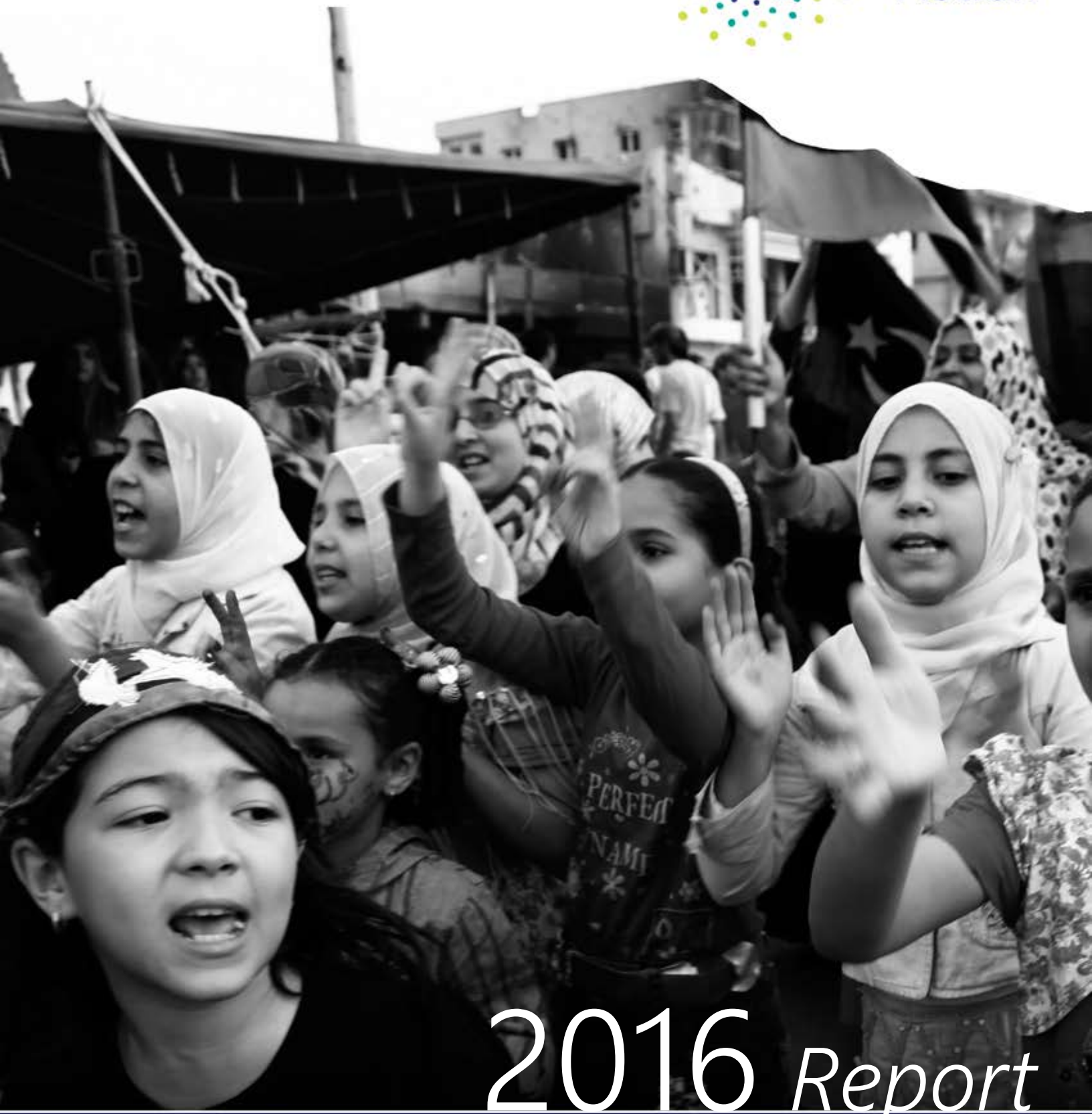





Donor  
Direct  
Action



2016 *Report*



*I have witnessed first-hand the needs of women's rights organizations working on the front lines, where so much is done with such limited resources. Donor Direct Action enables anyone anywhere to help these organizations and make a real difference in the lives of women and girls around the world.*

- NAVI PILLAY, CO-CONVENOR, DONOR DIRECT ACTION

*Nothing is more crucial than getting money to projects on the ground. Donor Direct Action knows how to get the funds where they are most needed and where they will make a real difference.*

- GLORIA STEINEM, CO-CONVENOR, DONOR DIRECT ACTION

*Donor Direct Action is the answer to what global feminism has been asking for: minimum bureaucracy, maximum effectiveness, support, contact, empowerment.*

- ROBIN MORGAN, PRESIDENT, SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

# INTRODUCTION

*Donor Direct Action* was created to strengthen women's rights organizations around the world. The empowerment of women is increasingly seen as a solution to ensuring economic growth, lasting peace and sustainable development in homes, communities and countries. However, funding of those leading this change – front line women's groups around the world – does not reflect this understanding.

