I. ABOUT WOMEN’S FUND ASIA

Women’s Fund Asia (WFA) is a regional women's fund committed to supporting women and trans* people to enhance and strengthen their access to human rights. Established in 2004 as the South Asia Women’s Fund (SAWF), the fund was created to address the lack of resources for smaller grassroots organisations in South Asia. In March 2018, SAWF transformed into Women’s Fund Asia, with a bigger mandate to fund rights-based work across 18 countries in Asia.

Our core mandate is to support women’s and trans* rights groups and activists in Asia, address the non-availability of resources for women’s and trans* rights work in the region, and support strategies and interventions designed, implemented, and led by women and trans* people. We provide fiscal support to our partners, working to advance women’s and trans* rights in their contexts. We aim to implement a regional mandate, which is informed by national and sub-regional realities and is responsive to the rights and needs of individual women and trans* persons.

OUR MISSION

Women’s Fund Asia works to nurture and lead feminist philanthropy in the region; to effectively mobilise resources to support individuals, groups, and networks enabling their sustainability; and to strengthen partner capacities, leadership, advocacy, and networks in the field. Our vision is the realising of human rights of women and trans* people in Asia.

II. ABOUT THE CALL

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1 Trans* is a term that for WFA covers a diversity of gender identities and forms of gender expressions. WFA supports trans* rights, including that of transfeminine, transmasculine, non-binary, and non-gender conforming people. WFA also supports intersex rights work.
This Call for Applications is open until 23 April 2020. Women's rights and trans* rights groups, organisations, and networks working at the national level from 17 mandated countries are eligible to apply.

Given the COVID-19 global crisis, we are adjusting the deadline of Claiming Our Voices: Beijing+25 Review and Follow-up call for applications from 3 April 2020 to 23 April 2020. We are aware that the Gender Equality Forum events may be postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19, and that advocacy opportunities related to Beijing+25 with national governments will likely also be affected because of the crisis. We are thus closely monitoring the situation. The grants selection timelines will similarly be affected, and as such, the results will likely only be announced in July/August instead of in June.

The Application Package includes the following:

- Application Form
- Budget Format
- WFA’s Grantmaking FAQs

The package can be downloaded from www.womensfundasia.org/Beijing25.

To apply, complete the online application form here. Alternatively, you may also submit your applications to applications@wf-asia.org. Before sending in your application, please review the Eligibility Criteria.

Applicants can apply in English or any of the following languages: Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Melayu, Bangla, Burmese, Filipino, Hindi, Khmer, Lao, Mongolian, Nepali, Sinhalese, Tamil, Thai, Tetum, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

The deadline for submissions is 23 April 2020 at 12 midnight Sri Lanka time/GMT+5:30. Please write to applications@wf-asia.org with the subject line “Claiming Our Voices 2020—Inquiry” for any queries while the call is open.

III. ABOUT THE CLAIMING OUR VOICES GRANTMAKING PROGRAMME

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA) is a concerted commitment by 189 countries towards advancing women's rights and gender equality. The year 2020 marks the 25th year in which activists, women's groups, and UN member states will be reviewing the gains, setbacks, and emerging issues that have an impact in achieving the BPFA agenda. The Generation Equality Forum, a global meeting which aims to develop a new feminist agenda and to launch a set of ‘Action Coalitions’ that will enable achievement of tangible results on gender equality, is part of this process.

The Claiming Our Voices: Beijing+ 25 Review and Follow-up grantmaking programme seeks to amplify women and trans* communities’ voices at these global spaces as they seek to hold governments and other stakeholders accountable to the BPFA. In the same manner, the programme will support the efforts of women and trans* rights groups to ensure that: a) global processes reflect and are accountable to local movements, and b) women and trans* rights groups are able to use gains from these processes to strengthen their work around gender equality at the local and national levels.
This grantmaking programme also seeks to address critical gaps—voices, issues, and information—during the preparation of BPFA national reviews and during regional and international consultations. It also seeks to contribute to building a larger understanding on the outcomes of the Mexico and Paris meetings. As such, Claiming Our Voices will prioritise constituencies that have been invisibilized, excluded, or have had limited participation in the Beijing review processes. We especially encourage applications from younger feminists, *dalits*, indigenous people, sex workers, trans* people, women with disabilities, rural women, and other marginalised groups.

This grantmaking programme is being done in collaboration with our sister funds Urgent Action Fund and Urgent Action Fund-Africa with the support of the Gates Foundation.

IV. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The call for applications extends to the following 17 countries in Asia:

- South Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- East and Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

V. ELIGIBILITY

WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE CURRENT CALL?

The call is open to national level women’s rights and trans* rights organisations and networks. Organisations and networks who fulfil ALL the following criteria can apply:

- Must be based in these countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.
- Must have advancement of women and trans* rights as a focus of their vision, mission, and programmes.
- Must be committed to feminist principles and rights-based approaches.
- Must be led by women and/or trans* persons. This means:
  - The board should be led by a woman or a trans* person.
  - The board should be composed of at least 60% women and/or trans* people.
  - A woman or trans* person must head the organisation (staff).
  - The staff should be composed of at least 60% women and/or trans* people.
- Must work mainly at the sub-national and national levels.
- Must be able to receive grants from foreign sources in compliance with their country’s laws and policies.

