



# inroads

Evaluation & Members  
Feedback  
2022



At the end of 2022, 240 inroads members participated in a community evaluation and feedback effort to better understand and reflect on our community impact, needs, strengths, and spaces for growth so that we can keep learning, evolving, and strengthening this international network in service of our powerful community.

The effort comprised a survey and focus groups available in English, French, and Spanish.

Here, we share an executive summary with the key learnings from this initiative.

## WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?

Registration numbers show that the inroads community has over 2000 members from 119 countries. In this survey, approximately 10% of members responded. From their responses, we were able to visualize that our community is diverse in many other ways, with members identifying as:

- 37%** had abortions
- 24%** LGBTQ+
- 21%** marginalized race or ethnicity where they live
- 9%** have a disability
- 8%** sex worker
- 6%** Trans or non-binary

The survey confirmed that 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 select 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 (e.g. 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%** Law professional
- 8%** Fundraiser
- 7%** Funding abortions (Donor, foundation, fund)



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

- 50%** are staff members at a non-governmental organization, civil society organization, or community organization based in their local country
- 40%** are part of a grassroots collective or network
- 38%** lead their organization
- 31%** carry out their work as uncompensated volunteers
- 22%** are consultants
- 19%** are independent activist
- 12%** are staff members at international organizations
- 7%** work in other situations

## WHAT DRIVES OUR MEMBERS TO JOIN INROADS?

Connection with other abortion justice people around the world, access to tools and resources to bust abortion stigma, and a desire to get global perspectives and learn about abortion stigma and abortion justice work are the top drivers to join the community. Followed by the need to find funding to support their reproductive justice work and to reflect on their own beliefs around abortion.

- 87%** connect with others working on abortion stigma
- 75%** access to tools and resources related to abortion stigma
- 70%** global perspectives about abortion and stigma
- 69%** learn more about abortion stigma
- 51%** learn more about abortion in general
- 50%** funding to support my work
- 21%** think about my own beliefs or stigma
- 18%** ask questions about my work

## THE IMPACT OF BEING PART OF INROADS

As a result of being a member of inroads, surveyed members indicated:

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



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

- 72%** having access to tools and resources on abortion stigma
- 66%** feeling part of a wider community working on abortion stigma
- 63%** building relationships with other individuals/organizations working on abortion stigma
- 47%** having access to funding opportunities for work on abortion stigma
- 25%** having a place to ask questions and seek support for their work on abortion stigma

## In their own words...

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

**Member from Thailand**

*"Having a broader understanding of stigma & actions across the globe has heightened my awareness of the interconnections around abortion. I am also able to connect with and promote the work of others globally with our audience in the US." Member from the US.*

*"Feeling part of a global movement and fighting for the elimination of the stigma associated with abortion worldwide makes my daily work much more satisfactory; I feel more support and confidence to work on abortion." Member from Mexico*

*"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*

*"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*

*"inroads, by existing and giving people a place to gather, has given me the space in which to validate caring about abortion access. Through being in this space, our work has empowered the work I do elsewhere by highlighting how important it is to dismantle stigma." Member from Jamaica*



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*"When I see people share their abortion work stories/experiences, it really encourages me to be bold and to know that we are going somewhere in putting an end to abortion stigma. It makes me feel that I am not alone in this fight, and together, we will eliminate any form of stigma."*

**Member from Nigeria**

## Breaking the silence that stigma imposes

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

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

*"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**

*"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**

*"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**

## Connecting with new people

Being part of inroads, 67% of surveyed members indicated they have connected or interacted with new people from the abortion movement. Those new connections happened mostly via:

- 54%** inroads Community Workspace or listserv
- 44%** inroads online gatherings, trainings, or workshops
- 43%** email or direct messages
- 41%** inroads in-person gathering



- 30%** other conferences or meetings
- 22%** introductions by inroads staff

91% of surveyed members said that these new connections and interactions with people from the global abortion community influenced their work significantly. Rating the influence 3 to 5 out of a 1-5 scale.

Asked about the type of influence, 81% said the new connections helped validate their work, while 40% made changes to their future work, 37% changed their views and opinions related to abortion stigma, and 24% made changes to their current abortion work due to the new connections and interaction with inroads members.

