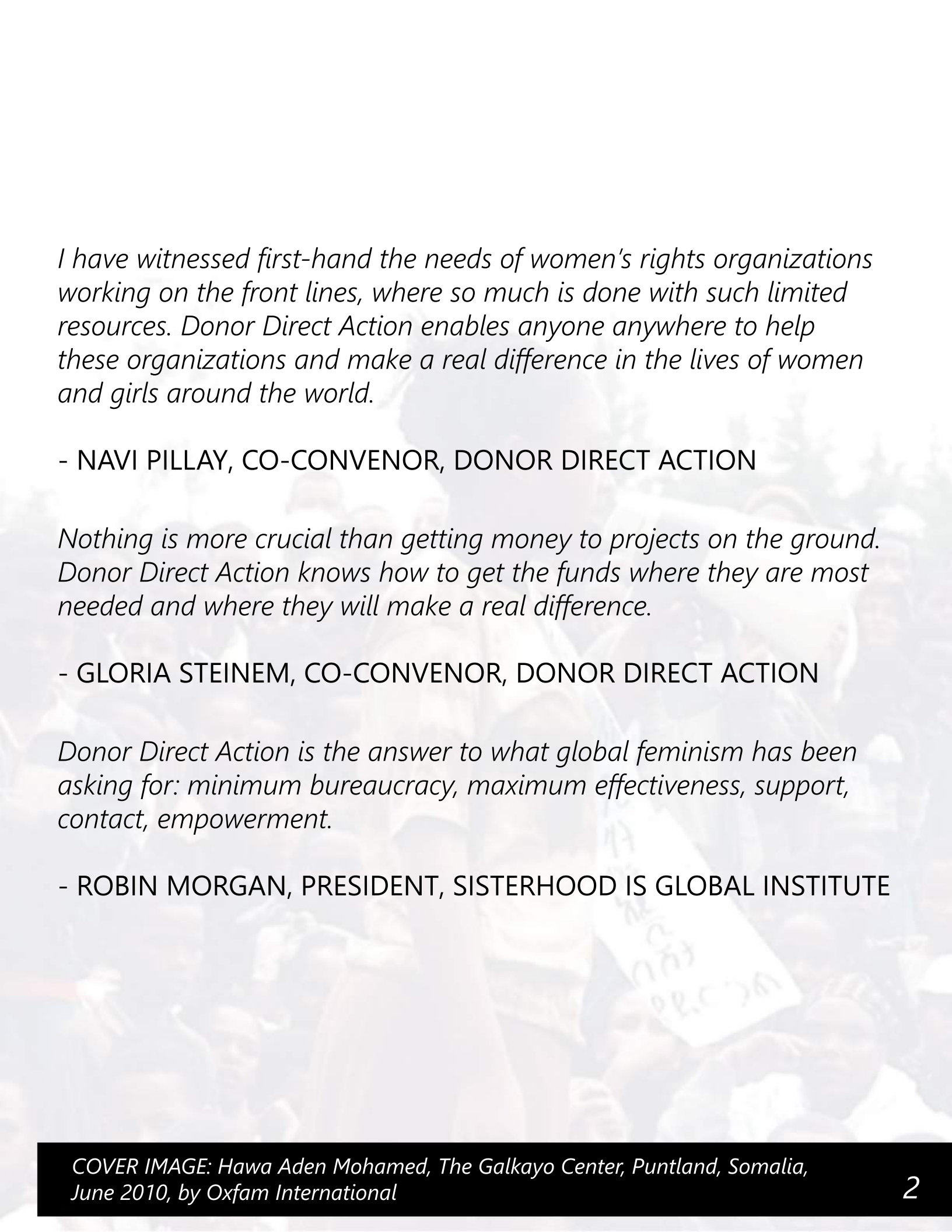


Donor
Direct
Action



2017 *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 does not reflect this understanding as so little reaches those leading this change – front line women's groups.