*Of the \$10 billion provided to civil society organizations working to ensure gender equality in 2014, only 8% went to groups in developing countries.*

*"This suggests that gender focused organisations are being incentivised to act primarily as implementing agencies rather than to pursue their own agendas. Their energy and resources thus risk being directed towards short-term projects that reflect donor priorities rather than constituents' needs and that are less sustainable in the longer-term"*

*- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2016)*



Justine Masika Bihamba, Synergie des Femmes, DR Congo

The OECD has recognized that a robust growth economy is dependent on gender equality. Countries are simply more likely to prosper if they enable women to live and work on a level playing field.

Ending violence and discrimination against women will also have a significant impact on defusing conflict around the world. There is a direct connection between gender equality and global peace – ***peace agreements are 20% more likely to last two years when women are part of the peace process.*** However, many peace negotiations have no women at the table at all.

The ***Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*** is the most progressive blueprint ever for gender equality, but as the United Nations itself has recognized in reviewing its implementation, “progress has been unacceptably slow and recognition of gender equality as a global priority has not translated to real change in the lives of women and girls.”

Donor Direct Action connects front line women’s rights activists to donors around the world, capitalizing on the power of online fundraising and communications to mobilize international solidarity and support.

Using its well-established global networks and expertise based on decades of experience, Donor Direct Action selects partners on the basis of their strong leadership and greater potential systemic impact. These ***front line leaders*** have vision and courage but lack access to the resources they need to effect change for women in their country.

Donor Direct Action currently has ***fourteen partners*** in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Kenya, Latvia, Libya, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia, South Africa and Syria. Each partner is vetted in accordance with applicable U.S. laws, and provides annual financial reports and regular program updates.

Grants are generally unrestricted, to enable groups to identify and pursue their own program planning priorities and organizational development. This approach puts the power directly in the hands of the group, which is where it has the ***greatest impact.***

# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

As of year-end 2016, Donor Direct Action *had raised \$1,683,435 for its partners from 1,249 donors in 43 countries.* Each year, as more people learn about Donor Direct Action, the amount of incoming funds and outgoing grants increases. In 2016, we raised more than \$500,000 for our partners. Amounts donated range from a few dollars to tens of thousands of dollars, contributions that are tax-deductible for US-based donors. 90% of these funds – and in some cases 100% – were directly re-granted to local women’s groups around the world.

## FUNDS RAISED BY DONOR DIRECT ACTION FOR PARTNERS



We organized meetings and events, *introducing partners to those in the halls of power in the United Nations, and to major media, including the editorial board of the New York Times.* Over 500 articles or broadcasts featuring Donor Direct Action and our partners were published or aired during the year.

With your support, our partners have been able to continue and expand their life-saving and life-changing work.

*Here are just a few highlights from the work of some of our partners in 2016:*

- ***Over 120 Afghan women and girls fleeing violence were supported*** by Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA).
- ***3600 Nigerian women and girls facing violence and discrimination were supported*** by the Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA).
- ***2400 Somali girls were able to get an education*** provided by the Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD), which has increased girls' enrollment in the region to 40%, the highest rate in the country.
- In Nepal, the Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD) ***won a high court judgment for six girls who were sexually exploited*** in a children's home, and ***secured a court order to reopen the case of a policewoman gang-raped*** by six of her colleagues.
- In South Africa, Embrace Dignity launched ***Arise, a new initiative led by sex trade survivors to support women who have exited prostitution.***



Girls learning at HAWCA, Afghanistan

# ISTAR'S STORY

*Our special thanks go to the entire DDA team for the efforts you make to raise funds for us. Indeed it is such support that renews our zeal and hope that one day FGM will be a thing of the past. Together we shall be victors!*

- HAWA ADEN MOHAMED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE GALKAYO CENTER



