



**LEADING
FROM THE
SOUTH**

**A FUND TO RESOURCE WOMEN'S AND
TRANS* PEOPLE'S HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM
IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE ASIA REGION

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
15 NOVEMBER 2018**



Women's Fund Asia

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I. FUND RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES

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, 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 countries¹ 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 and technical support to our partners, working to advance women’s and trans* rights in their contexts. We aim to move towards developing a regional mandate, which is informed by national and sub-regional realities, and is responsive to the rights and needs of individual women or trans* people.

Leading from the South (LFS) is a special fund created to resource women’s and trans* rights activism in the Global South (over 4 years), initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It supports activism devised, implemented, and led by women’s and trans* rights organisations in the Global South. Through grant-making, capacity building, and other resourcing, LFS will strengthen women’s organisations,

movements, and networks—especially their advocacy capacity. The fund is being implemented by four women’s funds: three regional funds—African Women’s Development Fund (Africa and the Middle East), Fondo Mujeres del Sur (Latin America and the Caribbean) and Women’s Fund Asia (Asia)—and one global fund, AYNI, the Indigenous Women’s Fund.

Alliance building and investing in strengthening capacities will be a key component of the programme. The facilitation of such spaces (at the national, sub-regional and regional level) by WFA will aim to ensure collective reflections, learnings, and building cross-country and cross-region solidarities. The focus will be to link the voices and experience of those working at the local level with those at the national and regional level.

Addressing Goal 5 of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) – *working towards gender equality through empowering women and girls* – is a key focus of the Leading from the South Programme. To effectively work towards achieving the SDG Goal in an expansive and sustainable manner, it is critical to have a framework, rooted in the voices, experiences, and leadership of women and trans* people? The programme framework is rooted within the three main principles of the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW) – Substantive Equality, Non-Discrimination, and State Obligation.

¹¹ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and Mongolia.

The grants are aimed to address 3 key overall objectives:

1. Addressing all forms of violence against women, girls, and trans* people and advancing women and trans* people's bodily integrity and autonomy.
 2. Protecting and ensuring full economic rights and justice for women, girls, and trans* people.
 3. Expanding democratic space, sustaining inclusive governance, and ensuring equal participation of women and trans* people.
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Within the above, priority will be given to groups and organisations that seek to:

Expand the Right to Movement and Labour

For over 6 years we have supported interventions focused on women and trans* people's right to safe migration, economic justice, and labour rights, with a particular focus on women working in vulnerable, informal and stigmatized sectors such as sex work, garment factories, tea plantations, domestic work, and migrant labour.

Promote Autonomy, Decisions, and Sexual Rights

We have supported initiatives that promote the right to sexuality, decision-making, and bodily autonomy of women and trans* people. Beginning with supporting work on child and forced marriage and young women's leadership and choices, this priority area also grew to encompass groups working on LBT rights, abortion rights, and sexual and reproductive health rights.

Increase Access to Justice

We support initiatives focused on increasing women and trans* people's access to justice, including raising legal awareness among communities; creating pathways and mechanisms for survivors to access lawyers and the judicial system; training women paralegals; supporting women lawyers, etc.

Extend Environment Justice

This area of work has emerged as a critical issue for countries in Asia. Over the last two years, we have supported work which centers the voices and leadership of women and trans* people in the decision-making processes which govern access to and distribution of resources such as land, water, food and other natural resources; as well as in policies that govern disaster management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development. Groups supported under this thematic work with women farmers, indigenous women, women with disabilities and migrant workers, particularly those located in ecologically fragile environments.

Outside of the above, consideration will also be given to organisations and networks who work to advance the rights of women and trans* people through feminist interventions, which include rights based, intersectional strategies; developing new discourses and building/strengthening linkages; continuing mobilization and strengthening feminist leadership.

Special consideration will be given for outreach to women and trans people in/from marginalised communities facing multiple discrimination—from minority and indigenous communities facing ethnic and caste-based violence; LGBTQ communities; women and trans* people in stigmatised and informal labour; refugees; internally displaced; women and trans* people with disabilities; from conflict- affected areas, etc.*

II. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The call for proposals extends to 18 countries in Asia:

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

III. GRANT TYPE AND SIZE

Grants will range from **€10,000** to **€250,000** for a period ranging from 1 – 1.5 years.

The grants will be made available in the following categories:

FRONTLINE DEFENDERS	AMPLIFYING VOICES	PROMOTING REGIONAL FEMINIST AGENDAS
<p>Organisations working at the community and sub-national levels as the front line of defence against rights violations, and mobilisers of women’s and trans* people’s movements.</p>	<p>National and sub-regional organisations and networks working on policy advocacy with key stakeholders and states, as well as campaigns on women’s and trans* people’s human rights.</p>	<p>Cross national, sub-regional, and regional groups and networks undertaking capacity, knowledge, and leadership building and advocacy for state accountability to advance women’s and trans* rights.</p>

IV. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Who may apply:

1. Only women's and trans* rights organisations, networks, and women's funds can apply for a grant.

Applicant organisations must have:

- i. **Board Composition:** *The board should be led by a woman or a trans* person and the board composition should be as follows:*
 - **Frontline Defenders:** At least 60% of the governing board should comprise women and/or trans* people;
 - **Amplifying Voices:** At least 70% of the governing board should comprise women and/or trans* people. In case of a consortium grant, the board composition of the lead organisation should be minimum 60% women and trans*; but the rest of the consortium members should be women and/or trans* led.
 - **Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas:** At least 70% of the governing board should comprise women and/or trans* people
 - ii. 60% women and trans* people as staff, and a woman/transperson must head the organisation;
 - iii. Programmatic focus on women and trans* rights;
 - iv. Women's Funds need to be registered and working in the region for a minimum of 3 years.
2. Two or more women's groups/networks can jointly apply as a consortium for any of the grant categories. There will be one lead organisation that will receive the grant and it must adhere to the eligibility criteria listed above
 3. Organisations need to be registered in the countries specified in Section II. Please note that organisations based and/or working outside of the specified countries are not eligible for applying for support under this programme.
 4. Organisations must have the requisite legal registration to receive grants from foreign sources.

