

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
Call for Proposals for I/NGO Partners for the WHRDs window

Call Opens: 4 January 2022 - Deadline for Submissions: 28 January 2022
Apply at: <https://wphfund.org/call-for-proposals-whrd-window-ingo-partners/>

1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The overall purpose of this call for proposals is to identify and partner with credible and experienced International, Regional or National, Non-Governmental Organizations (I/NGO) in conflict and humanitarian contexts who can provide individual grant management services, support identification and ongoing communication with Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) and participate in coordinated efforts for the protection of WHRDs through the WPHF's funding window for WHRDs.

The call for proposals contributes to WPHF's Impact Area 5 of ***Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls' and their human rights respected***, and which will track and measure:

1. Number of WHRDs and peace activists supported through flexible funding (by country of origin)¹
2. Amount of funding transferred to WHRDs (by country of origin)
3. Types of support, guidance or referrals provided to WHRDs

The WPHF is therefore inviting I/NGOs with experience in working with WHRDs and peace activists in fragile and conflict affected contexts to apply. Organizations need to have a proven track record working on women's rights, feminist and human-rights based principles, addressing protection issues of women and girls, as well as a proven track record of being able to mobilize quickly to support the safeguarding of women at risk.

2. ABOUT THE WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AS PEACE ACTIVIST FUNDING WINDOW

Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) in conflict and post-conflict areas face many threats and challenges. They face increased risk of violence by state and non-state actors because WHRDs including women peace activists can be perceived as enemies when they challenge systems linked to violence such as political power structures, gendered power relations, patriarchal notions of the role of women in the family and society, and toxic masculinities. WHRDs are at higher risk of experiencing sexual violence and rape and are targets of femicide, sexual violence, attacks against their sexual and familial reputations, violence within the home and the organizations where they work, and gender-based travel bans. In 26 conflict-affected countries, the UN has verified at least 102 killings of women human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists that occurred between 2015-2019. When WHRDs face targeted violence, it is often with the aim of discrediting their work for justice and human rights and deterring or forcibly excluding them from a decision-making process.

Additionally, WHRDs important role as peace activists during and after conflict such as assisting victims of violence, negotiating with different armed actors and contributing to peace-building initiatives is often ignored. This lack of recognition can limit their access to solidarity organizations and networks, international institutions and donors, and increase threats to their security. Without WHRDs' perspectives in decision-making in conflict and crisis settings, it is less likely that provisions related to the protections of women's and girls' rights will be included in any peace process and political settlement.

¹ Please refer to Annex A of the proposal template for the results framework and associated results and indicators.

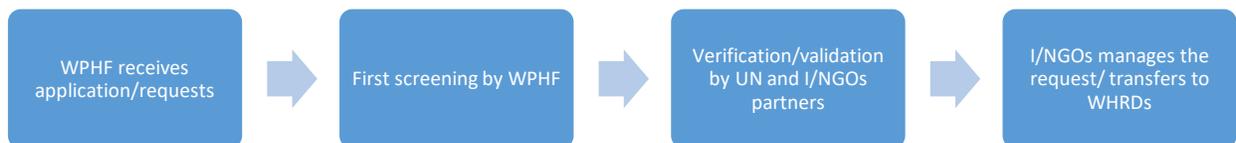
The WPHF Funding Window to support WHRDs will address a gap in WPHF mechanisms and contribute to the international community's support to WHRDs, in particular women peace activists working in conflict and crisis settings. This new window responds to the increasing needs and calls for support from WHRDs and women peace activists for flexible resources to support their work and needs, ensure their protection, and increase their participation in decision-making and advocacy spaces.

The partnership between WPHF and international/regional/national NGOs will be established to complement the respective entities' expertise and access to WHRDs with advocacy entry points for the rapid support of WHRDs worldwide. Close collaboration between WPHF, UN agencies, I/NGOs, and Member States will ensure coordinated efforts for the protection of WHRDs as peace activists and their increased participation in decision-making and advocacy spaces.

2.1 WHRD Flexible Safety Net Funding

Under the WHRD funding window, in partnership with I/NGOs, a **Flexible Safety Net** stream will be provided to WHRDs. The Flexible Safety Net will cover urgent costs, such as short-term livelihood and protection expenses including (but not limited to): IT equipment, internet, mental health care services, secured transportation and shelter, as well as advocacy costs related to promote women's rights in political, peacebuilding and humanitarian response. This funding stream will be managed and supported by an I/NGO partner (see simplified tentative process figure below).

Urgent costs are up to USD 10,000 per request and are short-term in nature due to the changing contexts and needs and would be granted for a period of 1 to 6 months.



2.2 WHRDs Eligible under the Funding Window

WPHF will define criteria for eligibility of WHRDs, taking into account different contexts and noting that women peace activists who defend the rights of individuals and communities may not be affiliated to a particular human rights organization. In fact, women eligible under the funding window may not describe themselves as WHRDs or peace activist and do not necessarily belong to a formal organization.

Human rights defenders are identified above all by what they do, and it is through a description of their actions and of some of the contexts in which they work that the term can be best explained.² WHRDs are commonly defined as women, or those who identify as women, who individually or in association/coalition with others, formally or informally, act to promote or protect human rights - including women's rights- in a peaceful manner, at local, national, regional, or international levels. These women are particularly at risk when they challenge systems linked to violence, such as political power

² OHCHR, Fact Sheet No.29, Human Rights Defenders: Protecting the Right to Defend Human Rights, p 2.

structures, gendered power relations, and patriarchal notions of the role of women in the family and society.

