# **STRENGTHENING FEMINIST MOVEMENTS** **GRANTMAKING PROGRAMME**

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2021-22

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### ELIGIBILITY

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

Please read the eligibility criteria in the call guidelines documents of the two grantmaking programmes carefully to decide under which call to submit your application. The [SFM Call Guidelines](http://www.womensfundasia.org/SFMCall) and the [LFS Call Guidelines](http://www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall) are available on our website. You can also take a [quiz](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SFMorLFS) to check where your application fits best.

Individual applications are only accepted under the SFM grantmaking programme.

SFM supports women, girls, trans, and intersex rights activists, groups, and networks working at the local, subnational, and national levels. Therefore, if you are a regional or global organisation or network, or a feminist fund, and/or have an annual budget exceeding USD 50,000, you may apply for an LFS grant, after checking the eligibility criteria.

If you are a group or an organisation that works at local, sub-national, and national levels, are registered, and have an annual budget of USD 20,000, you may consider applying for the Frontline Defenders category under the LFS programme.

A key point to note is that the SFM grants are for a duration of 6 months or 12 months for a maximum of USD 10,000, while 3-year grants are available for a maximum of USD 55,000 under the LFS Frontline Defenders category.

##### Is my country eligible in this grant cycle?

The current call is open to applicants based in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

##### Would my organisation qualify for funding if my team meets the minimum criteria of 60% women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, or intersex, but does not meet the necessary criteria on the board?

WFA’s mandate is to support women, girls, trans, intersex-led organisations and initiatives. This basically means that if your organisation aims to work on women, girls, trans and intersex rights, you need to have a 60% representation of women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, intersex people on both your organisation’s staff and board. Please do note that the board and staff of applying organisations should be representative of the region and/or countries under the WFA mandate.

There might be some flexibility awarded to critical interventions which do not meet the organisational requirement, but these are very limited, and completely dependent on the nature of the intervention and the political context within which the intervention takes place.

##### Would my organisation qualify for funding if everyone on the board and staff are women, but the executive director is a cis man?

Unfortunately, no. As explained above, WFA supports groups with women, girls (ages 18-24) trans and intersex people in its decision-making positions. Some flexibility might be provided to some critical interventions, but this is done very rarely and only on a case-by-case basis.

##### We are a group comprising girls under 18. Can we apply for this call?

WFA supports girls at two levels: through directly funding girl-led groups between the ages of 18 to 24, and through supporting work on rights of young women and girls aged 13 and above.

You can apply for support if you have girls under 18 as members of your board and staff. However, your board and staff lead should be 18 years or above as 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.

##### Are we eligible if our annual budget is over USD 50,000?

WFA’s Strengthening Feminist Movements programme exists to support grassroots groups which have limited access to funding. Groups with an annual budget of more than USD 50,000 do not fit the eligibility criteria under this programme. Please check the eligibility criteria for the [Leading from the South grant](http://www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall) which is currently also accepting applications.

##### If we are a new organisation that has never received any funding, can we apply?

WFA welcomes new initiatives/groups to apply.

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

If your organisation is unregistered or does not have the required documentation, please write to us at least two weeks before you apply and we can explore your options. WFA will only be able to contract with individuals or organisations that fulfil the legal requirements to receive foreign funding in their country.

##### Can current WFA grantees apply in this call?

Yes. This call is open to past and current grantees of WFA who meet the eligibility criteria of the call. However, if you have a current ongoing grant which ends beyond December 2021, you will be ineligible for this grant.

##### We applied to Women’s Fund Asia for a grant before but did not receive funding. Can we apply again?

Please make sure that you meet the eligibility criteria set out by WFA, that your proposed work fits the Call Guidelines, and if yes, please do apply again. Please also note that this is a competitive process, and we receive a large volume of applications per call.

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

Not for the Strengthening Feminist Programme. If you are a feminist, women’s, trans, or intersex fund registered and working in the 17 mandated countries for a minimum of three years, you can apply under the LFS programme. Please see the [LFS Guidelines and FAQ](http://www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall) for more information.

##### Can individuals apply?

Yes, individual activists can apply. We provide these grants based on the application’s merits and the work’s relevance in/to the larger women, girls, trans, and intersex rights movements. However, we do give priority to institutional and programmatic grants. If you are based in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, please write to us first to explore your options. Please also read the eligibility criteria to see if you are qualified to apply. Applicants can apply for a maximum of USD 5,000 for a period of 6 months or 12 months.

##### Can country offices of multilateral organisations, international organisations, international non-government organisations (INGOs), and international financial organisations apply?

Please note that local branches, chapters, subsidiaries, or country offices of multilateral organisations, international organisations, INGOs, and international financial organisations are not eligible to apply for this grant. We urge you to carefully read the Call for Applications package and our technical criteria. The core mandate of WFA is to support women, girls, trans and intersex rights activists and organisations in Asia and to address the non-availability of resources for women’s and trans rights work in the region. Please also note that WFA supports self-led women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and intersex rights groups whose vision and mission is rooted in the region. If you are a women’s, girls (ages 18-24), trans, or intersex rights regional or global organisation or network, you are ineligible for an SFM grant but may be eligible for an [LFS grant](http://www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall).

#### GRANT TYPE AND DURATION

##### What is the SFM grant size and duration?

The duration of a grant is either 6 months or 12 months. If you are a first-time organisational grantee, you can expect the grant to be within the range of USD 5,000-7,000. Our longer-term organisational partners (more than 1 year) may be allocated a grant up to USD 10,000. An individual grant cannot exceed USD 5,000. The final size of the awarded grant lies with WFA and depends on funding availability.