Girls at The Galkayo Center, Somalia

In February 2016, 15-year-old Istar's family contacted The Galkayo Center to ask for help. Istar had been subjected to infibulation, a form of female genital mutilation (FGM) which leaves girls with their labia stitched together following the removal of the clitoris. Hawa Aden Mohamed, the founder of the Galkayo Center told us what happened:

***"Istar was married off to a 70-year-old man who paid 10 camels and a gun for her. As happens with many girls who have undergone this type of FGM, the husband was unable to penetrate her. He used a traditional dagger to cut her open. But he did it with so much force that the dagger went deep, affecting the vagina walls and cutting into her cervix. Istar started bleeding profusely, forcing her family to seek medical help. We helped Istar get medical assistance through one of the three hospitals we are working with, and our social workers have been providing her with psycho-social counseling throughout the healing process. Although she is now out of danger, Istar is deeply traumatized."***

# WHEN JASON MET MAMAN ROSE



Maman Rose and Jason Hackmann at Synergie Des Femmes, DR Congo

In October 2016, thanks largely to support from **DDA donors Jason Hackmann and actress Robin Wright**, **Synergie des Femmes opened a shelter** for 90 survivors of sexual and domestic violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Jason was inspired by his visit to Synergie, where he met Maman Rose. In his own words:

*“While visiting Synergie des Femmes, I met a woman called Maman Rose, who had suffered unimaginable atrocities. She and her husband had been working in their field when rebels came and took him away. She later learned that he had been killed. When Maman Rose went to recover his body, she was raped. Soon after, she and a group of women and men were captured by rebels.*

*Maman Rose, like the other women, was tied to a tree, beaten and raped again. The rebels burned the men alive and hacked the other women to death with machetes, while she was left barely alive. A man found her some days later, still tied to the tree, and he took her to safety. She went back to her village, but discovered she was pregnant. Her husband’s family kicked her out of their home and Maman Rose went to Goma with her children, where her daughter was raped and she too became pregnant.*

*I talked with Maman Rose in a small house that Synergie provides for her, her seven children and one grandchild. She was contemplating suicide before Synergie came to help her and she said she owes everything to them, as she could not have managed without them. Amazingly, she said that she forgave the rebels who attacked her.*



*Her dream was that all of her kids could go to school one day. For just a few thousand dollars, I have been able to make her dream come true and guarantee that all of her children will go to school through the rest of their school years."*

*Through Donor Direct Action, you can support the front line work of Synergie des Femmes in the Congo, and you can help women like Maman Rose rebuild their lives.*

– JASON HACKMANN

## REHABILITATING SURVIVORS OF RAPE



Dr. Denis Mukwege at Panzi Hospital, DR Congo

Panzi Foundation supports and supplements the work of Panzi Hospital. Under the supervision of Medical Director Dr. Denis Mukwege, Panzi Hospital has treated **over 25,000 women for gynecological conditions**. Many of these women and girls – and in some cases even infants – have been subjected to severe sexual violence.

In addition to raising funds to support Panzi Foundation, Donor Direct Action has also supported Dr. Mukwege in his efforts to ensure that the hospital is a safe and secure place for the survivors receiving treatment there, as well as for staff, one of whom was abducted, raped and tortured. Donor Direct Action helped ensure that the hospital was protected by the UN peacekeeping force (MONUSCO). We also facilitated high level meetings between Dr. Mukwege and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, as well as other political leaders including UN Ambassadors, former US President Bill Clinton, and with Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times, which resulted in a Facebook Live video, viewed by over 14,000 people.

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How to end gender violence? Give money to visionary local groups

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THE 16-DAY CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE IS SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUPS AND

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# Nearly 2 Years After the Boko Haram Kidnapping in Nigeria, 197 Girls Are Still Missing

Saudatu Mahdi, a woman's rights leader in Nigeria, said the fight is only just beginning.



NEARLY 1,000 DAYS SINCE CHIBOK GIRLS ABDUCTED

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# This Is The Story A UN Court Didn't Want Three Rape Survivors To Tell

Three women from Rwanda changed history when they testified about rape and genocide at a United Nations court. Nearly 20 years later, the same court tried to silence their story.

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HEALTH

## 'Hyena Man' Had Sex With 100 Girls, Gets 2-Year Sentence

November 23, 2016 6:11 PM ET

NATALIE JACEWICZ

# FGM is now considered child abuse, but where is the funding?

Despite death threats and intimidation, African women are working tirelessly to eradicate female genital mutilation on the ground. But not enough funding is getting through

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Donor Direct Action organized various high level events in the United States in 2016, during which we connected our partners with top decision-makers, celebrity support and donors.



