FOREWORD

In mid-2011, a young Buddhist nun, traveling to visit family in far eastern Nepal, had to spend the night on a bus. That night the driver and four other men from the bus company gang-raped her until she lost consciousness.

Nepal's Buddhist organizations condemned the rape but proclaimed that the survivor could no longer be a nun, nor return to the nunnery—her only home since age 12—because she was now impure. The Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD), now a partner of Donor Direct Action, came to the rescue of this young nun, helping her get shelter, medical and psychological support. Buddhists around the world were very concerned by what was happening, but they had no way to get urgently needed funds quickly to Nepal.

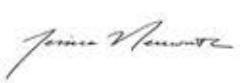
Within a day, we were able to put up a website that enabled donors around the world to contribute and cover the expenses of the nun's medical treatment, as well as her legal representation. The perpetrators were ultimately convicted. With one simple webpage we had enabled donors to make a life-changing difference. This was the beginning of Donor Direct Action.

Donor Direct Action is a project of The Sisterhood is Global Institute (SIGI). Founded in 1984 by Robin Morgan, the late Simone de Beauvoir, and women from 80 other countries, the Institute was the world's first feminist think-tank. It has played a leading role in the evolution of the international women's movement for over 30 years. Getting resources where they are most needed and building the women's movement on the front lines is the next critical step in this evolution.

Donor Direct Action has grown significantly since we started five years ago. And when we grow, our partners on the front lines grow with us. We keep overhead as low as possible and ensure that at least ***90% of the contributions we receive are re-granted directly to our partners***.

This, our first formal Report, is an opportunity for us to look back at the collective achievements of the groups we partner with on the ground. We are deeply grateful to the many donors who have made our first five years so successful. We hope you will continue to be part of our journey and help us do even more in the upcoming years to transform the lives and futures of women and girls around the world.

In solidarity,



Jessica Neuwirth, Founder, Donor Direct Action