

FEMINIST ACTIVISM WITHOUT FEAR



FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR COLLECTIVE POWER & CARE



Feminist activists are leading movements for justice and liberation worldwide. But today, they are less and less safe.

From digital surveillance and smear campaigns, to violence that targets the well-being of activists' organizations, loved ones, and communities, feminist activists are being targeted with increased—and increasingly intense—forms of backlash, or “reprisals.”

That's why Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism has launched a new campaign called ***Feminist Activism Without Fear: Facing Risks with Collective Power & Care***. Visit feministactivismwithoutfear.org to read the firsthand stories of feminist activists and movements—and learn how they're pushing back against backlash.

HOW CAN FUNDERS SUPPORT ACTIVISTS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND MOVEMENTS FACING BACKLASH AND REPRISALS?

Provide flexible funding for collective power, protection, and care

Funders can deliver trust-based, flexible, rapid, responsive, long-term, and unrestricted funding that enables activists and movements to:

- Mobilize quickly and effectively in response to existing or anticipated risks and reprisals; develop simpler and more flexible reporting practices.
- Create and sustain networks, practices, and infrastructures of collective care so that activists can protect and care for each other, build greater collective power, and thrive over time.

“[We] all...have some sort of health issues that we developed due to our active involvement in this campaign. And we don't have psychological support. We are trying literally not to drown.”

– IRINA, journalist and environmental activist*

Illustration Credit: Nafisa Ferdous

Adopt a feminist, inclusive understanding of backlash

Understanding the full scope of the reprisals that diverse feminist activists face is key to ensuring the safety and well-being of activists and their movements. For example:

- Perpetrators target feminist activists' mental, emotional, economic, digital, professional, and physical security—as well as that of their families, loved ones, support networks, and movements.
- Women, trans, and non-binary activists are more likely to be in charge of caring for families, communities, and organizations, limiting their capacity to care for themselves and avoid burnout.
- Perpetrators often target feminist activists' reputations and honor to silence and alienate them from their families and communities.
- LGBTQIA+, disabled, Black, Indigenous, and other activists who are most marginalized face greater risks and greater barriers to protection and resources.

Build strong relationships with feminist activists, who know best what they need, and listen to their priorities, including:

- Be proactive in asking activists about their security needs and affirm your commitment to supporting them; seek to understand activists' unique circumstances and security needs, such as those of disabled and trans activists.
- Abundantly resource collective care and self-care, including psychological support.
- Raise awareness about and provide resources and opportunities to support activists' digital and physical security; be mindful that grantees may need to protect their own or their beneficiaries' identities.
- Monitor the human rights situations of activists so you can quickly respond in emergencies.
- Simplify grantmaking processes in order to allow activists to more readily access resources for their safety and security.
- Amplify feminist movement voices, and use your power to advocate for change on issues that matter to them, following their leadership and messaging, including in bilateral dialogue with other states or potential donors.

**Names and other identifying features have been changed*

Photo Credit: Ono Kosuki



“What scares me the most, what affects my mental health the most, is the fear of being arrested. But sometimes I am much more scared for my family and loved ones than for myself.”

– NAILA, feminist activist working to release people who have been arbitrarily detained*



Photo Credit: Vladimir Chake

“We want cameras, safer doors, and fences, but we have no money for that. So, okay, what to do? Anytime intelligence services can just come and open the door.”

– NORA, trans activist for trans rights*

For more information, visit feministactivismwithoutfear.org or contact us at info@urgentactionfund.org