year full of collective transformational work tied to the launch of our 2021 annual report, with abortion stigma-busting music and a panel discussion with members leading abortion movements across the world.



Artists Busting Abortion Stigma Festival

A 2 day celebratory community space where the inroads artists fellowship cohort presented their artistic projects to the community and shared their journey and learnings. A time to explore the creative and transformative power of narrative, storytelling, and arts-based work!

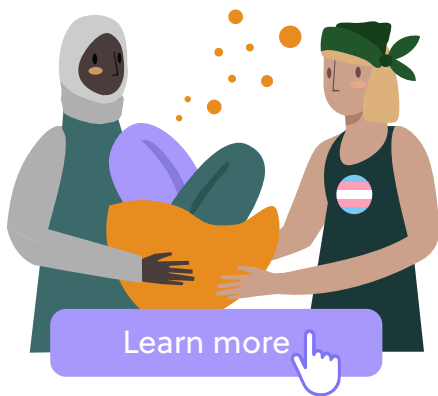
Power building to support growth and resilience

In 2022, we held online training sessions with experienced member facilitators. These power building spaces were inspired by and developed as a way to respond to expressed needs shared by our members, with the support of community and member expertise. All spaces included English, Spanish, and French interpretation availability.



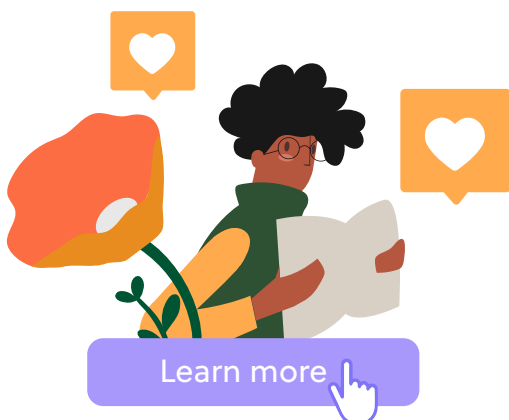
Holistic Security for Abortion Work

Practical training session introducing a holistic security approach to abortion stigma-busting and reproductive justice work. Focuses on building the capacity to integrate security within all aspects of organizational work, with experiences derived from abortion justice work. Included workbooks to facilitate the learning experience.



Mapping and Mobilizing Resources for Abortion Stigma-Busting Work

A 2 day capacity building training for members who may not have the professional support or environments to ideate, advise, and engage on resource mobilization and fundraising practices. Included workbooks to facilitate the learning experience.

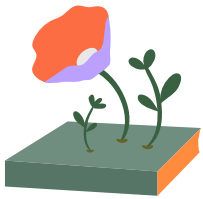


Creative Storytelling Tools and Techniques for Destigmatizing Abortion

Capacity building workshop engaging with colour, metaphor, and monologue as creative storytelling tools for destigmatizing abortion experiences. Sharing practical, affective, and embodied storytelling techniques for members. Included workbooks to facilitate the learning experience.

Strengthening cross-movement solidarity and mutual learning

Facilitating the pollination of the abortion ecosystem with stigma-busting resources, tools, and information to facilitate cross-movement solidarity, skill-sharing, and mutual learning is at the core of our work. In 2022, the inroads team centered the following efforts to achieve that goal.



Throughout the year, inroads amplified and added 71 new stigma-busting resources, publications, and tools to the [inroads community library](#). This is a space to facilitate access to resources that support abortion stigma-busting efforts worldwide.



At the start of the year, inroads launched a [monthly newsletter](#) packed with practical resources, tools, and opportunities. In its space, we have shared and amplified 100+ work, funding, and learning opportunities and resources from members and allies.

