



Women's Fund Asia



STRENGTHENING  
FEMINIST  
MOVEMENTS  
2021-22

# GUIDELINES

## 1. ABOUT WOMEN'S FUND ASIA

Women's Fund Asia (WFA) is a regional women's fund committed to supporting women, girls<sup>1</sup>, trans<sup>2</sup>, and intersex 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, girls, trans, and intersex rights activists and groups in Asia, address the non-availability of resources for women, girls, trans, and intersex rights work in the region, and support strategies and interventions designed, implemented, and led by women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and intersex people. We provide fiscal support to our partners, working to advance women, girls, trans, and intersex rights in their contexts. We aim to implement a regional mandate, which is informed by national and subregional realities and is responsive to the rights and needs of individual women, girls, trans, and intersex people.

## 2. 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, girls, trans, and intersex people in Asia.

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1. WFA acknowledges that there is no consistent and agreed upon definition of "girls." 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.

2. "Trans" 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, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people, amongst other identities.

### 3. CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Call for Applications is open until **2 April 2021**. Women, girls, trans, and intersex rights groups, organisations, networks, and activists working at the subnational and national levels from 17 countries<sup>3</sup> are eligible to apply.

The Application package includes the following:

- Proposal Format
- Budget Format
- Checklist for required documentation
- Call Guidelines (this document)
- WFA's Grantmaking FAQ

The package can be downloaded from [www.womensfundasia.org/SFMCall](http://www.womensfundasia.org/SFMCall).

The application package is available in English, and in ten regional languages: Bahasa Indonesian, Bangla, Filipino, Hindi, Mongolian, Nepalese, Sinhala, Tamil, Thai, and Vietnamese. Applicants can also send their response using the English form in any of these languages: Bahasa Melayu, Burmese, Dzongkha, Khmer, Lao, Tetum, and Urdu.

Applications can be made online or via email. The online application form is only available in English and can only be submitted in English. If you are applying in one of the other languages listed above, please download the form and email your application to [applications@wf-asia.org](mailto:applications@wf-asia.org) by the deadline.

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) before completing the application.

**Deadline for submissions is 2 April 2021 at 12 midnight Sri Lanka time/GMT+5:30. Please write to [applications@wf-asia.org](mailto:applications@wf-asia.org) with the subject line "SFM Call 2021" for any queries while the call is open.**

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3. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

## 4. ABOUT THE STRENGTHENING FEMINIST MOVEMENTS PROGRAMME

Under this grantmaking programme, Women's Fund Asia supports women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and intersex rights activists, groups, and networks working at the local, subnational, and national levels.

The common threads that run through the grants under this programme are:

- promoting feminist principles and a rights-based perspective in women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and intersex rights work in the region, the key components of which are decision making, agency, and voice;
- strengthening the leadership of women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and intersex people, especially second-line leadership; and
- networking and collaborations among groups and activists working at local, subnational, and national levels.

## 5. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The call for applications extends to 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.

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

### WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE CURRENT CALL?

The call is open to women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and intersex rights activists, groups, and networks working at the local, subnational, and national levels.

Regional and global organisations and networks, as well as feminist/women's/trans/intersex funds, are **ineligible** to apply for this grantmaking programme.

If you are a regional or global organisation or network, a fund, or have a budget exceeding USD 50,000, please check the eligibility criteria for our [Leading from the South grant 2021-22](#) to apply.

#### **Organisations and networks who fulfil ALL the following criteria can apply for the Strengthening Feminist Movements programme:**

1. Must be based in one of these 17 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.
2. Must have advancement of women, girls, trans, and/or intersex rights as a focus of their vision, mission, and programme.
3. Must be committed to feminist principles and rights-based approaches.
4. Must have an annual budget of USD 50,000 or less.
5. Must be led by women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and/or intersex people. This means:
  - a) Both the board and staff should be led by a woman, girl (ages 18-24), trans, and/or intersex person.
  - b) Both the board and staff should be composed of at least 60% women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and/or intersex people.
6. Must NOT fall into any of these categories:
  - a) Groups using strategies such as raid and rescue, anti-sex work, anti-abortion, and anti-LGBTIQ, among others
  - b) 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

- c) Groups directly/indirectly related or connected with elections and election campaigning
- d) Groups directly affiliated with political parties and government institutions; note that the applicant's board and staff leadership should also not be affiliated with political parties and/or hold government positions, even if in their individual capacity
- e) Groups directly affiliated with religious institutions or faith-based groups
- f) Businesses/for-profit groups
- g) Educational/academic institutions, or groups affiliated with them
- h) A branch, chapter, country office of a multilateral organisation (such as ASEAN, SAARC, or one of the United Nations agencies) or of an international organisation based in the Global North
- i) A regional or global organisation or network
- j) Women's funds, trans funds, intersex funds, or any other funding organisation.