Gloria Steinem, Amy Robach (ABC), Saudatu Mahdi (WRAPA) and Jane Fonda

## ***"WHAT NEXT FOR THE CHIBOK GIRLS?"***

*"With these girls, we have seen hope, we can build on hope... with those of them that have come back, there is work to be done. How much work? I can't tell you. It's so much work to reconstruct the psyche of someone who has been through what these girls have been."*

These are the words of Saudatu Mahdi, Secretary-General of Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) and a co-founder of the Bring Back Our Girls campaign, at a Donor Direct Action event in New York in December 2016.

The discussion brought together Jane Fonda, Gloria Steinem and Robin Morgan, and was moderated by ABC's Amy Robach. Following the event, Saudatu Mahdi appeared on CNN International to talk about the fate of the Chibok girls.



Gloria Steinem, Jessica Neuwirth, Margot Wallström and Rachel Moran (SPACE Intl.)

### ***“POP CULTURE, GLOBAL INSTABILITY AND THE EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN”***

*“Many people absorb ideas about what prostitution is from literature and from film. What was happening to us in the brothels and red light zones wasn’t work or anything remotely resembling work.”*

These are the words of Rachel Moran, Executive Director of SPACE International. Donor Direct Action hosted an event in June, which brought together Margot Wallström, Sweden’s Foreign Minister, Gloria Steinem and Rachel Moran to discuss gender equality as a matter of peace and security for all societies.

### ***“WOMEN LEADERS FROM MIDDLE EAST CRITICAL OF CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS”***

In March, Donor Direct Action and Karama held ***a press conference at the United Nations*** to bring attention to the voices of women front line activists from Libya, Syria and Yemen. It was co-sponsored by the Irish Mission to the United Nations.

The following morning, Donor Direct Action organized a breakfast for UN missions and media with Karama’s Middle East delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women, to discuss the intertwined issues of equality, peace and security in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality.



Amal al Basha, Hibaq Osman, Zahra' Langhi (LWPP) and Mouna Ghanem (SWFP)

Donor Direct Action also coordinated a *high-level meeting between the delegation and U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Samantha Power.*



Jessica Neuwirth, US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power, Zahra' Langhi (LWPP), Hibaq Osman and Amal al Basha

# DONOR DIRECT ACTION PARTNERS

**Afghanistan:** Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA)

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** Synergie des Femmes Contre les Violences Sexuelles (SFVS); Panzi Foundation

**El Salvador:** Organización de Mujeres Salvadoreñas por la Paz (ORMUSA)

**Ireland/Global:** SPACE International

**Kenya:** Tasaru Ntomonok Initiative (TNI)

**Latvia:** Marta Resource Centre for Women (MARTA)

**Libya:** Libyan Women's Platform for Peace (LWPP)

**Nepal:** Forum for Women, Law & Development (FWLD)

**Nigeria:** Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA)

**Palestine:** Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)

**Somalia:** Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD)

**South Africa:** Embrace Dignity

**Syria:** Syrian Women's Forum for Peace (SWFP)

# DONOR DIRECT ACTION TEAM

Jessica Neuwirth, Founder/Director

Aude Coquatrix, Deputy Director

Brendan Wynne, Communications Director

Amanda Sullivan, Social Media Coordinator

Marjorie Messinger, Website/Administrative Coordinator

Carrie Ortiz, Executive Assistant

Hanny Megally, Regional Advisor (Middle East/North Africa)

Anber Raz, Regional Advisor (Asia/Africa)

Susana Chiarotti, Regional Advisor (Latin America)

