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**LEADING FROM THE SOUTH:**

A FUND TO RESOURCE WOMEN'S HUMAN  
RIGHTS ACTIVISM IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE ASIA  
REGION BY SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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## I. FUND RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES AND THEMES

South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF) was founded in 2004 with a mandate to support women's rights organisations and activists in South Asia; this mandate has now been expanded to the whole Asia region. Our work is grounded in the belief that communities of women can bring about meaningful change that will transform our reality and forge an egalitarian world. SAWF supports strategies and interventions designed, implemented, and led by women from the grassroots and other collectives resulting in strengthening local, national, and regional women's movements.

**Leading from the South** is a special fund created to resource women's rights activism in the global South (over 4 years), initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It supports activism devised, implemented, and led by women's rights organisations in the global South. Through grant-making, capacity building and other resourcing, Leading from the South will strengthen women's organisations, movements and networks, especially their advocacy capacity. The fund is being implemented by four women's funds: Three are Regional Funds: [African Women's Development Fund](#) (Africa and the MENA Region), [Fondo Mujeres del Sur](#) (Latin America and the Caribbean) and South Asia Women Fund (Asia); and one global fund [AYNI – the Indigenous Women's Fund](#)

Alliance building and investing in strengthening capacities will also be a key component of the programme. The facilitation of such spaces (at the national, sub-regional and regional level) by SAWF will aim to ensure collective reflections, learnings, and building cross-country and cross-region solidarities. The focus will be to link the voices and experience of those working at the local level with those at the national and regional level.

Addressing Goal 5 of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) - *working towards gender equality through empowering women and girls* - is a key focus of the Leading from the South Programme. To effectively work towards achieving the SDG Goal in an expansive and sustainable manner, it is critical to have a framework, rooted in the voices, experiences, and leadership of women. The programme framework is rooted within the three main principles of the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW) – Substantive Equality, Non-Discrimination, and State Obligation.

### THE GRANTS ARE AIMED TO ADDRESS 3 KEY OVERALL OBJECTIVES:

1. Addressing all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls and advancing women's bodily integrity and autonomy
2. Protecting and ensuring full economic rights and justice for women and girls
3. Expanding democratic space, sustaining inclusive governance and equal participation of women

WITHIN THE ABOVE, PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SEEK TO:

- a. **Strengthen Women's Voice and Leadership at the Grassroots level:** Mobilising women on the ground, especially in rural/peri-urban areas, to claim their rights and build leadership capacity to advocate with key stakeholders and duty bearers.
- b. **Expand the Right to Safe Mobility and Secure Livelihoods:** Advancing the rights of women to move freely and safely to access economic justice and other opportunities without fear of stigma, violence and exploitation. Priority will be given to initiatives working on rights of women in the informal sector (sex workers, domestic workers, women in the entertainment sector, garment workers, migrant and returnee migrant women workers etc.).
- c. **Invest in Young Women's Leadership:** Promoting emerging feminist voices, and addressing issues related to young women's sexuality, reproductive rights and bodily integrity.
- d. **Increase Access to Justice:** Expanding women's access to justice, especially through building capacities to engage with the judicial processes, strengthening legal awareness and provision of legal aid to assist women survivors and litigants to access justice, receive reparations and live a life of dignity.

- e. **Extend Environmental Justice:** Pioneering efforts that include women's voices and experiences in addressing environmental degradation; climate change and adaptation; access to natural resources; and rehabilitation policies and their implementation in the wake of natural disasters.

Special consideration will be given for outreach to women in/from marginalised communities facing multiple discrimination (women from minority and indigenous communities facing ethnic and caste based violence; LGBTIQ communities; women in stigmatised and informal labour; refugees; internally displaced; women with disabilities; women from conflict-affected areas, etc.)

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## II. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:

The Call for proposals extends to 18 countries in Asia, which have been approved by the Parliament of The Netherlands to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These include:

**South Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka

**South East and East Asia:** Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam; and Mongolia.

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## III. GRANT TYPE AND SIZE:

Grants will range from 30,000 Euros to 300,000 Euros for a period ranging from 1 – 3.5 years.