**Individual activists who fulfil ALL the following criteria can apply:**

1. Must identify as a woman, girl (ages 18-24), trans, or intersex person.
2. Must be a national of and must be based in one of these 17 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.
3. Must work on women, girls, trans, and intersex human rights issues with direct links to women's, trans, intersex, and other rights-based movements subnationally or nationally.
4. Must not be a civil servant, and/or affiliated with and holding office in political parties.



## WHAT DO WE NOT FUND?

- Microcredit, microfinance, and other income generation activities
- Sponsorships and scholarships
- Service provision 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

## 7. GRANT SCOPE

### GRANT SIZE AND DURATION

- Organisational grants will range from USD 5,000 – 10,000 for a period of 6 months or 1 year. [Note: For applicants who have not been supported by WFA previously, the maximum amount for an organisational grant is USD 7,000.]
- Individual grants will be up to USD 5,000 for a period of 6 months or 1 year.

### GRANT TYPE

Organisations, groups, and networks can apply for either an institutional and/or programmatic grant:

- **Institutional:** This includes institutional and administrative costs including salaries, rent, audit, and other operational costs. Institutional grants can also be used to fill funding gaps of ongoing/new programmes and collaborations, as per the need of the groups.
- **Programmatic:** This includes support for specific programmes/projects, whether ongoing or new initiatives.

Individuals can only apply for **Programmatic** grants.



## 8. GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES

### WHICH APPLICATIONS DO WE PRIORITISE SUPPORTING?

1. Those working towards strengthening movements to realise and sustain their rights.
2. Those working in difficult contexts and/or have limited access to resources.
3. Those which use feminist, rights-based, and intersectional approaches in their work.
4. Those groups which are self-led—the leadership of the group is representative of the constituency which the group is working with.

### WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITY AREAS?

Women's Fund Asia believes economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights are interlinked and that organisations work on a continuum of rights violations and deprivation. We fully recognise that interventions happen at multiple levels and are crosscutting and intersectional. The priority areas for WFA are:

- 1. Strengthening Feminist Voices:** Supporting and strengthening grassroots feminist leadership and movements has always been a priority for us. In the past, grants have supported institutional strengthening, capacity development for groups and their constituencies, grassroots mobilisation, campaigns, research, advocacy, and outreach.
- 2. Access to Justice:** We support initiatives focused on increasing women, girls, trans and intersex 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, and others.
- 3. Autonomy, Decisions, and Sexual Rights:** We support initiatives that promote the right to sexuality, decision-making, and bodily autonomy of women, girls, trans and intersex 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 and rights.

- 4. Movement and Labour:** We support interventions focused on women, girls, trans, and intersex 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.
- 5. Environmental Justice:** We recognize the need for feminist leadership in resource management, disaster risk reduction and resilience, addressing climate change, and sustainable development. We support interventions aimed at securing women, girls, trans and intersex people's rights over natural resources across a diversity of constituencies, including women with disabilities, women farmers, garment factory workers, and indigenous and Adivasi women. This year, we especially welcome applications focusing on strengthening the voices, leadership, and resilience of women around climate mitigation and adaptation.
- 6. Emerging Issues:** Interventions related to addressing women, girls, trans, and intersex rights issues that are particularly relevant in the current context in the region, which are not covered by the five priority areas above will be supported under this thematic area. *Please note though that this call is not meant to provide emergency relief related to COVID-19.*

## 9. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

It takes Women's Fund Asia about five months from the application deadline to complete the grant making review and selection process. 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 2 April 2021 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. Selected grantees will be contacted by mid-September 2021.
4. Please also note that 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](mailto:applications@wf-asia.org), with the subject line "SFM Call 2021 Inquiry". If you would like to stay updated on future calls for application, please sign up for WFA's newsletter [here](#).