



Building a Feminist Aid Architecture and Revolutionizing Philanthropy

WFA is beyond excited to share the news that we have received a gift of \$ 6million dollars by Mackenzie Scott as part of her 2019 giving pledge. This gift is a recognition of the critical work undertaken by WFA and its partners in the Asia and Pacific region on pushing feminist agendas, strengthening feminist leadership and feminist movement building.

In order to be sustained and realize their aspirations, it is critical for movements to be resourced. Resources are a political issue; they are a rights issue – a right denied to women, girls, trans and intersex communities for too long. In 2011, when we launched our regional study – Rights, Shares and Claims, Realising Women's Rights in South Asia – analyzing philanthropic and aid trends towards feminist rights based work, the most critical finding was lack of flexible and sustainable resources which centered the voices and experiences that were leading the change agenda. Years later, it was frustrating and heartbreaking to see the trend continue when it was highlighted that globally less than 1% of gender equality aid was going to organisations led by women and girls.

Feminist organisations, especially those led by women, girls, trans and intersex people in Asia and the Pacific continue to be severely under-funded. In order to build a robust feminist resource architecture we need to revolutionize philanthropy and shatter the rigid colonial frameworks of aid flows globally. And this has been the mandate of the women's funds – resource justice for feminist movement building. As resource justice activists, WFA and its sister funds have been on a mission to establish a strong feminist aid architecture regionally as well as globally. We push boundaries and challenge status quo to bring in more resources for feminist movements led by women, girls, trans and intersex people, especially those in the global south.

During the last two years of the pandemic, the region was hit hard and the communities were barely surviving. Yet, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world's richest have become richer, widening the inequality gap between the rich and the poor. And this is where the gross injustice lies as all this wealth is accumulated on the exploitation of labour women, girls and other marginalised communities. We need to challenge these discriminatory structures and hold them accountable. And hence this act of Mackenzie Scott of pledging her wealth into hands of the communities is not only brave but revolutionary within the philanthropic world!

But for now, we will enjoy the sunshine, smell the roses and do the happy dance to celebrate our feminist solidarity. A big shout out to our incredible network Prospera and all our sister funds, especially our sister funds in the Asia and the Pacific region – our fellow resource justice warriors!

Our pledge is to dedicate this gift to all our partners who stand at the frontline, defending our rights and staking our claims! We know this is just a drop in the ocean and we have a long, hard way to go! To Courage, Conviction, Commitment and Revolution!

In gratitude and solidarity
WFA team



Women's Fund Asia