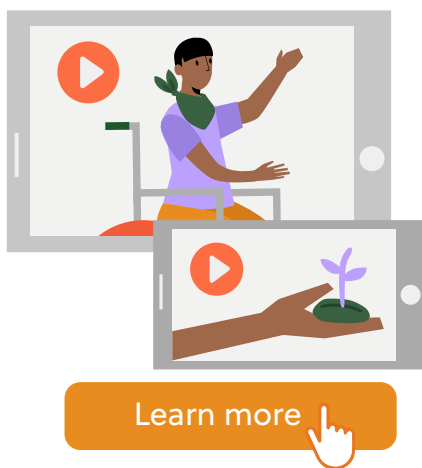


In June, inroads [launched a renovated & interactive online Community Workspace](#) to serve as a dynamic virtual safe space for power building & solidarity among members, which currently connects over 900 members from more than 100 countries.



Shifting power and amplifying stigma-busting voices

In partnership with the community, inroads organized and financially honored the participation of community panelists and speakers at key decision-making spaces and events for the reproductive justice movement. This was done to ensure that their visions continue to be amplified, to shift narratives and power, and to mobilize resources to the abortion collectives at the frontlines.



Learn more



Learn more



Learn more

RightsCon 2022 | Futuristic practices of Abortion Care: Diverse, Dignified, Digital Spaces for Informed and Accompanied.

Panel discussion with inroads members centering futuristic and creative approaches to bust abortion stigma and ensure access through a range of relevant tech & digital tools to build the just, equitable and dignified future we need.

2022 Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights | Abortion Sentiment and Care Space.

inroads hosted a space for reflection, connection, and care centering abortion. Featuring the inroads' Sentiment Gatherer: A participatory digital technology to analyze and visualize qualitative data about people's associations with abortion.

Human Rights Funders Network Global Conference | Abortion: Solidarity without stigma in the construction of collective rights.

Interactive session co-led by inroads members and allies to engage human rights funders in the work of activists and grassroots organizers working to expand the reach of access to abortion healthcare.

Reshaping systems through our collective power

We are firm believers of the power of collective action across the reproductive ecosystem to reshape systems and narratives!

In 2022, inroads was part of a global working group co-organizing the [International Safe Abortion Day Campaign](#) on September 28 to demand accessible, legal, and stigma-free abortion care worldwide. We shared our time, stigma-busting visions, and skills to further this collective effort that brings together over 10 global and regional abortion justice networks to create a united call to action and provide toolkits and resources to support the participation of grassroots collectives and activists. [Learn more here.](#)



Amid the overturn of Roe v Wade, we coordinated a collective Funders Call to Action to address the ways that stigma shows up in philanthropy, leading to minimal funding available to abortion justice work, and to encourage more funders to take a stance on supporting abortion, fund the communities powering the reproductive justice movement, and advocate to bust abortion stigma across the philanthropic sector. [Learn more here.](#)

Powering **abortion justice** across the world

2022 global milestones from our community.

Each of these milestones represent a step forward in the journey to dismantling abortion stigma. Behind each milestone are hundreds of days of committed, courageous work by countless advocates. Even though we know the struggle is far from over, we are honored to witness and nurture the radical efforts of local movements making inroads in building a world free of abortion stigma.



Mexico

Abortion is decriminalized in Baja California Sur, Guerrero, Sinaloa, and Quintana Roo!

United Kingdom

Access to telemedicine for medical abortion is made permanent in England, improving accessibility.



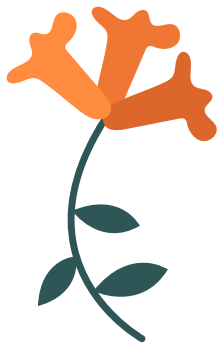
Northern Ireland

Safe access zones bill to ban harassment around clinics that provide abortion care are passed.



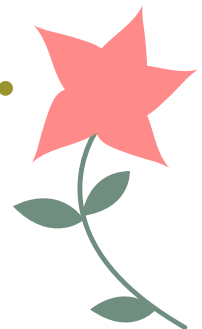
Germany

Stigma-drive regulation limiting information about abortion care is removed from the law.



