

Call for Proposals

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and Women Have Wings CSO Peer Learning Awards 2024

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Ukraine

Recognizing the Contributions and Promoting Peer Learning between Civil Society Organizations Working on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action

Call Opens:	25 June 2024
Deadline for Submissions:	28 July 2024
Send Application package to:	emilie.vidal@unwomen.org

About the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) & Women Have Wings (WHW)

Composed of representatives from donors, United Nations entities, and civil society organizations (CSOs), the **United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)** is a global pooled funding mechanism providing urgently needed support for local women's rights and women led organizations to prevent conflict and respond to crises. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has supported over 1200 CSOs in 44 countries. In 2020, WPHF Secretariat launched a **Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)**, a global knowledge center offering dynamic and collaborative online spaces for its civil society partners to connect with each other, share best practices, and deepen their skills. One of the focus areas of the L-HUB is to facilitate synergies, collaboration and movement building among women civil society leaders sharing similar interests to support both their individual capacities and the institutional development of their organizations through peer learning.

Women Have Wings (WHW) provides honorific awards to women activists across the world since 2012. Thanks to the generous support of Women Have Wings in [2021](#), [2022](#) and [2023](#) the WPHF was able to recognize the excellent work of 30 women peacebuilders and humanitarians, and [awarded small grants to 10 tandems of women's organizations](#)¹ working on women, youth, peace, and humanitarian issues.

About the CSO Peer Learning Awards 2024

Building on the innovative partnership between WHW and WPHF and on CSOs' demand and interest in learning opportunities², the fourth edition of the Peer Learning Awards aims at continuing supporting peer learning among CSO representatives working on women, peace, security, and humanitarian action.

The CSO Peer Learning Awards 2023 have two main objectives: 1. **to amplify the voices, promote the work, and recognize the leadership** of ten women working or collaborating with a local CSO engaged

¹ A tandem refers to two women aged of at least 18 years old that are related to or represent an active WPHF CSO partner. In total 30 women working or collaborating with 30 CSOs received an award between 2021 and 2023.

² As shown by the CSOs' recommendations in the WPHF CSO annual surveys on the L-Hub initiatives [in 2021 and 2022](#).

in women, peace, security, and humanitarian action (WPSHA); and **to foster peer learning, networking, and solidarity** between ten local CSOs working on WPSHA.

As such, the awardees of the Peer Learning Awards 2024 will benefit from (a) recognition and visibility, and (b) a small grant for peer learning:

a. Honorary awards

The WPHF will offer honorary awards that will recognize the efforts of 10 women CSOs' representatives working on WPSHA (5 tandems of two CSO representatives), their engagement in peacebuilding and/or crisis response in a remarkable way and their unique contributions to their CSOs' mission and goals. The profiles of the 10 women will be spotlighted in [WPHF website](#) and communication channels and [WHW website](#) to expand their visibility and amplify their voices, including through social media and as part of WPHF Invest in Women campaign. All the collaborations will be presented in an online meeting at the end of the process.

b. Small grants

In addition, each tandem of CSOs will receive a \$8,000 grant to develop a peer learning project based on solidarity. Peer learning projects will aim at exchanging experiences and knowledge as well as collaborating with the other CSO to learn from each other and support mutual growth. Each tandem will elaborate an outline of their collaboration's goals and activities in the application process. The women CSO representatives will be implementing these activities together with their respective organizations to ensure that the newly gained skills and experience also benefits the CSO's institutional capacities. This will be achieved by involving several members of the organization in the peer learning activities, and/or by ensuring that the CSO representative transfers the new knowledge, approaches, and practices to other CSO members and colleagues. The WPHF Secretariat and UN country focal points will follow up with the CSOs' representatives to track progress and capture evidence from the peer learning projects and how they collaborate to transfer skills and knowledge.

Applications to the Peer Learning Awards 2024

1. How to apply

Eligible individuals/CSOs interested in applying should submit one joint proposal per tandem using the provided template by email to emilie.vidal@unwomen.org by **28 July 2024**. With subject line: **2024 Peer Learning Awards**. The proposal should not exceed 6 pages and should be drafted in English. Applications can be submitted in .doc or .docx or .pdf. No other formats will be accepted.

Applicants will receive an acknowledgement receipt of the application within three working days of submission. Please DO NOT resend your application unless you do not receive confirmation of receipt within three days of submission.

