



Unleashing philanthropic investments at the grassroots level for women's empowerment

OECD netFWD Gender Working Group 2021 Online Meeting

29 January 2021 | 14.00 - 16.00 CET

About the meeting

Evidence shows that local women's movements are a key driver of legal and policy change in favour of gender equality and women's empowerment. Women's movements are also critical to transform entrenched discriminatory social norms and practices. Yet, women's rights organisations and other local groups working on gender equality have been chronically underfunded. According to the OECD data, less than 1 % of gender-targeted philanthropic funds in 2018 benefitted directly women's organisations and institutions at the local level.

The OECD netFWD Gender Working Group meeting will bring together global leaders in philanthropy, representatives from women's rights organisations and gender equality funds to identify ways that can enhance both the volumes and quality of philanthropic investments in grassroots women's organisations.

Draft agenda

- **Opening:** Bathylle Missika, Head of Division, Networks, Partnerships and Gender, OECD Development Centre
- **Kick-off speech:** Hakima Abbas, Co-Executive Director, AWID
- **Session 1: Why are grassroots women's movements chronically underfunded? Donors' common challenges**
Foundations face common challenges in their efforts to fund frontline organisations working on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Global South, which may explain the relatively low level of funding towards those organisations. This session will analyse systemic, institutional and behavioural barriers to funding frontline organisations, whether directly or through intermediaries.
 - Kick-off: Valérie Méunier, International Programme Director, Fondation CHANEL
 - Speakers from the floor :
 - Sarah Henry, Executive Director, Global Center for Gender Equality, Stanford University
 - Bama Athreya, Senior Advisor in Gender and Social Inclusion, Laudes Foundation (confirmed)
 - Ozen Pulat, Programs Supervisor, Sabanci Foundation
 - Sylviane Balustre, L'Oréal Fund for Women – Director, Fondation L'Oréal - Inclusive Beauty Program Director
 - Gulnora Mukhamadieva, Global Lead, Gender Equality, Foundation
- Networking break (5 min)

- **Session 2: Trickle down funding to the frontlines: novel funding and partnering approaches** (60 min) By using new funding streams and mechanisms, foundations can successfully overcome some of the barriers that limit funding of women's groups in the Global South. Examples include providing direct support, partnering with specialist intermediary organisations (such as women funds or dedicated gender equality funds) or nurturing medium and larger women's rights organisations with established links to the grassroots movements. This session will explore novel partnership and funding modalities designed to resource Global South women's movements in more connected, transparent, and impactful ways.
 - Moderation: **Nicolette Naylor**, International Program Director for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice, Ford Foundation
 - **Jessica Tomlin**, Co-CEO, Equality Fund
 - **Alexandra Garita**, CEO, Prospera
 - **Silvia Bastante de Unverhau**, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Co-Impact
 - **Rosa Bransky**, Co-founder, Purposeful
- **Closing** (5 min)