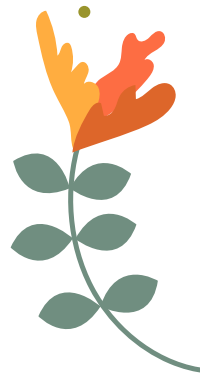
El Salvador

Several women convicted by El Salvador anti-abortion law were liberated.



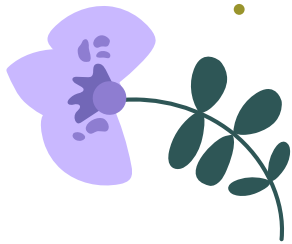
Ethiopia

Abortion pills added to the country "essential medicines" list, facilitating distribution and availability.



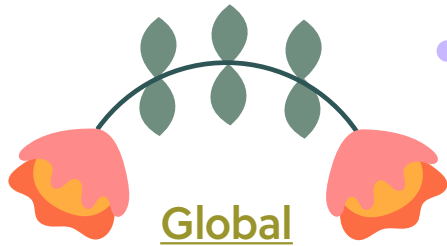
Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone government backs bill to legalise abortion and end colonial-era law.



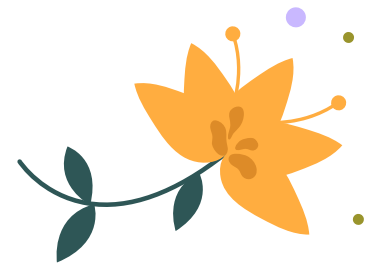
Colombia

Abortion is decriminalized, making way for one of the most progressive abortion laws in the region.



Global

New guidelines on abortion care from the World Health Organization highlight the need to eliminate barriers and stigma.



Spain

Reproductive rights reforms improve and expand access to abortion care in the country.



Kenya

High Court affirms the right to abortion under the constitution and called for reforms.



Malta

Parliament takes first steps to achieve abortion decriminalization for health reasons.



United States

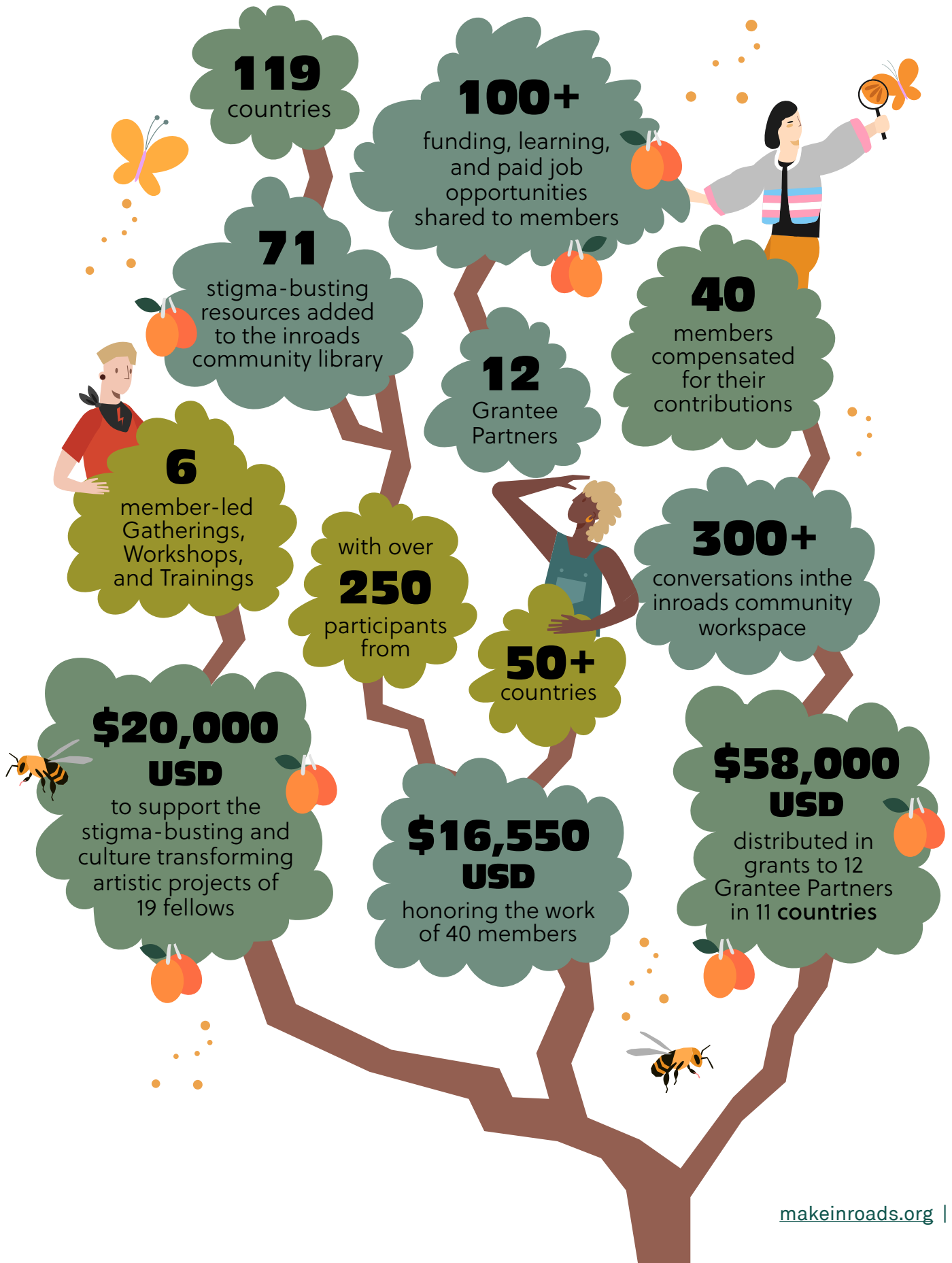
18 states took action to protect abortion rights. US & Mexico Cross-borders solidarity networks are created to support access.