2. Duration of Peer Learning Projects

Peer learning activities should take place within a maximum of 6 months.

3. Location

To diversify the geographic scope of awards' beneficiaries, in 2024, the grants will cover peer learning activities in **Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Ukraine**.

4. Size of grants

The WPHF will provide five grants of a maximum of 8,000 USD each. The funds will be managed by the lead CSO applicant.

5. Eligibility

5.1 Applicant's Eligibility

The peer learning projects are expected to involve 10 CSOs in total, involving 5 tandems of 2 CSOs. All CSOs must be local women rights' organizations working on women, peace, security, and humanitarian action (WPSHA). Each tandem will be composed of a lead applicant (an active WPHF CSO partner) and a second applicant (both based in the same country or in different countries). The eligibility criteria for both are as follows:

(a) Lead applicant

- The lead applicant woman must be:
 - At least 18 years old
 - Working (as staff member, volunteer, board member, etc.) with an **active WPHF CSO partner which ends after 31 December 2024**, in **Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Ukraine**.

(b) Second applicant

- The second applicant woman must be:
 - At least 18 years old
 - Working (as staff member, volunteer, board member, etc.) with an active or previous WPHF CSO partner³ or another local women's rights organization working on WPSHA that has not yet been supported by WPHF, based in one of the following countries: **Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Ukraine**. The second CSO does not have to be legally registered.

(c) Important eligibility considerations

- Only two CSOs can apply jointly. Proposals including more than two CSOs will be disqualified.
- Youth rights focused and youth led organizations and women working in youth rights, youth led, grassroots and local community-based organizations (CBOs) working on WPS-HA are encouraged to apply as leads or partners. CSOs headed by someone who is forcibly displaced (refugee, IDP, returnee, or asylum seeker) and CSOs working with a focus on climate change resilience, climate security and/or food security are also encouraged to apply as leads or co-implementers.
- Partnerships between women leaders across generations or involving CSOs that have different backgrounds and skills (e.g., between an organization of women with disabilities and a youth organization, or between a disability focused CSO and an indigenous rights focused CSO) are encouraged to apply.
- CSOs that have collaborated/partnered in the past are eligible, however proposals involving new partnerships will be prioritized to encourage new relationship building and learning opportunities.
- Women working in international organizations are not eligible for the award.

³ Please see the [list of active and past WPHF CSO partners](#) that are eligible for this call for proposals (active CSO partners are eligible as lead and co-implementers, past WPHF CSO partners are eligible as co-implementers only).

- CSOs that have already received a peer learning grant from WPHF (a peer learning award, a peer learning and mentorship project and a joint advocacy action) as leads or co-implementers, are **not** eligible to apply for the 2024 Peer Learning Awards.

5.2 Eligible Activities

CSOs are encouraged to suggest collaboration activities that contribute to mutual learning, capacity development and the growth and resilience of their organizations (e.g., visibility, outreach, influence, and impact). Peer learning activities may include training (e.g. both CSOs' representatives attending a course, or one CSO's member providing training to the other CSO's team), technical support, field visits, joint campaigns on a topic of common interest, or similar initiatives.

CSOs are encouraged to include activities contributing to the CSOs' staff mental health, self-care, and well-being and/or enhancing the staff's ability to understand and deal with emotions in conflict situations (emotional consciousness) and/or to increase the staff's digital literacy, if relevant.

The specific roles of each CSO in peer learning should be clearly indicated in the proposal.

6. Evaluation criteria

The following evaluation criteria will be considered:

- **Women's profile and activism:** The applicants' contribution to promoting gender equality, peace and/or crisis response issues and how they have clearly demonstrated that each representative of both CSO work and/or advocate for gender equality, peace, and crisis response issues.
- Woman and their CSOs' **motivation** for the peer learning relationship and **expected benefits** from the collaboration (for example, because the CSOs' representatives can leverage their differences to gain new ideas and approaches and/or because the CSOs are working on similar topics and/or because the peer learning will cover areas that will increase the impact of the CSOs).
- **Clear description** of the proposed **actions and approaches**, and which demonstrate how the CSOs' representatives will involve or/and facilitate knowledge sharing with their CSO colleagues to contribute to the strengthening of their organizations.
- Clear description of **roles and responsibilities** of each CSO.
- **Budget** does not exceed \$8,000.

7. More information

An **information session** on the call for proposals will be held on 9 July at 10:00am CET in English register via [this link](#).