## THE INROADS COMMUNITY WORKSPACE

Since 2014, inroads have had an inroads Community Workspace (iCW) that was initially a listserv system and was renovated in 2022 to become a more robust, live, and interactive online community space. A tool that 68% of the members surveyed indicated has positively influenced their work.

Asked about how they primarily used this tool, surveyed members indicated the following:

- 63%** Funding opportunities
- 58%** News about research
- 58%** New tools or resources
- 57%** Discussions about abortion language
- 44%** Conferences announcements
- 41%** Ideas about stigma-busting social media
- 33%** Keeping up with colleagues
- 32%** Collaborate or partner with other members
- 30%** Amplify their abortion work
- 26%** Share news from my country or region
- 24%** Ask questions
- 22%** Advice from colleagues
- 19%** Try out new ideas
- 15%** Post new tools or resources
- 11%** Help with problems



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Some of the quotes from our members showcase how our workspace has positively impacted their work, offering a glimpse into the collective impact of our inroads Community Workspace:

*“Using the community Workspace, I have connected to others working on abortion stigma, which has led me to feel part of the abortion community. I learned to share and speak more freely and honestly about abortion.”* **Member from Uganda**

*“I have been able to get updates on what other partners are doing, including opportunities. We have used the opportunities to explore collaboration, some of which has been successful.”* **Member from Pakistan**

*“Posts from community workspace members on activities and developments in their countries or communities give us an insight on how to develop new interventions or adjust ongoing ones.”* **Member from Nigeria**

*“I’ve continuously learned and unlearned things and ways of working, especially on abortion advocacy. It inspired me to know that the fight continues globally, and we have each other! So much energy and power! It fuels me to do more!”* **Member from Philippines**

*“I have been able to meet some of the people in the network for the destigmatization of abortion on a global level. I learned that there are many of us, and we are in many places joining forces for this fight.”* **Member from Venezuela**

*“I hadn’t been in many spaces that have elevated the experiences of LGBTQ+ communities with abortion until joining inroads! That had a very positive impact.”* **Member from the US**

*“I get inspired by projects on ending abortion stigma and implement the new ideas in my organization’s programming.”* **Member from Zimbabwe**

*“I feel very privileged to have access to such a diverse and innovative hub of pro-abortion resources and relevant insights. Discussions from the inroads community are constantly inspiring my work and activism.”* **Member from Brazil**

## ACCESSING GENERATIVE RESOURCES & TOOLS

Creating generative spaces to share resources and tools among the global abortion justice community has been a key part of inroads work since its creation. Asked about accessing and using resources and tools via the inroads Community Workspace (iCW) or the inroads Stigma Resource Library, surveyed members indicated that:

- 63%** have read about tools & resources that other members shared on the ICW
- 54%** have accessed tools through the inroads Stigma Resources library
- 42%** have used resources shared through inroads to inform their work
- 13%** have adapted or piloted a tool that another member shared

### Striving for fair compensation in an inequitable sector

**This survey reflected that almost a third (31%) of our community is not compensated for their vital work busting abortion stigma.**

At inroads, we strive to challenge inequitable compensation in the traditional global development sector that expects unpaid labor and/or volunteering to drive social movements transforming our communities for the better.

Aligned with our values, inroads compensates members who contribute to vital community spaces by facilitating workshops, sharing their wisdom at panels, co-creating sessions, interpreting, translating, and being part of members' advisory committees or review boards.

In this survey, we asked compensated members to reflect on how appropriate was the amount of compensation inroads provided for their effort and contribution. 43 members completed that section.

- 70%** indicated the compensation felt fair and robust
- 21%** indicated it was somewhat fair but that they would typically earn more for that
- 9%** indicated it was not enough to fairly value their contribution and labor

The learning that a significant part of our community feels the compensation provided was below what they would usually earn, or insufficient, moved us to reevaluate our compensation rates for the upcoming year and to reinforce our determination to mobilize more and better funding for our movement.

We are deeply grateful for each member who took the time to be part of our members' survey and evaluation efforts. Your input is vital, and we are taking all learnings into consideration to keep evolving and strengthening this international network in service of our powerful community.