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 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 (OECD, 2016)



Justine Masika Bihamba, Synergie des Femmes being interviewed by Jacques Aristide, Voice of America (French), November 2017

The OECD has recognized that a robust growth economy depends 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 new power of collective fundraising, media and internet outreach 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 has ***fourteen partners*** in Afghanistan, DR 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.***

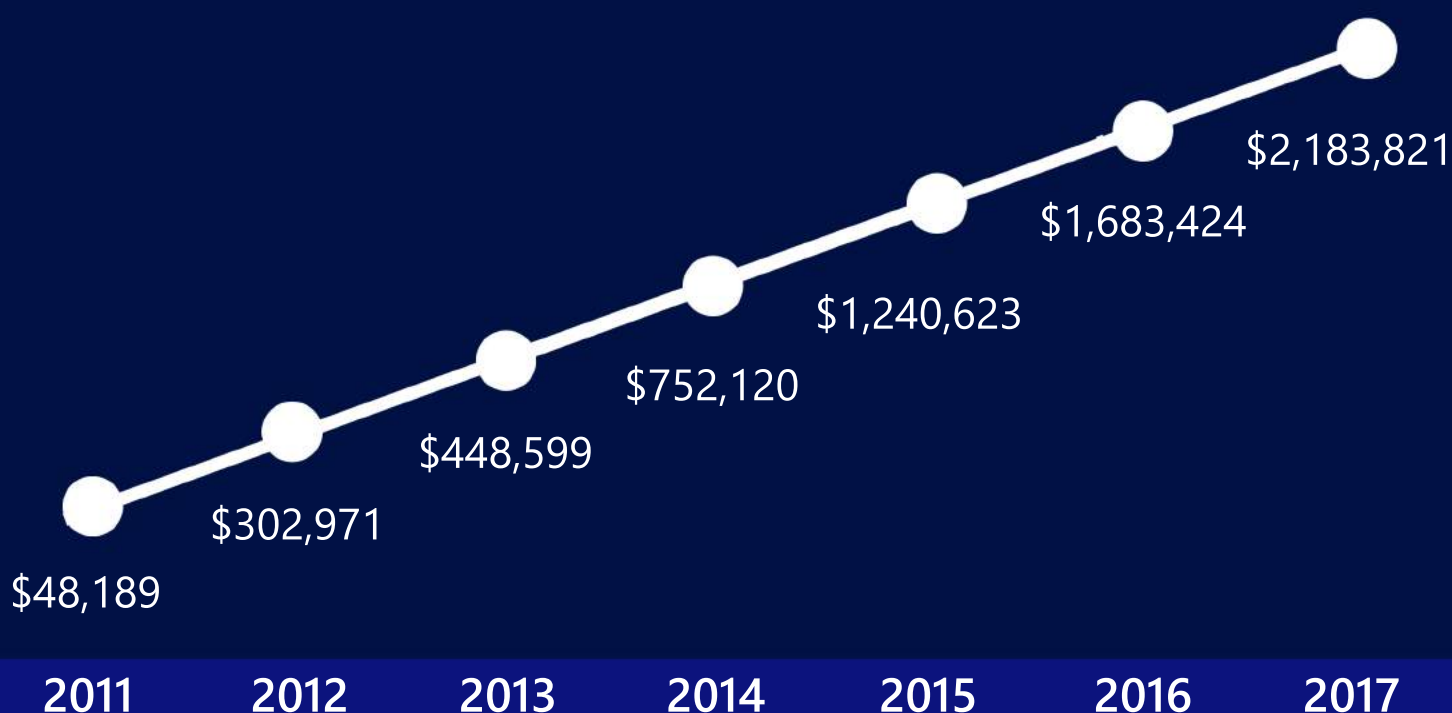
We organize live and virtual meetings and events, introducing partners to those in the halls of power in the United Nations, to major media, and to hundreds of thousands of viewers around the world with technology such as Facebook Live.

