# LEADING FROM THE SOUTH (LFS)

*A FEMINIST FUND TO RESOURCE WOMEN’S, GIRLS, TRANS, AND INTERSEX  
PEOPLE’S HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM IN ASIA*

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2021

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### ELIGIBILITY

##### What are the basic eligibility criteria to apply for this call for applications?

You will find the eligibility criteria for the Leading from the South (LFS) grants indicated in the call guidelines document available at [www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall](http://www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall). Please note that the eligibility criteria for each of the three grant categories—Frontline Defenders category, Amplifying Voices, and Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas—differ so please read the guidelines carefully to ensure you are applying for the correct category. The FAQs cover various aspects of the eligibility, but you will get the full picture reading the entire eligibility section.

##### What does it mean to be a women, girls, trans, and intersex people-led organization?

For the purpose of this call, WFA identifies women, girls, trans, and intersex people-led organizations as those who meet the following criteria:

* Board and Staff Leadership: The board and staff should be led by a *woman, girl (ages 18-24), trans, or intersex* person
* Board and Staff Composition:
  + **Frontline Defenders:** At least 60% of the governing board and staff should comprise women, girls, trans, and intersex people.
  + **Amplifying Voices** and **Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas:** At least 70% of the governing board and staff should comprise women, girls, trans, and intersex people.

Please note that the board and staff of applying organisations should be representative of the Asia region.

##### Are girl-led organisations eligible to apply?

WFA supports girls at two levels: through directly funding girl-led groups between the ages of 18 and 24, and through support ofing work on rights of young women and girls aged 13 and above. WFA will not be able to contract with groups whose leadership in the board or staff is below 18 years of age. WFA does not support organisations whose work is focused on the girl child or girls under 13.

##### What is the eligibility criteria for consortium applications?

In case of a consortium application, the board and staff leadership and composition of the lead organisation should comply with the criteria set out under the respective grant category. Additionally, the board and staff of the other consortium members should be led by women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and/or intersex persons and be based in one of the 17 countries.

##### Do we have to be registered to apply?

Yes, the Leading from the South programme is only open to organisations which are registered and possess the ability to receive foreign funds. However, if you are unregistered, you may apply as part of a consortium. Your lead applicant needs to be registered, able to receive foreign funding, and comply with the eligibility criteria.

##### Can past grantee partners under the Leading from the South apply for this call?

Yes, all previous SFM and/or LFS grantees are welcome to apply for the 2021 LFS call, provided that they do not have an ongoing contract that ends beyond 31 December 2021.

##### Can individuals apply for this call?

Individuals are not eligible to apply under the Leading from the South programme.

##### Can country offices of multilaterals organisations, international organisations and international financial organisations apply?

Please note that the country offices of multilateral organisations, international organisations, and international financial organisations are **not** eligible to apply for this grant. The core mandate of WFA is to support women, girls, trans, and intersex rights groups and activists in Asia and to address the non-availability of resources for women, girls, trans, and intersex rights work in the region. Please also note that WFA supports self-led women, girls, trans, and intersex rights groups whose vision and mission are rooted in the region. Please read our eligibility technical criteria carefully.

##### Can feminist/women’s/trans/intersex funds apply?

Yes, feminist, women’s, trans, and intersex funds registered and working in the 17 mandated countries for a minimum of three years can apply under the LFS programme. Such organisations may apply only for capacity building, knowledge building, and research activities under this programme. They cannot use LFS funds for sub-granting. They may only apply for the grant categories Amplifying Voices and Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas.

#### SCOPE OF THE LFS GRANTMAKING PROGRAMME

##### What is the geographical scope of this call for applications?

The call for proposals extends to 17 countries in Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. Applying organisations need to be registered, based in, and working in the countries mentioned above and be able to receive foreign funds.

##### What are the three categories of grants under LFS, and what are the amounts and duration of the grants?

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| **Grant Category** | **Duration** | **Maximum Grant Amount** |
| **Frontline Defenders (FD)** | 3 years (ending by September 2024) | USD 55,000 |
| **Amplifying Voices (AV)** | 2 years (ending by September 2023)  3 years (ending by September 2024) | USD 162,500  USD 244,000. |
| **Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas (PRFA)** | 2 years (ending by September 2023)  3 years (ending by September 2024) | USD 325,500  USD 486,000. |

The final size of the awarded grant lies with WFA and depends on the availability of funds.