India

India's Supreme Court clarified that current legislation included abortion access for unmarried people.



The year in numbers



The year in numbers

2022 Financial overview

Income vs Expenses

Income: \$1,385,494.60

Expenses: \$818,009.68

Income

 Institutional Grants: \$1,374,814.00

 Individual Donors: \$10,680.60

Total income: 1,385,494.60

To make the visual graphic of each investment, we used the total income as 100% reference.



Investment by category

 iPF Grants: \$58,000

 Gathering & Training
Spaces: \$99,423

 Fellowships: \$20,200

 Amplify: \$152,205

 Member Support: \$82,865

 Research & Innovation: \$28,422

 Organizational Health: \$215,707

 Admin: \$125,727

 Resource Mobilization: \$35,507

Investment by category: \$818,059.00

To make the visual graphic of each investment, we used the total income as 100% reference.



Partners in change

We are forever grateful for the vital support from fearless institutional and individual donors that support our mission.

Thanks to you, we are able to continue resourcing, connecting, and amplifying vital abortion stigma-busting efforts to create a happier, healthier, and more just world free of abortion stigma and discrimination.

Institutional donors



All the powerful ways you can **support and honor the movement!**



Join

If you are an individual or group working on abortion access and stigma reduction, apply to be part of a free global network that provides opportunities and resources to help learn, connect, collaborate, gather, and fund stigma-busting efforts worldwide.



Donate

Every donation allows us to nurture a network of over 2000 abortion advocates and community organizations working on busting abortion stigma in 119 countries.



Stay informed

Subscribe to our mailing list to receive stigma-busting updates every month!



Gift

Celebrate the people in your life donating to further abortion justice on their behalf.



Amplify

Share with anyone who might be interested in getting involved.

Credits

The development of this annual report was supported by

Lead Writer & Editor:
Mariana González Cedraro.

Content Advisors:
Amanda Tiew, Katie Gillum, Giulia Meneghetti
and María Paula Godoy Casasbuenas.

Spanish & French Translators:
Mariana González Cedraro & María Paula Godoy Casasbuenas.

Graphic Designer:
Alina Galo.

