

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The big money in Big Tech is flowing in different ways to support anti-rights and anti-democratic actors that are active around the world. These financial flows include advertising income (money made by Big Tech platforms from anti-rights actors) as well as monetization revenue, donations and grants (received by anti-rights actors). Public attention and scrutiny has led to some increases in the transparency of advertising revenue. However, major transparency gaps remain, particularly for international research.² At the same time, there are other financial flows that can be documented but have not come to light – until now. This report focuses on Big Tech philanthropy.

Mark Zuckerberg and Meta, but also Netflix, WhatsApp and many other Big Tech companies and CEOs that are household names are also big funders of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. According to new follow-the-money research conducted by the Institute for Journalism and Social Change in partnership with Noor:

- Seven internationally-active US anti-rights groups, opposing sexual and reproductive rights around the world, received at least \$3.6 million from this Silicon Valley philanthropy over the decade from fiscal year 2014 to 2023 (the last year for which financial filings were available, as of October 2025).³
 - Between them, these groups have been involved in anti-rights activities including: anti-LGBTQI “conversion therapy” in Latin America; anti-abortion legal challenges in Eastern Europe; and “sexual purity” classes in Africa.
 - It is unclear what exactly these groups were given money for, and it is unclear who were the ultimate donors of this money that SVCF managed and spent. SVCF told us it was spent through ‘Donor-Advised Funds’ that it manages, rather than from the foundation’s own endowment.
- At the same time, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) has also channeled funding to groups that promote human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights – and that struggle against these anti-rights threats.

This report details this follow-the-money research. It also looks at the international activities of SVCF anti-rights grantees, and includes in-depth case studies from West and East Africa. It closes with recommendations for action – for SVCF and other Big Tech philanthropies, as well as for journalists, researchers and feminist activists concerned about the rising tide of anti-rights threats around the world and how they’re funded.

² This is driven largely by EU regulations demanding greater ad transparency. There is no legal obligation for platforms to archive or disclose spending for ads outside of this region.

³ See the ‘Following the Money’ section of this report for more detail.