#### PROPOSAL

##### How do I decide whether to apply for the Strengthening Feminist Movements (SFM) grant or Leading from the South (LFS) grant?

You can take a quiz to determine which grant programme your organisation is best suited for. You can learn more about both grant programmes on our [website](http://www.womensfundasia.org/index.php?r=whatWeDo/CallForAction).

Please note individual applications are only accepted under the SFM grantmaking programme.

Another key difference to note is that the SFM grants are for a maximum duration of 1 year for a maximum grant amount of USD 10,000, while grants under Frontline Defenders under LFS are available for a 3-year period for a maximum of USD 55,000.

##### Can we submit applications under both SFM and LFS grantmaking programmes?

Applicant organisation can make one submisson under the LFS programme; and another one under the Strengthening Feminist Movements programme. However if both applications are selected, the organisation will only receive one grant at the end of the selection process.

##### How do we select which category to select among LFS?

Again, please read the [LFS Call Guidelines](http://www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall) and within it, the description and the eligibility criteria for the three categories of grants under the LFS programme carefully. Your annual budget, as well as the levels at which you work, should determine under which category in LFS you can apply.

##### Will more than one application by an organisation be accepted under LFS?

Under the LFS programme, an organisation can submit a maximum of two applications— - one for itself; and a second either as part of a consortium application OR made on behalf of a partner or collaborating organisation. If additional applications are submitted by an organisation, they will not be considered.

##### Are there any specific requirements for consortium applications?

In case the application is for a consortium, the board and staff lead and the board and staff composition of the lead organisation should comply with the criteria set out under the respective grant category. Additionally, the rest of the consortium members’s board and staff should be led by women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and/or intersex persons and be based in one of the 17 countries. The audited statement of accounts or annual management financial report of all consortium members, including the lead are required documentation for consortium applications.

##### What work will be prioritised under the Leading from the South programmes?

The LFS grantmaking programme supports activism devised, implemented, and led by women, girls, trans, and intersex rights organisations in the Global South. The impact areas of the Leading From the South programme have been decided by the LFS Consortium to be **Participation, Voice, and Agency**. Further, the indicators agreed among the LFS Consortium towards the outcomes of the programme are:

* Number of laws, policies and strategies blocked, adopted, or improved to promote women’s voice, agency, leadership, and representative participation in decision-making processes in the public, private, and civic spheres;
* Number of times that CSOs (disaggregated by women-led, youth-led or other and formal/informal) succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions on women’s voice, agency, leadership, and representative participation in decision-making processes in public, private, and civic spheres, through agenda setting, influencing the debate, and/or movement building; and
* Number of organisations (disaggregated by women-led, youth-led, or other; and formal/informal) with strengthened capacity to advance women’s rights and gender equality.

All applicants should prepare the programme design as per these guidelines. Please ensure that the results proposed reflect the above outcomes and themes. Please read the [Call Guidelines, Section I](http://www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall) carefully.

#### SUBMISSION

##### How do we submit our application?

Applications for the Leading from the South programme are only being accepted online for this call. Please visit [our website](http://www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall) to access the call package, which includes the call guidelines, FAQs, checklist of required documents, online application form, and budget template. Please ensure you follow the links to correct application formats and submit your application/s before 12 midnight, 2 April 2021, Sri Lanka time/GMT+5:30.

##### Can we submit LFS applications in non-English languages?

For this call LFS applications will only be accepted only in English. If you require any assistance or technical support for this process, please reach out to us at least three weeks before the deadline.

##### Are all the listed documents on the checklist required for the applications?

Please note that an application will not be shortlisted for review if any of the required documents are missing or if submitted in the incorrect application format - such an application will be considered incomplete. Please write to us at least three weeks before the closing of the call, in case you have queries.

##### Our organisational documents are in a local language. How should we submit these?

If any of the required documentation is in a language other than English, you will need to provide a translated and attested copy of the same document in English. If the audited report is in a language other than English, at the minimum, Auditors’ opinion page, Balance Sheet, and Income Statement should be translated into English.