WHO AND WHAT DO WE NOT FUND?

Women’s Fund Asia does NOT fund:

- Groups whose vision and mission does not include advancement of women’s rights and/or trans* rights.
- Groups working through strategies which are violative of women and trans* rights (such as raid and rescue, anti-sex work, and anti-abortion, among others).
• Groups whose primary purpose is service delivery, humanitarian assistance, charity, poverty alleviation programmes, such as micro finance, income generation, education, scholarships, literacy, and skills development programmes.
• Groups directly/indirectly related or connected with elections and election campaigning.
• Groups directly affiliated with political parties.
• Groups directly affiliated with religious institutions or faith-based groups.
• Educational/academic institutions.
• Businesses/for-profit groups.
• Groups registered in countries outside of the listed 17 countries, and not directly working in the countries their proposed work is based in.
• Local branches, chapters, subsidiaries, or country offices of multilateral organisations (such as ASEAN, SAARC, or one of the United Nations agencies); international organisations, international non-government organisations (INGOs), and international financial organisations.
• Buying land or any construction activity.

The current call is NOT open to:

• Regional and global women’s rights and trans* rights organisations.
• Women’s funds.

VI. GRANT SIZE AND TYPE

There will be three types of grants available for this call:

• **AMPLIFYING VOICES (UP TO USD 10,000):**
  These grants will focus on developing and initiating strategic campaigns and communications to contribute to the critical analysis and priority setting in the Beijing+25 process and outcomes, particularly of the Generation Equality Forum and the Action Coalitions that will be formed. These grants may support developing digital publications and holding online discussions, webinars, social media campaigns, and/or physical meetings, to hold governments and other duty bearers accountable to their commitments on achieving gender equality objectives and women’s human rights. Such initiatives will aim to influence the global discussions, in order to shape a feminist agenda that highlights the importance of funding and supporting women’s and trans* rights, which are in-line with the priorities of the rights-based movements from the Asia region. Grants may also support campaigns that raise the visibility of marginalised and side-lined groups, particularly those that have not been well represented in the Beijing processes, and elevate their issues to global-level policy discussions.

• **BUILDING ON BEIJING+25 OUTCOMES (UP TO USD 20,000):**
  These grants will strengthen coalition building and actions related to the Action Coalition priority areas. It will cover support initiating political agendas, conducting advocacy actions, and any other initiatives that may lead to a larger understanding on how the outcomes of the Generation
Equality Forum and the high-level segment of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly can be incorporated into local feminist agendas, strategies, and national monitoring mechanisms. These types of grants will also support national groups to effectively monitor and hold governments accountable to their commitments post the Generation Equality Forum and UNGASS. Grants will ensure women’s and trans* rights groups are able to use gains from Beijing+25 regional and global processes to strengthen their work, particularly on pushing for gender equality and bigger and better structured strategic resources at the local levels.

- **COMBINATION GRANTS (UP TO USD 20,000):**
  Initiatives that have elements of the two types of grants above.

**GRANT DURATION:**
Grants should range from 6 to 10 months

**VII. PRIORITY ISSUES**
Applications must elaborate on how the groups plan to engage on any of the following themes of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions:

- Gender-based violence;
- Economic justice and rights;
- Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR);
- Feminist action for climate justice;
- Technology and innovation for gender equality; and
- Feminist movements and leadership.

**VIII. WHICH APPLICATIONS DO WE PRIORITIZE SUPPORTING?**
We especially encourage applications from groups representing younger feminists, *dalits*, indigenous women and trans* people, sex workers, LBTIQGNC persons, women and trans* people with disabilities, and other marginalised groups who have been side-lined in the process.

We prioritise applications from those who are:

1. Working to strengthen movements to realise and sustain their rights.
2. Working in difficult contexts and/or have limited access to resources.
3. Using feminist, rights-based, and intersectional approaches in their work.
4. Self-led—the leadership of the group is representative of the constituency which the group is working with.

**IX. LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

1. Application Form
2. Budget
3. Registration Document (if registered)
4. Approval to receive foreign funding (if required by your country)
5. First page of bank passbook or bank statement (must be able to receive foreign funds)
6. Financial audit reports for the past 3 years
7. Tax exemption status document
8. Latest Annual or Program Report

If your group is unregistered or do not have all the required documentation, please write to us at applications@wf-asia.org at least a week before the deadline.

X. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Women’s Fund Asia will complete the grantmaking review and selection process in approximately 8 weeks after the application deadline. The team is supported by an expert advisory team in finalising the grants.

Please note:

1. All applications received by WFA will be acknowledged after the 23 April 2020 deadline.
2. In some cases, interviews may be conducted as part of the review process.
3. Applicants who do not move further in the selection process will be informed at various stages.
4. Selected grantees will be contacted by August 2020.
5. The final grant amounts are at the discretion of Women’s Fund Asia, based on the number of applications selected and the availability of funds.

Please refer to WFA’s Grantmaking FAQs for further clarifications. Should you have any queries, please write to us at applications@wf-asia.org, with the subject “Claiming Our Voices 2020—Inquiry.”