This window will support WHRDs at risk from crisis and conflict countries, who are:

- In their country of origin
- Relocated (inside or outside their country of origin)

3. ABOUT THE WOMEN'S PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN FUND (WPHF)

Composed of representatives from donors, United Nations entities, and civil society organizations, the WPHF is a global pooled funding mechanism which aims to re-energize action and stimulate a significant increase in financing for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in peace and security processes and humanitarian response. The WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism. It supports quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

The WPHF breaks silos between humanitarian, peace, security, and development finance by investing in enhancing women's engagement, leadership, and empowerment across all phases of crisis, peace and security, and development. It addresses structural funding gaps for women's participation in key phases of crisis, peace and security, and development by improving the timeliness, predictability, and flexibility of international assistance. Notably, it will ensure a timely investment in conflict prevention after receipt of early warning signals from women and will accelerate the dispersal of development assistance after successful peace negotiations. It recognizes that peace cannot be created nor sustained without investment in civil society organizations. Therefore, the WPHF invests in strengthening civil society organizations, particularly in grassroots women's organizations, with the required financial and technical support.

The overall goal of the WPHF's theory of change is to contribute to **peaceful and gender equal societies**. Achievement of this goal will require that women are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding, and recovery. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has been supporting over 400 civil society organizations and is present in 25 countries or group of countries.

4. CALL FOR PROPOSALS

4.1 Role of I/NGO Partners

I/NGOs are critical in order to identify swiftly the needs and type of support to be provided and to ensure the rapid deployment of funds to WHRDs. The roles and responsibilities of the I/NGOs will include:

- Verifying and assessing the applications
- Managing rapid transfer of funds to WHRDs to ensure their protection and needs are met
- Ongoing financial management and reporting of progress
- Providing any strategic support, guidance, and on-going communication with WHRDs
- Provide logistical support, referrals and/or linking WHRDs to support services
- Communication and liaison with WPHF to increase efficiency of the WHRD window and participation in an annual evaluation
- Participate in quarterly calls with WPHF to update on progress, discuss challenges and learnings

- Contribute to knowledge management, communication efforts to increase visibility of the window and its importance

4.2 Duration of Partnership

The partnership with WPHF will be an initial period of 12 months. This partnership may be renewable.

4.3 Size of Grants and Funding Amount

The WPHF will grant a maximum of **\$400,000 USD** to an I/NGO and up to **\$700,000 USD** for a consortium of I/NGOs to deliver the aforementioned activities. This includes all costs related to the management of the support, including communications and logistics, monitoring and reporting, and contribution to staff costs. Applicants are not required to contribute to the budget. The majority of this budget should be used to for WHRDs directly (up to 10,000 USD per request).

4.4 Eligibility of I/NGOS

International, Regional or National Non-Governmental Organizations who have experience working with WHRDs and peace activists in fragile and conflict affected contexts are eligible to apply. Organizations need to have a proven track record working on women's rights, feminist and human-rights based principles, addressing violence against women and girls, and protection issues of women and girls. Organizations with multiple language capabilities are encouraged to apply.

The following are NOT eligible to apply:

- Government agencies or institutions;
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams;
- Private individuals;
- Private sector entities;
- Universities and Education institutions

A proof of legal registration (or legal status) will be required. Applications without clear proof of legal status will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn from the application process. Note that articles of incorporation are **not** proof of legal status.

4.5 Qualifications and Evaluation Criteria for Selection

A technical evaluation of proposals will be conducted, and proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Institutional Commitments and Capabilities

- Organization's alignment with WPHF Outcome 5: Protection of Women and Girls and experience in supporting WHRDs and peace activists in fragile and conflict affected contexts.
- Experience as a grant-making organization including to individuals in fragile and conflict affected contexts and in transfer of funds in difficult contexts
- Proven track record of being able to mobilize quickly to support the safeguarding of women at risk, including the provision of referrals and access to support services
- Technical expertise and experience relevant to women's protection issues
- Geographic reach inside/outside conflict and crisis affected countries
- Language capabilities is an asset

Programme Management and Monitoring

- Experience in and understanding of Do No Harm Approach for WHRDs and peace activists engaged in initiatives who face additional security risks.
- Identified risks and mitigation measures, including data protection and security.
- Clear monitoring, evaluation and reporting approach.

Budget

- Proposal budget falls within the funding limits of the Call for Proposals.
- The indirect costs are lower than or equal to 7%.

5. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

- WPHF will hold an information session on Thursday, 13 January at 15:30 Geneva (9:30 EST). Register your interest for the webinar at: WPHF-WHRD@unwomen.org
- Application packages can be downloaded from the WPHF website at: <https://wphfund.org/call-for-proposals-whrd-window-ingo-partners/> and submission must include:
 - WPHF Proposal Template
 - Results Framework (Proposal Template Annex: A)
 - Project Budget (Proposal Template Annex: B)
 - Proof of valid legal registration
- Application packages should be emailed to WPHF-WHRD@unwomen.org with the subject line of: **WPHF-WHRD I/NGO Partnership CFP** no later than **28 January 2022, at 11:59 EST**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.
- Applications are accepted in **English**.
- Applications can be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted. Legal registration certificates can be submitted in jpeg, doc., docx., or pdf format. All documents should be submitted together as one package.
- Changes to your application after submission are not permitted.
- WPHF will accept questions related to this proposal until 19 January 2022. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions. Email questions to WPHF-WHRD@unwomen.org
- WPHF will aim to acknowledge receipt of application within three days of receipt. Please **DO NOT** resend your application unless you do not receive a confirm of receipt within three days.
- **Only** shortlisted applications will be contacted for next steps.

6. USEFUL RESOURCES

- WPHF website <https://wphfund.org/>
- WPHF page on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office's Gateway: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/GAI00>
- [WPHF Operations Manual \(2021\)](#)
- WPHF Twitter account: [@wphfund](https://twitter.com/wphfund)