


Sisterhood  
Is Global  
Institute

Donor Direct Action  
A Fund for Women



2018 *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, THE DONOR DIRECT ACTION FUND OF SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

*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, THE DONOR DIRECT ACTION FUND OF SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

*The Sisterhood Is Global Institute, now celebrating its 35th Anniversary as the first global feminist think-tank, proudly welcomes its project Donor Direct Action – the answer to what global feminism has been asking: minimum bureaucracy, maximum effectiveness, support, contact, empowerment.*

- ROBIN MORGAN, PRESIDENT, SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

# INTRODUCTION

The ***Donor Direct Action Fund for Women***, a project of the Sisterhood Is Global Institute, was set up 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)*

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 developed 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.

Through its ***Donor Direct Action Fund*** the Sisterhood Is Global Institute 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 the organization 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.

The Fund has ***fifteen partners*** in Afghanistan, DR Congo, El Salvador, Kenya, Latvia, Libya, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, Somalia, South Africa and Syria. It also operates two thematic funds: the Efua Dorkenoo Fund to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the Gloria Steinem Equality Fund to End Sex Trafficking. 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 determine their own program planning priorities and organizational development. This approach puts the power of funding 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 Zoom and Facebook Live. With your support, our partners have been able to continue and expand their life-saving and life-changing work.



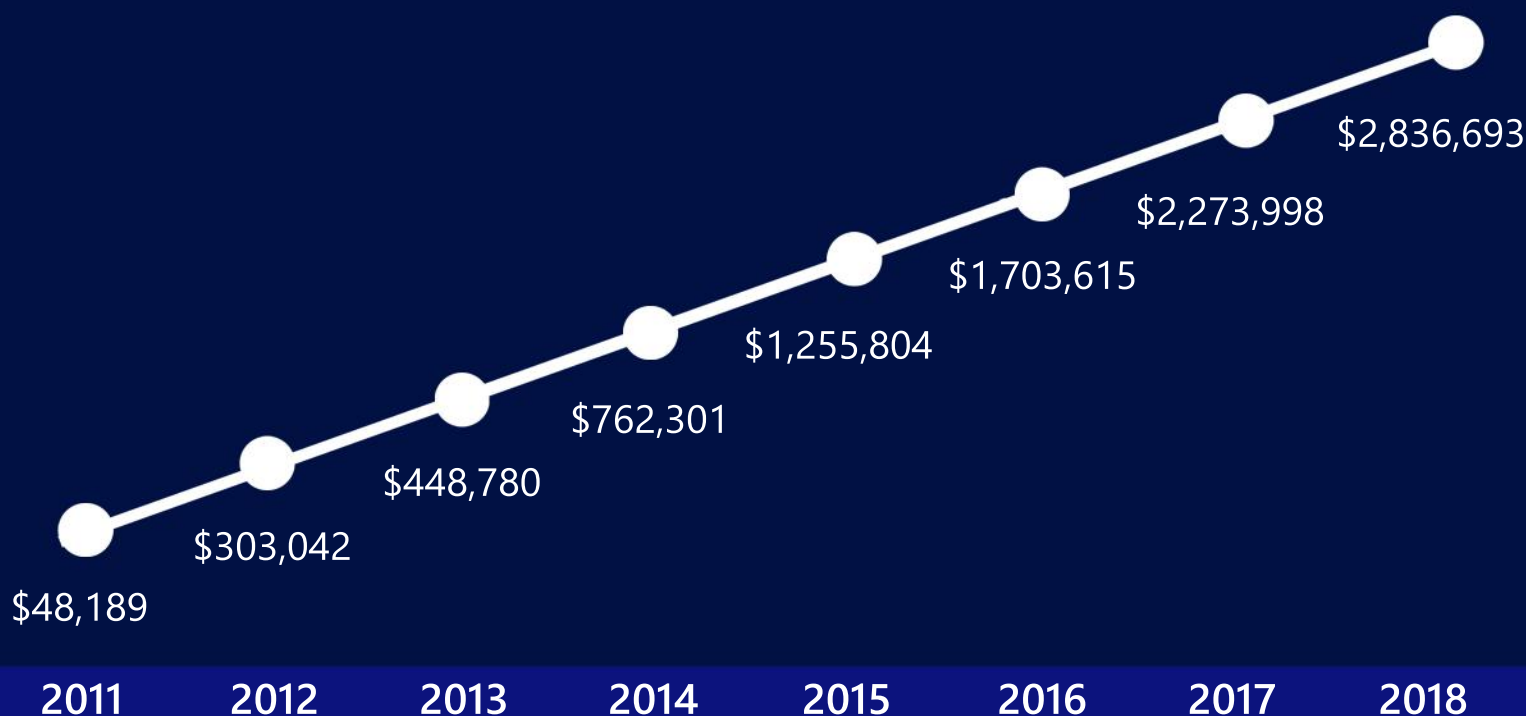
*Agnes Pareyio, founder of Tasaru Ntomonok Initiative in Narok, Kenya, meets with Ashley Judd in August 2018*



# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

As of year-end 2018, the Donor Direct Action Fund for Women had raised **\$2,836,693** for its partners from **1,462** donors in **46** countries. Each year, as more people learn about the Fund, the amount of incoming funds and outgoing grants increases. In 2018, more than **\$560,000** was raised for partners. Amounts donated ranged from a few dollars to hundreds 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. Following the successful launch of the **Efua Dorkenoo Fund To End FGM** in 2017 we formally launched the **Gloria Steinem Equality Fund To End Sex Trafficking** in 2018. These funds have already attracted significant support, which we have also re-granted to front line groups.

## FUNDS RAISED FOR PARTNERS



Here are a few highlights from the work of some of our partners in 2018:

- In Burkina Faso Voix des Femmes helped **provide medical support for seven girls who were severely injured after undergoing FGM**.
- In Kenya, Tasaru Ntomonok Initiative (TNI) **led the campaign to resist efforts by a medical doctor to legalize FGM**.



*Jessica Neuwirth, Autumn Burris, Victoria Sweet and Taina Bien-Aimé meeting with survivors and activists working to end the sex trade in Nevada, July 2018*

- Acid attack survivors worked with FWLD in Nepal in a successful Supreme Court case, which helped ensure that in future **victims would get immediate financial support for medical treatment**.
- Justine Masika Bihamba from Synergie des Femmes in the DR Congo and Randa Siniora from WCLAC in Palestine each **addressed the United Nations Security Council**.



*Donor Direct Action Fund philanthropist Chandra Jessee visiting Embrace Dignity in South Africa, July 2018*



# GIRLS LOSING THEIR LIVES TO FGM

Four young girls lost their lives around the same time in mid 2018, after undergoing FGM in Somalia. They had a lot in common. All four were almost exactly the same age - ***between 10 and 11 years old***. Everyone lived within a 200 mile radius.

Deeqa Dahir Nuur was the first of the four to die in mid-July when she was taken to a traditional cutter in Olol village in the central state of Galmudug. She bled for two full days before her family took her to hospital in the town of Dhusmareb, where she passed away. News of her death reached international media and caused such an outrage that ***Somalia's deputy prime minister Mahdi Mohamed Guuled called for a full investigation***. However, this has yet to happen.

In late August, 10 year old Suheyra Qorane Farah and her 7 year old sister Zamzam underwent FGM in their home in Tuurdibi, a tiny village near the Ethiopian border. They bled profusely and, a week later, fell into a coma. The girls' mother decided to take them to a medical facility in Galdogob, where they both remained for close to two weeks. Zamzam's condition improved slightly, but her older sister died in late September, having contracted tetanus. Suheyra's father denied all knowledge of the plan for his daughters to undergo FGM and claimed he was away when it happened. He does not want the law involved and thinks the issue should be "handled" by religious leaders. ***Even when girls die from FGM in Somalia, families continue to believe it was an "Act of God."***

Also in September two sisters from the remote pastoral village of Arawda in Galdogob, Puntland, died in very similar circumstances. After being cut, Aasiyo Farah Abdi Warsame and her sister Khadijo, aged 10 and 11 respectively, ***died after hemorrhaging for over 24 hours***. Once again, their families did not seek medical help until it was too late. They both died on their way to hospital.



