



LEADING FROM THE SOUTH: ANNOUNCING THE FIRST CYCLE OF GRANTS

In early 2017, four women's funds joined forces to launch the first calls for proposals for Leading from the South- a new funding stream dedicated to funding advocacy and lobbying by women's rights organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. The fund was initiated with support from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of their commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular [SDG 5](#) oriented to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The LFS fund is being implemented by four women's funds; three regional funds: **African Women's Development Fund** (Africa and the Middle East 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**.

The first calls for proposals was met with tremendous response from women's rights organisations across the global South. After a rigorous assessment process, the four funds are pleased to announce a total of 101 grants, representing 7.9 million Euro awarded to southern women's organisations working to transform society towards equality and full exercise of rights for all women. Funded organisations are based in a total of 50 countries and will be implementing initiatives in 67 countries.

As women's funds we are encouraged by the quality of proposals received, and strategic insight and creativity that women's organisations are drawing on in designing initiatives to impact society, demand accountability, and change our world for the better.

The number of applications indicates the scale of the demand for resources for local, national and regional women's rights organisations. It also points to the ongoing [funding gap](#) for women's groups, and the need to continue to commit more resources to global South women's organisations. As women's funds we remain dedicated to helping sustain women's organising in our regions, and to collaborating with each other and with other partners to leverage greater resources to fund the critical work of women's rights.

A full list of grants awarded is below:

[African Women's Development Fund](#) (Africa and Middle East)

[South Asia Women's Fund](#) (Asia)

[Fondo Mujeres del Sur](#) (Latin American and the Caribbean)

[FIMI/AYNI- Indigenous Women's Fund](#) (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean)

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