# DONOR DIRECT ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE

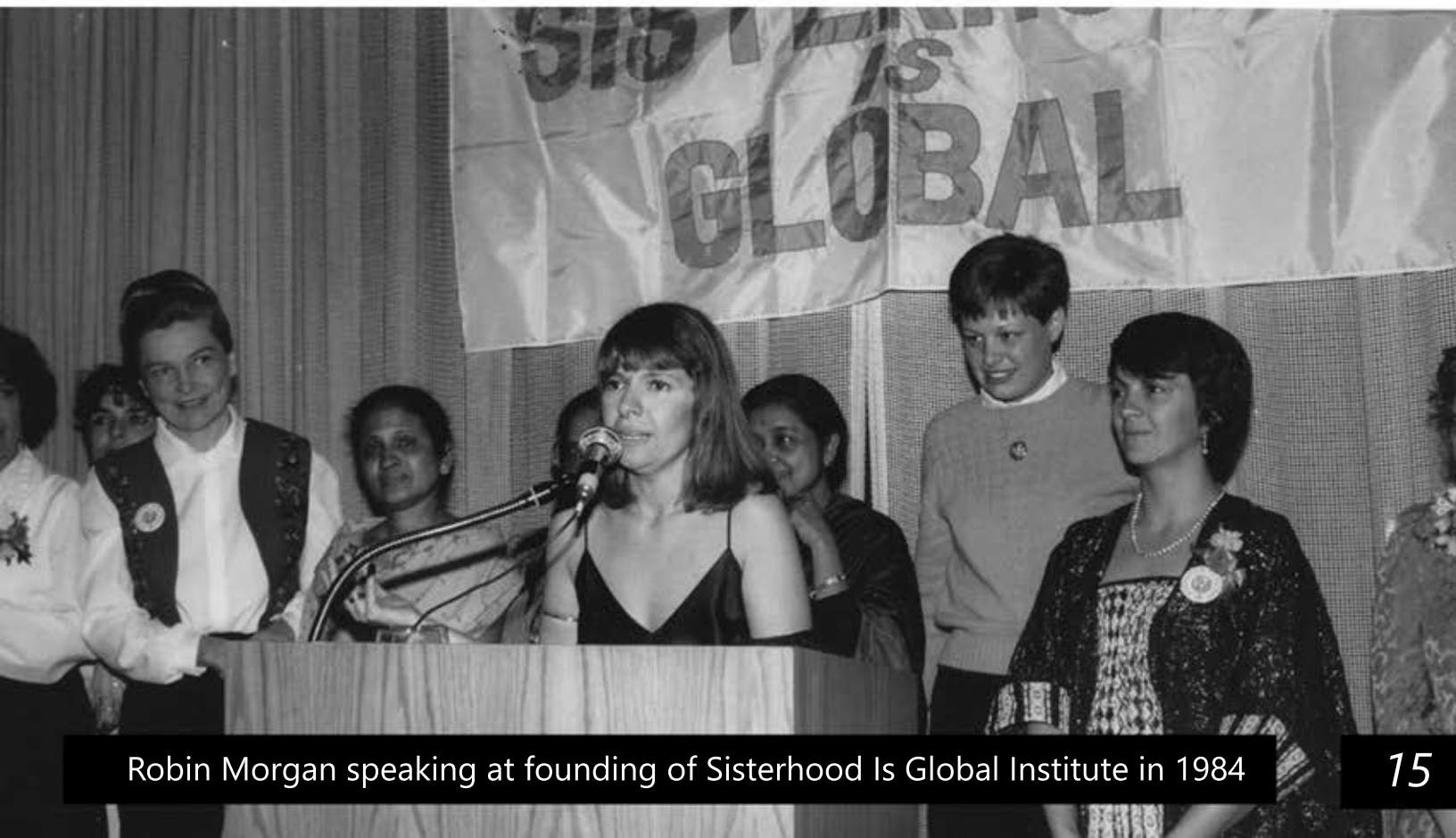
Gloria Steinem and Navi Pillay (Co-Convenors), Donna Deitch, Lela Goren, Jane Levikow, Robin Morgan, Jessica Neuwirth, Lynn Nottage, Hibaag Osman, Lina Srivastava and Liz Young.

## SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

Donor Direct Action is a project of *The Sisterhood Is Global Institute* (SIGI). This think tank of international feminism was founded by its current president Robin Morgan and the late Simone de Beauvoir.

### **Board Members:**

Robin Morgan, President  
Jessica Neuwirth, Vice President  
Elizabeth Evatt, Treasurer  
Karen Berry, Secretary  
Jane Fonda  
Navanethem Pillay  
Gloria Steinem



Robin Morgan speaking at founding of Sisterhood Is Global Institute in 1984

# THANK YOU

*Thank you to everyone who has supported Donor Direct Action in various ways. The work we do depends entirely on you:*