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

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

As of year-end 2017, Donor Direct Action had raised **\$2,183,821** for its partners from **1,321** donors in **46** countries. Each year, as more people learn about Donor Direct Action, the amount of incoming funds and outgoing grants increases. In 2017, we raised more than **\$500,000** for our partners. Amounts donated ranged from a few dollars to tens of thousands of dollars, contributions that are tax-deductible for US-based donors. At least **90% of these funds** - and in some cases 100% - **were directly re-granted** to front line women's groups around the world.

FUNDS RAISED BY DONOR DIRECT ACTION FOR PARTNERS



Here are a few highlights from the work of some of our partners in 2017:

- In response to a petition by our partner Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD), **Nepal's government proposed amending its law** in May 2017 to ensure victims of acid attacks and burning receive immediate compensation and critical care.
- Our partner Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA) **provided emergency accommodation and support for 227 women and girls**, many of whom were fleeing life-threatening situations.



Woman fleeing violence at HAWCA's urgent shelter in Kabul, Afghanistan (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul), April 2017

- The Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) helped support the ***first ever case of a so-called "honor killing" being treated as murder*** in a Palestinian court.
- In Puntland, Somalia, our partner, the Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD) ***provided education for over 2,000 girls***.
- South African partner Embrace Dignity helped to support and build a national sex trade survivors' movement.



Sex trade survivor Mickey Meji from Embrace Dignity marching in South Africa, calling for the government to enact the 'Equality Model' of prostitution policy, May 2017

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY WITH CONGOLESE WOMEN

When women are included in peace-building the chance of it taking hold is far higher, yet in the Democratic Republic of Congo an extremely violent but largely forgotten war does not seem to be any closer to ending, and women make up less than 10% of members of parliament.

In the midst of this challenging context, 65 Congolese women from every province in the country took the brave step of coming together in Kinshasa in mid September. During their three day Congolese Women's Forum for Peace and Security co-ordinated by Panzi Foundation and Synergie des Femmes, they made plans to launch a new national coalition for peace and security in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This was not only the first time these women leaders came together and all met each other, it was also the first time they were able to connect online with other women leaders around the world - and the first time these women were able to reach a global audience using **Facebook Live**, facilitated by Donor Direct Action.

Lena Dunham, Liberian Nobel Prize laureate **Leymah Gbowee**, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights **Navi Pillay**, **Gloria Steinem**, **Meryl Streep** and Swedish Foreign Minister **Margot Wallström** joined the Forum from various locations around the world. Supported with promotion from Facebook this global convening was seen online by over 640,000 viewers and shared by thousands.



Participants at the Congolese Women's Forum in Kinshasa, September 2017

Within just a few days, this new coalition for peace and security made progress in bringing women to the table in the Kasai region, where 3,000 were killed by militants in 2017. As a result of their advocacy following the Forum ***six women from the new coalition were invited to join peace talks*** from which they had been previously excluded. They were able to address the hundreds of men present on the urgent need for peace.



Gloria Steinem, Leymah Gbowee, Margot Wallström, Navi Pillay, Justine Masika Bihamba, Lena Dunham, Meryl Streep and Dr. Denis Mukwege were part of the Global Hour of Solidarity, broadcast on Facebook Live (left to right by row)

I know that my sisters are strong, and Congo is the capital of sisterhood and solidarity – the future of the Congolese children lies in that room.

- LEYMAH GBOWEE, LIBERIAN NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATE

We know that what you suffer is shared by many women around the world. In doing this you secure not only your own communities and the future for your children, you also give hope to so many women all around the world who stand with you.

- MERYL STREEP

We are very much together with you in that room. You want to be decision-makers in the peace process, and you want the government to implement Security Council Resolution 1325 to free you from this scourge of sexual violence.

- NAVI PILLAY, FORMER UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Though our bodies are not in the same room with you, our hearts are with you. I have never felt more unified and more connected to anyone.