*Children at the Galkayo Center, Puntland, Somalia*

The Donor Direct Action Fund partners with *the Galkayo Center in Puntland, Somalia*, a group that has been working to end FGM for almost two decades. After her sister died from FGM, Hawa Aden Mohamed, the Center's Executive Director, *committed her life to ensuring that this abuse of girls in Somalia is eradicated*. We helped Hawa bring more attention to the practice of FGM in Somalia through over 1,000 media pieces including Washington Post, NPR and USA Today, which strengthened her advocacy for a complete FGM ban in Puntland. At 98% Somalia has the highest prevalence rate of FGM in the world. *The Galkayo Center has helped to draft a law banning it, but political resistance is high and it has yet to be passed, despite many promises to do so.*



2018 also saw a death from FGM in Sierra Leone, where *10 year old Marie Kamara died on December 18th after undergoing FGM as part of a secret society initiation ceremony* in the Tonkololi District. The chief Sowe (society leader) was arrested, but there is still no national ban on this extreme subjugation of girls in a country where almost 90% have been affected. Unlike in many other African countries, *there is no law against FGM in Sierra Leone* and a lack of government condemnation of the practice. Through the Efua Dorkenoo Fund To End FGM the Donor Direct Action Fund for Women supported local activist *Rugiatu Turay from Amazonian Initiative Movement (AIM)* to help strengthen her national advocacy on this issue - and to bring the story to international media including CNN, The Guardian and Reuters.



# EL SALVADOR LAUNCHES NEW FEMICIDE UNIT

22 year old Graciela Eugenia Ramírez Chávez was found dead in her garden in San Salvador in February 2018. She was engaged to marry the man who killed her. He stabbed her 56 times.

In April the journalist Karla Turcios was suffocated and killed close to where she lived. The 33 year old was found lying in a ditch. Her head was wrapped with plastic. Ten days later, Mario Huezo, her partner of seven years, was charged with her murder. He denies any involvement. If convicted, Huezo could go to prison for 50 years.

These two cases appeared in El Salvador's media for a while, but the outrage did not last long. Their deaths were relatively commonplace in a country with the highest level of femicide in the world.

According to the Institute of Forensic Medicine, from 2013 to 2017 femicide in El Salvador more than doubled. A woman is killed every 18 hours. The Donor Direct Action Fund for Women partners with the San Salvador-based group, ***Organización de Mujeres Salvadoreñas por la Paz (ORMUSA)***. They work to help ensure that women in El Salvador are protected from violence, including femicide.

Thanks in part to their ongoing advocacy on the issue ***a new femicide unit was set up in May 2018 by the Attorney General's office***. Four officials will help to lead efforts throughout the country and ramp up work to end this devastating violence. Particular focus will be given to investigating femicide crimes and helping to ensure justice for victims. It will also work towards preventing the crimes from happening in the first place and raising awareness of the issue.

ORMUSA hopes that the new unit will help end the culture of impunity, whereby perpetrators have often gotten away with murder and police frequently fail to turn up when a serious crime is reported.



Women protest femicide in San Salvador. Photo by José Cabezas/Reuters

# BETTER SEX TRADE POLICY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Twenty two years ago Theresa "Trish" van der Vint said goodbye to the other women in prostitution who were exploited alongside her on a tree-lined stretch of Old Faure Road near Eerste River in Cape Town, South Africa.

Most of them were older and went home late in the afternoon to take care of their children, but 16-year-old Trish stayed. As dusk fell that Saturday, a man stopped and picked her up. Once she was in his car, there was no way out.

A few hours later her body was found lying half-naked in the sand, covered with branches, near a footpath close to Macassar beach. Her legs had been spread apart, her skirt pulled up and her jacket twisted around her neck and face. ***She was the 19th victim of the Cape serial killer of prostituted women.*** Murdered on May 15, 1996, Trish was his last victim – and also his youngest.

In 2011 police found Wendy Riketso's body stuffed in a drain near Wessels Street in Pretoria. Her Nigerian boyfriend claims she ran away from home and entered street prostitution when she was just 15. Sources confirm that her pimp had tried to kidnap her on several occasions.

In 2017 the South African painter Zwelethu Mthethwa was convicted of murdering Nokuphila Kumalo, a woman he had prostituted in 2013. And in January 2018 another 20-year-old woman, Siam Lee, went missing from what is believed to have been a brothel in Durban North. Her charred body was discovered two days later on a farm in New Hanover in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. ***Philani Ntuli, the man accused of her murder, is said to have been her last "customer."***

Prostitution is inherently harmful and an extreme form of violence against women and girls that should be understood and addressed from a gender equality perspective. South Africa is making strides towards legal reform, recognizing the



Survivors of prostitution call for justice for Siam Lee in Durban, South Africa



exploitation inherent in the sex industry and penalizing those who sell and buy women, rather than those women who are sold in prostitution. ***The South African Law Reform Commission issued a report in 2017 recommending partial decriminalisation – known as the Nordic or Equality Model of sex trade policy – as a preferred approach.***

Sex trade survivors do not wake up one day and "choose" to be prostituted. It is no coincidence that the majority of individuals in prostitution in South Africa are poor black women. These women were chosen by prostitution, for many reasons including their colonial past, apartheid, poverty, past sexual and physical abuse and other inequalities.