THE GRANTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

1. **FRONTLINE DEFENDERS:** Organisations working at the community and sub-national levels as the front line of defence against rights violations, and mobilisers of women's movements.

### FRONTLINE DEFENDERS

Organisations working at the community and sub-national levels as the front line of defence against rights violations and/or as mobilisers of women's movements.

➔ **A maximum of 10 grants will be awarded.**

- Applicants may apply for a grant for 1, 2 or 3.5 years
- Grant amount budgeted should be between 12,500 to 30,000 Euros per annum
- Annual budget of the organisation should be at least 20,000 Euros per annum
- The grant amount requested cannot be more than 50% of the organisation's budget

➔ Please download the proposal guidelines [here](#)

2. **AMPLIFYING THE VOICES:** National and sub-regional organisations and networks working on policy advocacy with key stakeholders and states, as well as campaigns on women's human rights.

### AMPLIFYING THE VOICES

Organisations and networks working at the local, national or regional level with communities and policy makers. The work need not be direct community implementation and can be focused on knowledge and capacity building, research, as well as evidence based advocacy at local, national, regional and/or international level. Groups can also apply for sustaining an on-going campaign or launching a new one.

➔ **A maximum of 5 grants will be awarded.**

- Applicants may apply for a grant for minimum of 1 year and maximum of 2 years
- Grant amount budgeted should be between a minimum 75,000 Euros and maximum 100,000 Euros per annum
- The annual budget of the organisation should be at least 50,000 Euros per annum
- The grant amount requested cannot be more than 45% of the organisation's budget

➔ Please download the proposal guidelines [here](#)

3. **PROMOTING REGIONAL FEMINIST AGENDAS:** Cross national, sub-regional and regional groups and networks undertaking capacity, knowledge and leadership building, and advocacy for state accountability to advance women's rights.

## PROMOTING REGIONAL FEMINIST AGENDAS

Organisations and networks working on capacity building, research and advocacy initiatives at the sub regional, regional or cross regional level. Priority will be given to groups working with international treaty bodies and regional inter-governmental organisations/or cooperation entities such as SAARC and ASEAN.

➔ **A maximum of 3 grants will be awarded.**

- Applicants may apply for a grant for minimum of 1 year and maximum of 2 years
- Grant amount budgeted should be between a minimum 200,000 Euros and maximum 300,000 Euros per annum
- The annual budget of the organisation/networks should be at least of 200,000 Euros per annum
- The grant amount requested cannot be more than 45% of the organisation's budget

➔ Please download the proposal guidelines [here](#)

## IV. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

### WHO MAY APPLY:

1. Only women's rights organisations, networks, and women's funds can apply for a grant. Applicant organisations must have:
  - 70% women on its Governing Body/Board;
  - 60% women as staff, and a woman must head the organisation;
  - 70% programmatic resources dedicated for direct programming on women's rights;
  - Women's Funds need to be registered and working in the region for a minimum of 3 years.
2. Two or more women's groups/networks can jointly apply as a consortium for any of the grant categories. There will be one lead organisation that will receive the grant and it must adhere to the eligibility criteria listed above.
3. Organisations need to be registered in the countries specified in Section II. Please note that organisations based and/or working outside of the specified countries are not eligible for applying for support under this programme.
4. Organisations must have the requisite legal registration to receive grants from foreign sources.