- GLORIA STEINEM

Through your work you will strengthen the whole peacemaking process... formulate your own agenda, and never let anyone else speak for you.

- MARGOT WALLSTRÖM, FOREIGN MINISTER OF SWEDEN

Your strength and leadership is not just inspiring the women in your country, it's inspiring all of us.

- LENA DUNHAM

BUILDING FURTHER MOMENTUM

The Congolese women are now seeking funding and opportunity to implement their national action plan for peace. In late October Justine Masika Bihamba, President of Synergie des Femmes and Coordinator of the Forum, traveled to New York to garner much needed support for this initiative. At the United Nations, Donor Direct Action organized a number of meetings to enable Justine to brief key officials on the creation of the Congolese Women's Forum. Justine met with Pramila Patten, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. She also met with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, and with the French and Swedish missions to the UN to talk about Security Council implementation of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in the context of the DRC. Justine also met with a representative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to discuss the role of MONUSCO in the Congolese conflict and relay questions from people in North Kivu where violence is still raging.



Justine Masika Bihamba and Robin Wright, October 2017

KEEPING KABUL SHELTER OPEN

In Afghanistan, decreasing international aid and a newly resurgent Taliban continue to threaten the closure of emergency women's shelters, which provide refuge, food and education for girls and women escaping sexual and domestic violence, including honor killings.

In March 2017 our partner Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA) alerted us to ***a sudden and severe funding pitfall they were facing and the urgent need for temporary funding to help keep its emergency women's shelter open*** in Kabul. HAWCA informed us that the shelter would have to shut down within a few days if they could not access new funding.

This would mean no more support for girls like Zarmina, who was forced into marriage with a Taliban member at age 14. She was only 2 years old when her mother sold her off to a 22-year-old Taliban member. After fleeing continuous sexual and domestic violence, she received urgent medical treatment and rehabilitation in the shelter and returned to school. With nobody else to support her, Zarmina is dependent on HAWCA. If she returns to her village, the Taliban will stone her to death.

Another girl, Mah Jabin, was 10 years old when she was handed over to a man who beat and raped her over the course of three years. In despair, she poured a gallon of gasoline over herself and lit a match. Her mother found her just in time to save her life and put the flames out. She spent a month in the hospital with severe burns and lived in the emergency shelter for a year under continuous medical treatment. HAWCA helped her get a divorce, and a warrant was issued for her husband's arrest. She is now also back at school.

HAWCA's shelter in Kabul provides refuge for around 300 women a year. After several funding appeals and international media attention Donor Direct Action ***was able to secure sufficient funding to keep the shelter open*** for several weeks until HAWCA sourced a longer-term solution.



"HONOR KILLING" FINALLY TREATED AS MURDER

In mid 2017 a landmark judgement was handed down in the case of Suha Al-Deek, a **35 year old woman who was stabbed to death in June 2014**. The killing took place in the kitchen of her home in Kofr Al Deek near Salfit on the West Bank. The perpetrator was her husband.

A Ramallah appeals court sentenced 46-year-old Abdul Moeti Fayege, a former Arabic teacher, to ten years in prison. Albeit more lenient than it might have been - and subsequently reduced to 7.5 years - ***this is the first time in such a case that a Palestinian court has treated a so-called "honor killing" as murder.***

Following Abdul's trial in May 2016, he was initially sentenced to only two years for his wife's murder. The defence lawyer called Suha "impure" and a "betrayer of her husband". There is no evidence that any affair ever took place. Abdul left the trial a free man since he had already been in custody for in excess of his short sentence.