##### What is an institutional grant?

An institutional grant is a type of grant support that you can request to fill various funding gaps in your organisation. This support is not necessarily tied to projects. This means that you can apply to us to cover costs that are required to run an organisation, including administrative, financial management and operational costs, such as salaries, rent, equipment, travel, office maintenance, costs of legal and financial compliance (such as audits), organisational capacity building, strategy development, and others. At the same time, institutional grants can also support your ongoing programmes, initiatives, and collaborations.

While applying for an institutional grant, you can request for partial operational and partial programme support or only operational support (alternatively, you can apply for programmatic support). Institutional grants give organisations the flexibility to decide where funding is required and obtain funding to fill these gaps. While providing an institutional grant, WFA will request you to provide us information about your overall work, strategies, and results expected rather than a particular programme/project of the organisation.

##### Does WFA provide emergency grants?

No, WFA does not provide emergency grants. However, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at [applications@wf-asia.org](mailto:applications@wf-asia.org) and we will do our best to connect you with other funding sources.

##### Are there strategies or activities you do not support?

WFA does not fund any strategy that contradicts feminist, rights-based approaches, such as anti-sex work, anti-abortion, anti-LGBTIQ rights, and raid and rescue work. Additionally, we do not fund the following:

* Commercial activities
* Microcredit, microfinance, and other income generation activities
* Educational support, sponsorships, scholarships, and fellowships
* Service provisioning activities such as running of health camps
* 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)
* Buying land or any construction activity
* Emergency or relief funds
* Academic research

#### 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, girls, trans and intersex 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, girls, trans and intersex people.

##### What does ‘rights-based programming’ mean?

Rights-based programming includes elements of existing human rights frameworks. It means that the organisation places the rights of women, girls, trans and intersex 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.

#### PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

##### In which languages can we submit the proposal? Can we submit the application via email?

The application package is available for download in English and ten regional languages: Bahasa Indonesian, Bangla, Filipino, Hindi, Mongolian, Nepalese, Sinhala, Tamil, Thai, and Vietnamese. You can submit your application in any of these languages. We also accept application responses written in Bahasa Melayu, Burmese, Dzongkha, Khmer, Lao, Tetum, and Urdu, although we regret that we do not currently have the capacity to translate our application package to these languages. If you are applying in the above languages, please download the form and email your application to [applications@wf-asia.org](mailto:applications@wf-asia.org) by the deadline.

Applications can be submitted online or via email. The online application form is only available in English and can only be submitted in English. Please visit the [SFM page](http://www.womensfundasia.org/SFMCall) for more information. Please ensure you follow the links to correct application formats and submit your application before 12 midnight, 2 April 2021, Sri Lanka time.

##### My organisational documents are in a local language. How should I 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, the following pages should be translated into English: Auditors’ opinion page, Balance Sheet, and Income Statement.

##### Can we submit more than one application?

Individuals and organisations can only submit ONE application for the Strengthening Feminist Movements Programme. If more than one application is submitted, only the first submission will be considered. Additional applications from an organisation will be considered if they are made on behalf of/with a partner or collaborating organisation.Additionally, an organisation may also submit applications in the Leading from the South programme provided they pass the eligibility criteria. However, even if both applications under SFM and LFS are selected, an organisation will only receive one grant.

##### Can an organisation submit an application as a lead applicant with another as a part of a collaboration?

Yes. As mentioned above, it is possible for an organisation to apply as a lead applicant with another for collaborative work. However, please note that Women Fund Asia’s review and selection process aims to ensure that the funds are not concentrated and are more equitably distributed amongst selected grantees, geographies, strategies, and interventions. Please also take into consideration the maximum grant support provided in this programme when deciding on the modality of your application.

##### What does WFA prioritise: old partners or new grants?

This is a challenge for WFA, as it is for other donor groups, largely due to limited resources. WFA does consciously work to include newer partners each year, while also supporting existing partners to ensure sustained support over a period of time. With the given resources we have for each grantmaking cycle, we make this tough decision allocating the money between new and existing partners. As an example, in WFA’s last grantmaking cycle, 42% of the grants were to our existing partners and 58% to new grantees, particularly as we expanded our call to Southeast Asia and East Asia. This is largely because we expanded our grantmaking from five to 17 countries.

##### We do not have all the documents listed in the Checklist. What should we do?

Please write to us at least two weeks before the closing of the call. If you have some documentation, but not all, make sure to share the explanation in your application.

If you do not have most of the mandatory compliance documents, it is likely that you are not eligible, so do check with us. Please note that an application will not be shortlisted for review if any of the required documents are missing and/or explanations are not provided for not submitting them—such an application will be considered incomplete. Please also note that only applications in the correct application format will be processed. The checklist can be found on the [SFM Call page](http://www.womensfundasia.org/SFMCall).

##### What is the submission deadline?

The deadline is 2 April 2021 at 12 midnight Sri Lanka time/GMT+5:30. We recommend that you submit the completed application form and all supporting documents 2-3 days prior to the deadline, to avoid any problems that our system may encounter. Please ensure that your application is complete with all the required documents.

#### 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.

##### How much time does it take for WFA to process the applications?

From the deadline, it takes about five months to review and shortlist applications.

1. Astraea Foundation, “Frequently Asked Questions About Intersex Issues.” Accessed on 10 August 2020. <[https://www.astraeafoundation.org/frequently-asked-questions intersex-issues/](https://www.astraeafoundation.org/frequently-asked-questions)>. 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)>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Asia Pacific Trans Network, “Legal Gender Recognition : A Multi-Country Legal and Policy Review in Asia”. Accessed on 10 August 2020. <<https://weareaptn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/UPDATED-ACKNOWLEDGMENTS-2019_rbap-hhd-2017-legal-gender-recognition-1.pdf>> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)