*Political parties, faith-based organizations, educational institutions and individuals are not eligible for funding either independently or as part of a consortium.*

### ACTIVITIES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE GRANT:

1. Building community leadership of women
2. Raising community awareness on rights of women

3. Directly supporting cases of Violence Against Women - supporting *case work and legal aid* to women survivors and litigants
4. Trainings/capacity building/workshops for various stakeholders
5. Research studies that will influence local/national/regional policy; and/or research on emerging women's rights issues
6. Engagement with international treaty bodies and inter-governmental regional organisations such as ASEAN and SAARC
7. Developing knowledge tools and kits to strengthen the work of women's movements
8. *Artivism*: using art as a tool to promote women's right through street theater, films, etc.
9. Information and Communications Technology related activities such as developing apps, digital security, online feminist spaces – websites, blogs, forums, running feminist tech centers etc.
10. New campaigns and sustaining ongoing campaigns
11. National, sub-regional and regional level feminist convergences
12. Support to women's human rights defenders to ensure their safety and security

## ACTIVITIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS:

1. Microcredit, Microfinance and other income generation activities
2. Sponsorships and Scholarships
3. Service provisions activities such as running of health camps
4. Direct or Indirect interventions in electoral or party-based political activities such as election campaigns, election processes, supporting or opposing a political candidate during elections and contributions to political party or individual candidate's fund (even if independent)
5. Re-granting: Using the funds to provide grants and fellowships to other groups and individuals. Please note Women's Funds can only apply for capacity building, knowledge building and research activities under this programme
6. Buying or construction of office space or any other space for the organisation

## V. BUDGET FORMAT AND GUIDELINES:

*Please refer to the format provided in the excel sheet, and explain all costs and categories in the Budget Narrative (the second sheet in the Budget format)*

### SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND WILL NOT FUND THE FOLLOWING:

- Costs of infrastructure such as purchase of land, property, acquisition of office space, construction
- The building of service facilities, shelters or short-stay homes
- Purchase of any type of vehicles (i.e. cars, motorcycles, boats etc.)

1. **Staff Salaries, Administration and Management:** no more than 40% of the total budget for the Frontline Defenders Grant; and 30% of the total budget for Amplifying the Voices and Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas Grants. This budget line includes staff salaries, benefits, administrative support including financial management, audit, staff travel, rental of office space, board meetings (including board travel), office maintenance and utilities, telecommunications and office supplies.
2. **Programme costs:** this budget line includes programme-related costs such as (but not limited to) research, publications, training, workshops, meetings, conferences and material development.
3. **Travel:** Please show the travel cost of consultants, participation in workshops, travel for M&E and outreach etc. separately in the budget. Please note that the staff and board travel for administration and governance purposes is not included under this sub-head (please see point 2).
4. **Contractual Services:** For all applicants: Please specify what types of contractual services will be included in the budget, and explain the details in the Budget Narrative.

5. **Equipment:** Please specify types of equipment that will be purchased. Please add a separate line in the budget for fixed assets, which include office furniture, computers, printer/photocopier/scanner, camera and projector. Please note that items such as Microsoft Office software, pen drives, and external hard disks should be categorised under Office Stationary.
6. **Software:** Please add a separate head for any software installation worth more than 450 Euros per annum.
7. **Monitoring and evaluation:** For all applicants, monitoring and evaluation costs of the project should preferably range between 3% and 10% of the total grant requested.
8. **Please provide the budget for the full grant amount request in Euros, as per the provided format.**

## VI. REVIEW AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS:

1. All applications received by SAWF will be acknowledged at the earliest, following the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 deadline.
2. Within 4 weeks, applicants will be informed about the status of their applications (rejected/shortlisted for further process) via email.
3. The submitted applications and final decisions for the grants will be led by an external Advisory Committee, (comprising feminist experts, academics, and activists from South, South-East and East Asia) and coordinated by the South Asia Women's Fund.
4. The short-listing and selection process will take approximately 12 to 14 weeks from the submission deadline. In some cases, interviews may be conducted, as part of the review process.
5. By last week of May 2017, all due diligence will be completed, selection of the proposals will be completed, contracts will be finalised and first installments disbursed.
6. By June 8, 2017, successful applicants will be announced on SAWF's website.

## VII: TIMELINE FOR GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT AND START DATE:

KEY STEPS	TIMELINE
First call for Applications	10 <sup>th</sup> January – 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Review (shortlisting, interviews, finalisation of grant contracts and grant disbursements)	Between 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017 and 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
Announcement of final grantees	1 <sup>st</sup> week of June 2017
Second Call for Applications	By October 2018