In a statement, Suha's heartbroken father said: *"Suha was murdered by her husband in cold blood in front of her children and in the company of his brothers. My daughter, her children and we, her parents, are all victims of a penal code inherited from the time of Napoleon. It is totally discriminatory. What has happened is that the law and those who are responsible for protecting us have become partners in continuing these crimes"*. West Bank Palestinians have inherited much of their law from Jordan - including Article 99, which allows for judges to use their discretion in "extenuating circumstances", meaning when a woman is killed by a family member. While Jordan has recently fixed such harmful provisions in its own penal code, Palestine has failed to follow suit. This means that justice for women like Suha is at the mercy of (mostly male) judges who in practice have been lenient on perpetrators and insensitive to the rights of victims.

It is hoped that this ***precedent-setting judgment will send ripples through Palestinian society***, where men who have killed their wives or other female family members have not been brought to justice. Donor Direct Action partners with Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) in the West Bank, which was founded in 1991 by Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas. WCLAC works on a broad range of issues in an effort to ensure that every single Palestinian woman and girl is protected from violence and discrimination, including so-called "honor killings," a horrific form of violence and injustice.

The important precedent in Suha's case will be used to help train judges on issues relating to femicide and other forms of gender-based violence, and WCLAC hopes



WCLAC protests at appeals court in Ramallah, Palestine, April 2017

that the growing momentum will help in their push for urgent changes to Palestine's outdated Penal Code, which has enabled murderers to get reduced sentences for far too long. In 2017 WCLAC tracked 27 cases of femicide in Palestine.

ACID ATTACK VICTIM HELPS CHANGE LAW

In June 2017 the Supreme Court of Nepal *recommended that its government should change a law, which had previously made it impossible for victims of acid attacks and other burning crimes to get adequate compensation in those cases where they are related to their perpetrators.*

Rihana Sheikh Dhapali was 19 when she was married off in 2013 to Farid Sheikh, a man she had never met before. Rihana's new family forced her into domestic servitude. She dreamed of leaving but her father convinced her to stay. Over time, Farid began to beat her, sometimes with a belt. On one occasion **he burned her genitals with a cigarette**, and there was worse to come. Farid's family starved her for several days before tying her up and splashing petrol onto her body. Her **husband then set her on fire** and the entire family watched as she burned. She fell unconscious and was left to die.

Three days later Rihana woke up, consumed by pain. She was seven months pregnant at the time and miscarried shortly afterwards. While she was getting treatment for her burns in the hospital Farid tried to rape her. Rihana finally managed to escape and has since pressed charges, but nobody has been convicted for the horrific crimes carried out against her.

Sangita Magar was just 16 when a man ***broke into her classroom and threw acid on her and a friend who was standing close by***. The acid caused extensive burns across not only their faces but over their entire bodies. Sangita has already received treatment for her burns, but unless she gets urgent medical attention she may lose her sight as her condition deteriorates. Her attacker, Jiwan BK, had been a tenant in Sangita's home, where he claimed to have become infatuated with her. ***When she rejected his advances he decided to punish her***. The high-profile case sent shockwaves through Nepal.

Outrage on this issue has been growing for years but it wasn't until last September that ***a public interest case on this issue was filed*** by Donor Direct Action's partner, the Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD), together with another local organization and these two burn survivors, Rihana and Sangita.

According to Nepal's law as it was before, compensation could not be granted for a crime of domestic violence until a final decision was made in the case. This meant that victims were rarely able to afford the expensive medical treatment which they were likely to urgently need, causing them to suffer even more pain and putting them at greater risk of permanent harm. Under the revised law it will be easier for victims of acid attacks or other forms of violence to get free immediate treatment without having to wait until a judgment is handed down.

This will mean that women like Rihana and Sangita will not have to suffer, unable to afford critical care. The stronger law will hopefully also ***send a signal to Nepalese husbands and their families that they will no longer be able to get away with such horrific abuse of their wives***.

FWLD was one of the first organizations that Donor Direct Action partnered with in 2011. We continue to support FWLD in its transformative work to change the lives of women and girls in Nepal.



