



Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference 2023 Resourcing Feminist Movements as a Pillar of Feminist Foreign Policy

Around the world, intersectional feminist movements and organisations are at the frontlines of demanding equality and justice both locally and globally. They hold the line, especially during times of crises. Across their efforts, these movements and organisations resist authoritarianism, defend democracy, demand public accountability and good governance, and advance economic, environmental and gender justice agendas in a world fraught with impacts of climate change. They work tirelessly to transform oppressive norms, structures and institutions and build more just and equitable spaces for all.

The increasing anti-rights and anti-gender attacks of a plethora of different actors undermining democracy, multilateralism and the rights of women and structurally excluded communities in all regions of the world show that they are gaining ground. Because of their work, feminist movements, activists and organisations are frequently subjected to hostility, vilification and attacks. Online harassment continues to grow. Furthermore, they have been chronically underfunded for decades, hindering their ability to strengthen their infrastructure and innovate to the extent that is needed to bring about transformative change and stand the tide against the gaining ground of anti-rights and anti-gender agendas.



Data Snapshot

On the one hand,

- **ODA to women's rights organisations went down from USD 581 million in 2018-2019 to USD 574 million in 2020-2021¹;**
- **Only 0.22% of overall ODA that addressed both climate change and gender equality objectives in 2018-2019 went to women's rights organisations²;**
- **72% of global LBQ groups³ and 61% of Black feminist groups⁴ reported having annual budgets of less than \$50,000.**

On the other hand,

- **The aggregate revenue of US based organisations associated with the anti-gender movement between 2008 and 2017 was USD 6.2 billion⁵;**
- **During the same period, 11 US organisations associated with the anti-gender movement moved at least USD 1 billion into countries across the globe⁶; and**
- **USD 707.2 million in anti-gender funding was spent in Europe over the 2009-2018 period to rollback rights⁷.**

1. [Development finance for gender equality and women's empowerment in 2020-2021: A snapshot \(oecd.org\)](#)

2. [Where is the Money for Black Feminist Movements? by the Black Feminist Fund](#)

3. [Vibrant Yet Under-Resourced: The State of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Queer Movements by Astraea Lesbian Foundation and Mama Cash](#)

4. [Where is the Money for Black Feminist Movements? by the Black Feminist Fund](#)

5. [Meet the Moment: A Call for Progressive Philanthropic Response to the Anti-Gender Movement by the Global Philanthropy Project](#)

6. Ibid

7. [Tip of the Iceberg by Neil Datta, Secretary of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights](#)

Strongly supporting feminist movements with abundant and flexible dedicated resources is central to delivering on the vision and potential of international feminist foreign policies.

It is important to follow the courageous leadership of feminist movements with bold action. Here are some ways this can be done:

- Deliver on existing international commitments as well as the ambition and vision of the 2023 [political declaration](#) on Feminist Approaches to Foreign Policy, which includes the intention to take intersectional feminist and gender-transformative approaches to foreign policies and do so in close cooperation with feminist civil society and movements.
- Step up and unequivocally invest in feminist activism for the long term as a key strategy to reduce inequalities and move towards more democratic and just societies for all.
 - Increase the overall percentage of gender-focused ODA commitments that goes directly to feminist organisations including those in the global south to 10%.
 - Review and revise the modalities of funding in line with feminist funding principles and practices to reach a continuum of women's rights organisations and feminist movements, including but not limited to channeling resources via trusted, proven partners like feminist funds.
 - Improve the 'quality' of resources (core, flexible, multi-year) and streamline reporting requirements to ensure the ability to test new ideas and pivot due to shifts in context is still possible.
 - Set an ambitious target of having 50% of programmes and consortia funded via civil society funding streams be led by organisations rooted in the Global South and that actively engages communities in funding and investment decisions that affect them.

- Ensure the approach to risk takes into account the inherent risks feminist activists and organisations encounter in challenging oppressive structures and standing up for human rights and equality, as well as the greater risk of maintaining an unequal status quo. This means being intentional about following the principle of "do no harm" and ensuring funding requirements and restrictions do not overburden or hinder the core activities of feminist movements and activists.
- Take a global perspective to gender equality and women's rights across funding streams in order to be effective rather than limiting funding to a narrow set of countries. The realities of climate and environmental disasters know no borders. Violations of the human rights of women and gender non-conforming people are not limited to geographical borders, and anti-gender, anti-rights forces are known to operate transnationally.
- Be accountable to feminist movements.
 - Follow the lead of feminist civil society and movements – particularly from the Global South and representing structurally excluded populations – in policy and decision-making, including in the design and management of funding instruments and modalities, following the principle of 'nothing about us, without us.'
 - Provide annual public reporting and ensure feminist foreign policies have monitoring and evaluation frameworks from the start.

A selection of feminist contributions to government consultations on their Feminist Foreign Policy:

- Count Me In! Consortium's [contribution](#) to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' consultation process
- Equality Fund's [contribution](#) to Global Affairs Canada's consultation process
- Southern feminist [recommendations](#) for the German Feminist Development Policy, as compiled by the Center for Feminist Foreign Policy
- WO=MEN – the Dutch Gender Platform's [contribution](#) to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs consultation process

Recommended resources:

- [Counting Sex Workers In Feminist Foreign Policies](#)
- [Defining Feminist Foreign Policy: The 2023 Edition](#)
- [Feminist Funding Principles](#) and [Principles for Feminist Funding](#)
- [Feminist Foreign Policy: Stronger Action Needed to Resource Feminist Movements](#)
- [Interrogating Feminist Foreign Policies from African Feminist Perspectives](#)
- [Statement of Intent by the African Feminist Collective on Feminist Informed Policies](#)