Mickey Meji is one of the brave women who has made it out of the sex trade and is mobilizing other sex trade survivors. She works with ***Embrace Dignity, a partner of the Donor Direct Action Fund in South Africa, which aims to end commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.*** Mickey has made it her life's mission to change laws and attitudes relating to prostitution, and to help ensure that nobody else trapped in the sex trade is ignored or silenced.

## JUSTICE FOR "CHILD BRIDES" IN AFGHANISTAN

In July 2018 ***a 35 year old Afghan man was charged with strangling to death Samia, a 9 year old girl whom he had forcibly "married" two years previously.*** She was "handed over" to him as part of a debt repayment in 2016. The girl's father was also arrested for selling his daughter for around \$13,500.

More than one in three Afghan girls is "married" off before she turns 18, the agreed minimum age internationally. It is only 16 for girls under the law in Afghanistan, but the actual age of these marriages is often much lower, as in the case of Samia. The Donor Direct Action Fund for Women worked with ***local group Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA)*** to get coverage of Samia's case in international media.

Hundreds of girls become victims of such violence every day in Afghanistan. HAWCA runs a shelter in Kabul for girls and women fleeing violence - girls such as Mah Jabin, an 11 year-old who was ***raped, burned and forcibly "married" to a much older man.***

HAWCA has been working to accelerate efforts to eliminate this abuse of girls' rights, which robs them of their health, education, childhood - and sometimes their lives.

# DR. DENIS MUKWEGE WINS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

On Human Rights Day, December 10th, one of our longtime partners, ***Dr. Denis Mukwege from Panzi Foundation in the DR Congo, received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway***, together with Nadia Murad, a Yazidi survivor from Iraq. Both of these advocates have done extraordinarily courageous work to end sexual violence in conflict. Jessica Neuwirth from the Sisterhood Is Global Institute joined them at the event.



*Jessica Neuwirth and Dr. Denis Mukwege in Oslo, Norway, November, 2018*

## LAUNCH OF GLORIA STEINEM EQUALITY FUND

From March 22nd-25th, the Donor Direct Action Fund for Women organized a three-day retreat with key partners and sex trade survivors working to end sex trafficking and prostitution. The retreat was hosted by Bonnie Schaefer at Westglow Resort and Spa in North Carolina, with all travel costs supported by a generous grant from Banky Larocque Foundation. Activists and survivors from Argentina, Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, India, South Africa, South Korea, the U.K. and the U.S attended. Gloria Steinem joined the retreat too, and the occasion of her birthday ***prompted the launch of the Gloria Steinem Equality Fund to End Sex Trafficking***, generously supported by Bonnie and Marla Schaefer. This Fund has since secured ***a significant multi-year grant from NoVo Foundation*** as well as financial support from the Ford Foundation and Abigail Disney. Fund partners include the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), which is spearheading collective global advocacy, and SPACE International, which is convening survivors and working to get their voices heard.