Morra Aarons-Mele  
Deborah Ashford  
Megan E. Bell  
Karen Berry  
Gerald M Bory  
Twiss Butler  
Debra Winston Levin Trust  
Puja Dhawan  
Abigail Disney, California Community Fdn  
Kaitlyn Downing  
Jane Fonda  
Amina Goodwin  
Lela Goren  
Jason Hackmann, Bryanmark Financial Group  
Immigrant Council of Ireland  
Vincent Isom  
Jana Foundation  
Chandra Jessee, InMaat Foundation  
Rachel Kropa  
Iara Lee, Cultures of Resistance  
Susan Markham  
Loredana Mondani  
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Darren Walker  
Wallace Fox Foundation  
Jennifer Warburg  
Weishoff Sisters Foundation  
Teri Whitcraft  
Robin Wright  
Liz Young



Marla Schaefer and Nikki Weishoff



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS \*

	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$144,140	\$525,847
Grants receivable	\$9,500	\$25,000
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$8,346	-
Investments in certificates of deposit	\$649,973	-
Website	\$6,067	\$12,133
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$818,026</b>	<b>\$562,980</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accrued expenses	\$37,781	\$14,406
Total Liabilities	\$37,781	\$14,406
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	\$696,176	\$447,998
Temporarily restricted	\$84,069	\$100,576
Total Net Assets	\$780,245	\$548,574
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$818,026</b>	<b>\$562,980</b>
<b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets:</b>		
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
Contributions and grants:		
Foundations	\$219,400	\$142,325
Individuals	\$283,577	\$269,718
Corporations	-	\$89
Donated services	\$82,500	\$82,500
Donated use of facilities	\$36,000	-
Service fees	\$11,000	-
Interest income	\$3	\$13
Unrealized loss	(\$27)	-
Public Support and Revenue before Releases from Restrictions	\$632,453	\$494,645
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$502,928	\$562,211
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$1,135,381	\$1,056,856
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	\$751,026	\$683,800
Management and general	\$102,963	\$54,159
Fundraising and development	\$33,214	\$33,915
Total Expenses	\$887,203	\$771,874
<b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$248,178</b>	<b>\$284,982</b>
<b>Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:</b>		
Contributions and grants:		
Foundations	\$265,861	\$359,600
Individuals	\$120,510	\$142,033
Corporations	\$100,050	\$95,100
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(\$502,928)	(\$562,211)
<b>Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>	<b>(\$16,507)</b>	<b>\$34,522</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$231,671</b>	<b>\$319,504</b>
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	\$548,574	\$229,070
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$780,245</b>	<b>\$548,574</b>

\* = Copies of the complete, audited reports may be obtained from Donor Direct Action or from the State of New York, Department of Law, Office of Charities Registration

*Women's rights organizations have always been underfunded and now the situation is even worse: during the past 5 years their funding has fallen by half. That is why Donor Direct Action supports these front-line activists – and why I support Donor Direct Action.*

- JANE FONDA, BOARD, SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

*Donor Direct Action re-grants without restriction at least 90% of funds raised, allowing front line organizations to decide how funds are best spent. This enables the inspiring women who lead these groups to set their own priorities and maximize the impact of their work.*

- JESSICA NEUWIRTH, FOUNDER, DONOR DIRECT ACTION

*I've witnessed the power and capability of the work of Donor Direct Action and its partners. I have seen their work against sex trafficking and female genital mutilation firsthand in India and in Kenya. My commitment is to documenting and supporting DDA – a groundbreaking and efficient way to contribute to ending violence and discrimination against women worldwide.*

- DONNA DEITCH, STEERING COMMITTEE



Jane Levikow, Lina Srivastava, Robin Morgan, Gloria Steinem, Jessica Neuwirth, Lynn Nottage and Hibaag Osman

*DDA sends 90% of the money you donate directly to women on the ground. If you give \$1 today, tomorrow a woman in Afghanistan, the Congo or Nepal can get \$0.90. I think that's an extraordinary thing.*

- LYNN NOTTAGE, STEERING COMMITTEE



Mouna Ghanem (SWFP), Najia Karimi (HAWCA), Hibaaq Osman and Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge (Embrace Dignity)

*We are sisters in this fight, and as soon as we recognize this, we have a stronger network of voices fighting on our behalf. None of us is free if one of us remains in chains, and we must work together to ensure our collective freedom, advancement and dignity above all.*

- HIBAAQ OSMAN, STEERING COMMITTEE



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## *Strengthening Women Worldwide*

750 Third Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA  
info@donordirectaction.org  
media@donordirectaction.org

[www.donordirectaction.org](http://www.donordirectaction.org)