##### What is the submission deadline?

The deadline is **12 midnight on 2 April 2021** (Sri Lanka Time/+5:30 GMT). We recommend that you submit the completed formats along with supporting documents 2-3 days prior to the deadline, to avoid any problems that our system may encounter.

#### TERMINOLOGY

##### What do you mean by ‘trans’ people?

Trans as a term is used by WFA as a placeholder to cover a diversity of gender identities and forms of gender expressions claimed by people across the region and the world. WFA supports trans rights, including that of transfeminine, transmasculine, genderqueer, gender non-binary, and gender non-conforming people, amongst other identities.

##### What do you mean by ‘intersex’ people?

**“**Intersex people are born with sex characteristics (including genitals, gonads and chromosome patterns) that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies. Intersex is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations. In some cases, intersex traits are visible at birth while in others, they are not apparent until puberty. Some chromosomal intersex variations may not be physically apparent at all.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

##### What do you mean by ‘cis-men/women/gender’?

Cisgender/cis-men/cis-womendescribes people whose gender identity matches their assigned sex at birth. It is the opposite term, or antonym to transgender.[[2]](#footnote-2)

##### What do you mean by ‘feminist interventions’?

We support interventions that are based on feminist principles, which address inequality, discrimination, and power, and have elements of women and/or trans people’s agency, leadership, autonomy, and decision-making. Feminist interventions challenge historical and institutional processes of discrimination and marginalisation that have led to disadvantages for and denial of rights of communities of women and transpersons.

##### What do you mean by ‘rights-based programming’?

Rights-based programming includes elements of existing human rights frameworks. It means that the organisation places the rights of women and trans people at the centre of its programming and that their voices, leadership, and decision-making are integral parts of the programming. A framework for a rights-based approach has the following elements: recognition of rights; exercising of rights; claiming rights and redress of violations; and sustaining gains made and evolution of rights.

#### REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

##### What is the process of grant selection at WFA?

After the call deadline, the WFA team develops a database of all the applications received and undertakes shortlisting based on technical criteria. The shortlisted applications are then reviewed on the basis of strategies and activities proposed, approach, criticality of intervention, context, leadership, and constituency being supported, amongst others. The WFA team contacts the shortlisted applicants via email or calls to clarify any additional questions. This is followed by financial and legal due diligence, as well as reference checks. The final shortlisted applications are then shared with WFA's regional advisory committee. Based on the advisory's feedback, grants are then finalised.

##### Who comprises the Advisory Committee?

WFA appoints a group of activists, leaders, practitioners and donors working in the Asia region as the Advisory Committee. The Committee reviews and scores the shortlisted applications and in consultation with WFA, selects the final grantees under the Leading from the South grantmaking programme.

##### When will the final grant selections be made?s?

From the deadline, it takes WFA five months to review and shortlist applications. Selected grantees will be contacted in early to mid-September 2021.

**Please submit the completed application forms together with the budget and required documents by 12 midnight on 2 April 2021 (Sri Lanka Time/GMT+5:30). Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**

**Please write to** [**applications@wf-asia.org**](mailto:applications@wf-asia.org) **with the subject “LFS Call 2021 - 22 Inquiry for any queries you might have regarding the application process.**

1. Astraea Foundation, “Frequently Asked Questions About Intersex Issues.” [[https://www.astraeafoundation.org/frequently-asked-questions intersex-issues/](https://www.astraeafoundation.org/frequently-asked-questions%20intersex-issues/). Citing Free and Equal—United Nations for LGBT Equality, Intersex Factsheet. [https://www.unfe.org/wp content/uploads/2017/05/UNFE-Intersex.pdf](https://www.unfe.org/wp%20content/uploads/2017/05/UNFE-Intersex.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Asia Pacific Trans Network, “Legal Gender Recognition : A Multi-Country Legal and Policy Review in Asia”. <https://weareaptn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/UPDATED-ACKNOWLEDGMENTS-2019_rbap-hhd-2017-legal-gender-recognition-1.pdf>] [↑](#footnote-ref-2)