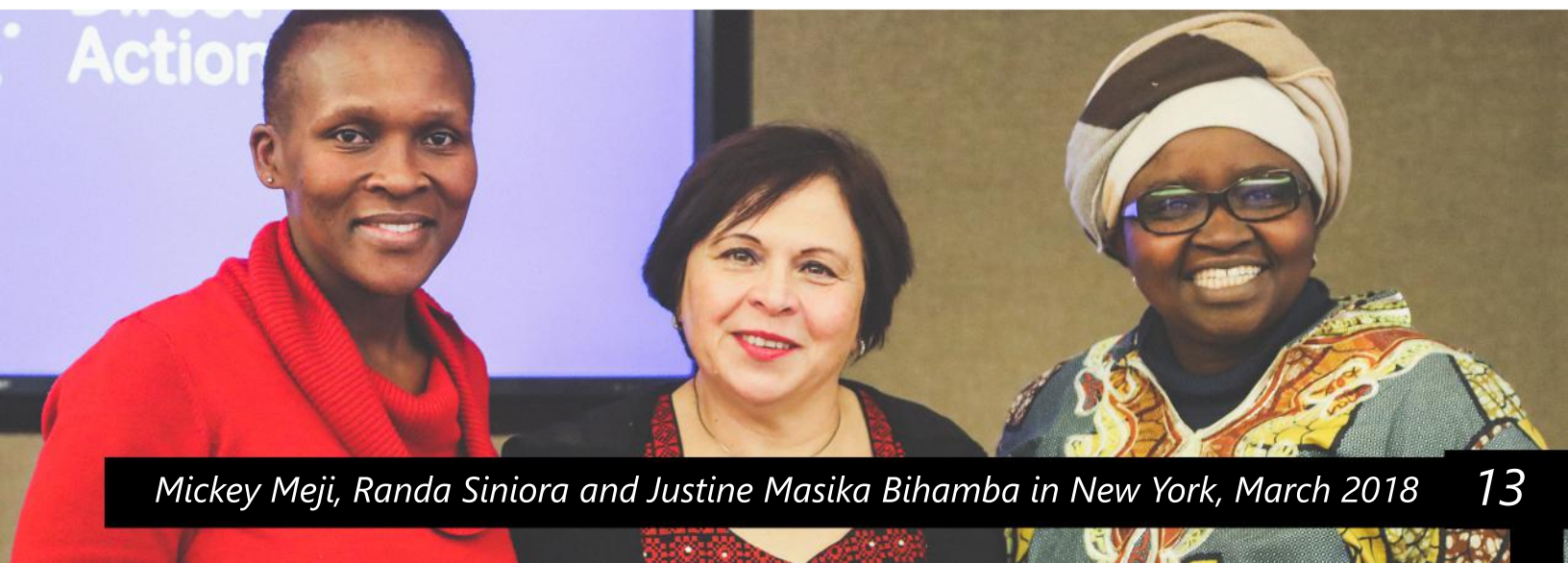


*Launch of Gloria Steinem Equality Fund, Westglow Resort & Spa, March 2018*

## CSW RECEPTION FOR FRONT LINE PARTNERS

Several of our partners visited New York for the ***United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2018***. To mark this event we hosted a reception for ***Justine Masika Bihamba from Synergie des Femmes (DR Congo)***, ***Randa Siniora from Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (Palestine)*** and ***Mickey Meji from Embrace Dignity (South Africa)*** at the offices of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP. Steering Committee member Lynn Nottage moderated the panel.

During the same week we facilitated a lunch, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN, for our partner ***Justine Masika Bihamba from Synergie*** to talk about the current political and safety situation in DR Congo, as well as the Congolese Women's Forum's action plan in the context of the renewal of the MONUSCO mandate. Later in the year we again supported Justine Masika Bihamba when she returned to ***address the United Nations Security Council***.



*Mickey Meji, Randa Siniora and Justine Masika Bihamba in New York, March 2018*

# GLORIA: A LIFE

Thanks to the efforts of friends of Donor Direct Action – Bonnie Schaefer and other supporters on our host committee – we held a successful benefit performance of *Gloria: A Life on November 8th* – including a VIP after-party hosted by Steering Committee member Lela Goren. *Gloria Steinem made the evening magical with her presence, as did Christine Lahti, the brilliant actress who portrayed Gloria* - also a long-time women's rights advocate herself. Journalists from Time Magazine, Agence France-Presse, Glamour, Cosmopolitan, BuzzFeed, CNN, The Guardian, Refinery 29 and Marie Claire also attended.



*Cynthia Nixon, Pramila Patten and Jessica Neuwirth at Gloria: A Life*

## RECEPTION FOR NEW PARTNER MANUELA RAMOS

In September we hosted a reception in New York for Victoria Villanueva, Executive Director of our *new Peruvian partner Manuela Ramos*. Victoria spoke about their work to representatives from civil society, foundations and the media. Later in the year we used Zoom technology to host a public event online in Spanish, featuring staff of Manuela Ramos.



*Victoria Villanueva in New York, September 2018*



## The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WorldViews  
Most girls in Somalia experience genital mutilation. The ritual just killed a 10-year-old.



2 Young Sisters Die After Female Genital Mutilation

CNN World » US | Africa | Americas | Asia | Australia | China | Europe | Middle East | News  
To end FGM, donors must trust working on the frontlines  
Jessica Neuwirth, Special for CNN  
CNN (10:40 UTC) February 6, 2018

## Los Angeles Times

Will Nevada ban brothels or elect a pimp to the state Assembly?