Chameli Magar feeds her daughter Sangita on a hospital bed, February 2015

WOMEN TRANSFORMING FOREIGN POLICY

Donor Direct Action organized a dinner for Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström to meet with some of our allies who work on ending commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking including the Coalition Against Trafficking In Women (CATW), Sanctuary For Families and Apne Aap, together with women working in the French, Swiss and Swedish missions to the UN.



Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström

In September, Donor Direct Action organized a reception to honor Kyung-wha Kang, the first woman to be appointed Foreign Minister of South Korea. Special remarks were made by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Dr. Denis Mukwege and Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström. A number of senior high level UN officials and diplomats, including Louise Arbour, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Pramila Patten, SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict, attended the event, a good opportunity to encourage dialogue and political networking.



Dr. Denis Mukwege and Foreign Minister Kyung-wha Kang, September 2017

DONOR DIRECT ACTION MEDIA



DONOR DIRECT ACTION PARTNERS

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

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

El Salvador: ORMUSA

Ireland/Global: SPACE International

Kenya: Tasaru Ntomonok Initiative (TNI)

Latvia: MARTA Resource Centre for Women

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

Nepal: Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)

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

Palestine: Women's Centre 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

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Aude Coquatrix, Deputy Director

Brendan Wynne, Communications Director

Marjorie Messinger: Website/Administrative Coordinator

Amanda Sullivan, Social Media Coordinator

Carrie Ortiz/Melody Soto, Executive Assistant

Susana Chiarotti, Regional Advisor (Latin America)

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

Anber Raz, Regional Advisor (Asia/Africa)

DONOR DIRECT ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE

Gloria Steinem and Navi Pillay, Co-Convenors

Donna Deitch

Lela Goren

Jane Levikow

Robin Morgan

Jessica Neuwirth

Lynn Nottage

Hibaaq Osman

Lina Srivastava

Liz Young

SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

Donor Direct Action is a project of the Sisterhood is Global Institute (SIGI.)

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Navanethem Pillay

Gloria Steinem



Robin Morgan speaking at launch of Sisterhood is Global, 1984

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has supported Donor Direct Action in many ways during the past year.

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Ann Syauta
Quentin Teisseire
Wallace Fox Foundation
Margot Wallström
Charlotte Wong
WOVEN
Charlotte Wu

FINANCIALS *

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$292,520	\$144,140
Grants receivable	-	\$9,500
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$9,506	\$8,346
Investments in certificates of deposit	\$605,303	\$649,973
Website	-	\$6,067
TOTAL ASSETS	\$907,329	\$818,026
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses	\$22,087	\$37,781
Total Liabilities	\$22,087	\$37,781
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$633,760	\$696,176
Temporarily restricted	\$251,482	\$84,069
Total Net Assets	\$885,242	\$780,245
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$907,329	\$818,026
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets:		
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions and grants:		
Foundations	\$268,750	\$219,400
Individuals	\$16,232	\$283,577
Donated services	\$82,500	\$82,500
Donated use of facilities	\$5,871	\$36,000
Service fees	\$37,517	\$11,000
Interest income	\$5,405	\$3
Realized loss	(\$93)	-
Unrealized gain (loss)	\$15	(\$27)
Public Support and Revenue before Releases from Restrictions	\$416,197	\$632,453
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$399,570	\$502,928
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$815,767	\$1,135,381
EXPENSES		
Program services	\$727,786	\$751,026
Management and general	\$128,037	\$102,963
Fundraising and development	\$22,360	\$33,214
Total Expenses	\$878,183	\$887,203
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	(\$62,416)	\$248,178
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:		
Contributions and grants:		
Foundations	\$157,525	\$265,861
Individuals	\$290,578	\$120,510
Corporations	\$118,880	\$100,050
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(\$399,570)	(\$502,928)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$167,413	(\$16,507)
Total Change in Net Assets	\$104,997	\$231,671
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	\$780,245	\$548,574
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$885,242	\$780,245

* = 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



Donor
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Action

Strengthening Women Worldwide

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

www.donordirectaction.org