Resourcing Strengthening of Feminist movements in Asia and the Pacific

A Feminist Funding Manifesto
The first edition in a unique convergence, Revolutionising Philanthropy was organised to facilitate a shared vision for feminist funding that is flexible and transformative in the Asia and the Pacific region. The Convergence was organised by eight members of Prospera - The International Network of Women’s Funds from the Asia & Pacific region. In late September 2019, almost 130 activists, funders, and other allies committed to the realisation of women, girls, and trans* human rights in the region gathered in safe and political space for open and dynamic discussions.

We gathered the six most important highlights spanning the three days and put together a manifesto for feminist funding. These highlights are featured on pages with blue borders and are accompanied by some glimpses into key moments of discussion during the course of the Convergence.

Given the diversity in the room of languages, cultures, and identities, an inclusive and participatory methodology was adopted by the facilitators. Innovative methodologies were used such as dance parties, Lego Serious Play for building communication and creative thinking, as well as “Cosy Corners” for participants to recharge and relax. These were combined with panel discussions, plenaries, group work, and table discussions to enhance experience-sharing.

A big thank you to all the participants who came together to interact and learn from one another with open minds and hearts, and thank you to the donors who made this dream possible.

*Trans is a term that covers a diversity of gender identities and forms of gender expressions, including transfeminine, transmasculine, non-binary, and gender non-confirming people, as well intersex people.
Using a framework of intersectionality to guide feminist work.
Increasing the scope of resources beyond money by sustaining a culture of sharing and recognising the importance of knowledge networks, people and in-kind donations.
Ethno-national religious fundamentalism
How can feminist funding resist?
Non monetary resources grow a resilient movement

Language being co-opted
What are ways to influence and respond.

"When we talk about the movement, we talk about people."
Participant from Cambodia
SHIFTING THE LENS TOWARDS BEING SEEN AS HUMANS RATHER THAN PROJECTS, THEREBY ENABLING TRANSFORMATIVE FUNDING TOWARDS BUILDING MOVEMENTS.
"When you're fighting for a life, whether you burn up or burn out you're in."

Participant from Thailand

Power back into feminist movements

Negotiating with people who don't share your world view

Who is not in the room

Non financial powers

How do we galvanize collective power?

Organize mobilise
ACKNOWLEDGING THE POWER DYNAMICS AND PATRIARCHAL VALUES PRESENT WITHIN THE MOVEMENT, AND CONSISTENTLY CHALLENGING THESE STRUCTURES WHILE BEING ACCOUNTABLE TO EACH OTHER.
"There are power dynamics within feminist spaces too."

Participant from Bangladesh

- Look at data and existing evidence
- Standing with ORGs when things are tough
- Share social capital with the movements
- Deficit mindset strengthens
- Positionality shapes perspective
- Capacity of ORGs, not just activity
MOVING FROM A DEFICIT MIND-SET TO A
STRENGTH MINDSET THAT IS BASED ON SHARING
POWER AND CREATING MEANS OF PARTICIPATION
"I feel that I am everywhere, but I feel that I am nowhere."

Participant from Fiji

Making inclusion a practice not just tokenism.

To be able to facilitate change.

Funding has to be long-term.

Negotiating the powers.

Solidarity be allowed in a space.

Be given a seat.
Improving the Transparency of Funding Data to Facilitate a More Informed and Inclusive Dialogue
DON’T WORK IN SILOS,
work in INTERSECTIONAL
spirit