Political parties, faith-based organizations, educational institutions (schools, colleges, and universities), and individuals are not eligible for funding either independently or as part of a consortium.

Activities NOT eligible for grants:

1. Microcredit, microfinance, and other income generation activities.
2. Sponsorships and scholarships.
3. Service provisions activities such as running of health camps.
4. Direct or indirect interventions in electoral or party-based political activities such as election campaigns, election processes, supporting or opposing a political candidate during elections, and contributions to political parties or individual candidate's fund (even if independent).

- 5. Re-granting: Using the funds to provide grants and fellowships to other groups and individuals. Please note Women’s Funds can only apply for capacity building, knowledge building and research activities under this programme.
- 6. Buying land or any construction activity.

V. REVIEW AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- 1. All applications received by WFA will be acknowledged after the 15 November 2018 deadline.
- 2. By 10 January 2019, applicants will be informed about the status of their applications (rejected/shortlisted for further process) via email.
- 3. The submitted applications and final decisions for the grants will be led by an external Advisory Committee (comprising feminist experts, academics, and activists from South, Southeast, and East Asia) and coordinated by Women’s Fund Asia.
- 4. The short-listing and selection process will take approximately 14 – 16 weeks from the submission deadline. In some cases, interviews may be conducted as part of the review process.
- 5. Please note that applicants who do not move further in the review process will be informed at various stages of the review process. Selected grantees will be contacted by last week of March 2019.
- 6. By the last week of May 2019, all due diligence will be completed, selection of the proposals will be completed, contracts will be finalised, and first instalments disbursed.
- 7. Successful applicants will be announced on WFA’s website by 8 June 2019.

VI. TIMELINE FOR GRANT MAKING PROCESS

KEY STEPS	TIMELINE
Application Period Open	1 October – 15 November 2018
Review (shortlisting, interviews, finalisation of grant contracts and grant disbursements)	19 November 2018 – 20 March 2019
Announcement of final grantees	1 st week of April 2019

VII. SUBMISSION

Please submit completed applications by 12 midnight on 15 November 2018 (Sri Lanka Time) to grants@wf-asia.org with the appropriate subject line: “**Frontline Defenders grant application,**” “**Amplifying Voices grant application,**” or “**Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas grant application.**” Please write to the same email for any queries.

All applications to be submitted in English. Applicants applying under the Frontline Defenders category are welcome to apply in a regional language. Please write to us in advance if you are considering submitting the application in a local language.

VIII. PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Please note that the narrative proposal format for the **Frontline Defenders Grant** application differs from that of **Amplifying Voices** and **Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas** grants. This is mainly to facilitate an efficient and comprehensive due diligence process, especially to support the work of smaller women’s and trans* rights organisations.

Please also note that the final grant amounts are at the discretion of Women’s Fund Asia, based on the number of applications selected under each category and the availability of funds.

Please download the appropriate form:

[Frontline Defenders Grant Application](#) (DOC)

[Amplifying Voices and Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas Application](#) (DOC)

IX. BUDGET FORMAT AND GUIDELINES

- Women’s Fund Asia will NOT fund the following:**
 - Buying land or any construction activity
 - The building of service facilities, shelters or short-stay homes
 - Purchase of any type of vehicles (i.e. cars, motorcycles, boats etc.)
- Staff Salaries, Administration, and Management:** no more than 40% of the total budget for the Frontline Defenders Grant; and 30% of the total budget for Amplifying Voices and Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas Grants. This budget line includes staff salaries, benefits, administrative support including financial management, audit, staff travel, rental of office space, board meetings (include board travel), office maintenance and utilities, telecommunications, and office supplies.

3. **Programme costs:** this budget line includes programme-related costs such as (but not limited to) research, publications, training, workshops, meetings, conferences, and material development.
4. **Travel:** Please show the travel cost of consultants, participation in workshops, travel for M&E, and outreach, etc. separately in the budget. Please note that the staff and board travel for administration and governance purposes is not included under this sub-head (please see point 2).
5. **Contractual Services:** For all applicants: Please specify what types of contractual services will be included in the budget and explain the details in the Budget Narrative.
6. **Equipment:** Please specify types of equipment that will be purchased. Please add a separate line in the budget for fixed assets, which include office furniture, computers, printer/photocopier/scanner, camera and projector. Please note that items such as Microsoft office software, pen drives, and external hard disks should be categorised under Office Stationary.
7. **Software:** Please add a separate head for any software installation worth more than €450 per annum.
8. **Monitoring and evaluation:** For all applicants, monitoring and evaluation costs of the project should preferably range between 3% and 10% of the total grant requested.
9. **Please provide the budget for the full grant amount request in Euro, as per the provided format.**

Please download the budget form:

[LFS Budget Form](#) (XLS)