By JESSICA NEUWIRTH AUG 23, 2018 | 4:15 AM



## The New York Times

WORLD  
In April 2014, more than 200 girls were kidnapped from a school in Nigeria. The world responded: #BringBackOurGirls.

10-year-old girl dies after genital mutilation  
Associated Press  
Published 10:32 AM EDT Jul 20, 2018



OPINIÓN | COMENTARIO

## The New York Times ES

Los riesgos de embarazarse en El Salvador

Homepage : Comment : How the United States has failed



M News » Irish News » Human trafficking

Sex trafficking law 'must be changed to stop victims having to testify'

It is understood gardai have launched several operations targeting the vile trade but the one-year-old legislation has hindered their efforts



INSIDE DEVELOPMENT | WOMEN'S RIGHTS

DRC civil society pushes to change electoral law to promote gender inclusion

By Sara Jerving // 05 February 2018

The Guardian

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The New York Times  
When Laws Against Rape Aren't Enough  
by Jon Mohamed

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***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:*** Organización de Mujeres Salvadoreñas por la Paz (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)

***Peru:*** Manuela Ramos

***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

Marjorie Messinger: Website/Administrative Coordinator

Amanda Sullivan, Social Media Coordinator

Melody Soto, Administrator

Susana Chiarotti, Regional Advisor (Latin America)

Anber Raz, Regional Advisor (Asia/Africa)



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Lela Goren

Jane Levikow

Robin Morgan

Jessica Neuwirth

Lynn Nottage

Lina Srivastava

Liz Young

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The Donor Direct Action Fund for Women is a project of the Sisterhood is Global Institute, established in 1984 by Robin Morgan and Simone de Beauvoir. This first international feminist think tank is about to celebrate its 35th anniversary!

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Robin Morgan, President

Jessica Neuwirth, Vice President

Elizabeth Evatt, Treasurer

Karen Berry, Secretary

Jane Fonda

Charlotte Örnemark

Navanethem Pillay

Gloria Steinem



*Robin Morgan speaking at launch of Sisterhood is Global, 1984*

# THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Donor Direct Action Fund for Women and the Sisterhood is Global Institute in many ways during the past year.

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Ronald Young  
Marlene Zwickler



# FINANCIALS \*

	2018	2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$303,560	\$292,520
Pledges receivable	\$150,000	-
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$9,891	\$9,506
Investments in certificates of deposit	\$612,199	\$605,303
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,075,650</b>	<b>\$907,329</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accrued expenses	\$25,979	\$22,087
Grants payable	\$60,000	-
Total Liabilities	\$85,979	\$22,087
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$588,391	\$633,760
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$401,280	\$251,482
Total Net Assets	\$989,671	\$885,242
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,075,650</b>	<b>\$907,329</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions:</b>		
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
Contributions and grants:		
Foundations	\$260,751	\$268,750
Individuals	\$33,232	\$16,232
Corporations	\$7,000	-
Donated services	\$80,000	\$82,500
Donated use of facilities	-	\$5,871
Special events, net	\$51,969	-
Service fees	\$25,182	\$37,517
Interest income	\$9,263	\$5,405
Realized gain (loss)	\$774	(\$93)
Unrealized loss (gain)	(\$2,367)	\$15
Public Support and Revenue Before Releases from Restrictions	\$465,804	\$416,197
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$562,885	\$399,570
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$1,028,689	\$815,767
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	\$933,010	\$727,786
Management and general	\$121,699	\$128,037
Fundraising and development	\$19,349	\$22,360
Total Expenses	\$1,074,058	\$878,183
<b>Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>(\$45,369)</b>	<b>(\$62,416)</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions:</b>		
Contributions and grants:		
Foundations	\$525,396	\$157,525
Individuals	\$133,787	\$290,578
Corporations	\$53,500	\$118,880
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(\$562,885)	(\$399,570)
<b>Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>\$149,798</b>	<b>\$167,413</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$104,429</b>	<b>\$104,997</b>
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	\$885,242	\$780,245
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$989,671</b>	<b>\$885,242</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



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420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 300  
New York, NY 10170, USA  
[info@donordirectaction.org](mailto:info@donordirectaction.org)  
[media@donordirectaction.org](mailto:media@donordirectaction.org)

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