# FEMINIST OPPORTUNITIES NOW (FON)

# FORM FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIP

# FUNDING WINDOW 3: STRENGTHENING NETWORKS (10,000 - 87000 USD)

# BACKGROUND

The project [“Feminist Opportunities Now (FON)”](https://creaworld.org/our-work/fon/), implemented by a consortium of organizations led by the [International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPFAR),](https://africa.ippf.org/) in collaboration with [CREA](https://creaworld.org/), [Empow'Her](https://empow-her.com/), the [International Federation on Human Rights](https://www.fidh.org/en/), and [Médecins du Monde France (MdM-FR)](https://www.medecinsdumonde.org/). Funded by the [Agence Francaise de Développement (AFD)](https://www.afd.fr/fr), FON’s overarching goal is to strengthen the capacity of feminist movements to address gender-based violence through sub-grants to feminist organizations, with a focus on reaching small, often unregistered, feminist organizations. The project will be implemented across ten countries in three regions: Mexico and Colombia (led by MdM), **Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (led by CREA),** and Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, and Mali (led by IPPFAR).

FON’s objectives are:

* Improve the sustainability of feminist organizations at the organizational and technical level by proposing an inclusive approach to capacity development.
* Support the resilience and diversity of feminist CSOs through access to sustainable, flexible and adapted financing for small and/or informal and/or structurally excluded ones.
* Strengthen the networking of feminist CSOs from the South, bringing them closer to networks at the national, regional and international level, to bring their voice to the public agenda.

# GRANTS FOR NETWORKS

Flexible and adapted financing for CSOs is one of the main activities of FON. This window is aimed at networks, alliances or movements of civil society organizations (CSOs) that addresses gender based violence through political advocacy. Following initiatives are encouraged through this funding window:

**Priority initiatives:**

* Basic financing (core funding) to ensure the operations of your network.
  + funding can be used to cover network, alliance or movement expenses without having to link them to the implementation of a project, when these expenses are dedicated to strengthening your organizational and technical capabilities.
  + examples of these could be: the cost of a consultancy to provide support at an organizational level (financial management, internal audit, governance, etc.) or technical level (advocacy, project planning, reporting, etc.), equipment costs (i.e. purchase computers, office supplies...), consumables (i.e. papers, ink cartridges, etc.), operating expenses (i.e. rent, transportation, electricity, communications) or any other expense related to the operation of your network
* Financing for an intervention/ project in particular. This includes:
  + Advocacy initiatives to address structural causes of gender-based violence:
    - reformation of existing discriminatory laws, policies or intitutions;
    - bringing new policies, laws, institutions to address GBV
  + Methodologies could include:
    - promoting dialogue, lobbying, meetings and sharing among feminist CSOs aiming at transformative and systemic changes
    - contributing to the body of knowledge required for advocacy efforts: e.g.. researching national/ regional structural gaps to address GBV, developing (drafting and testing) media toolkits for advocacy on addressing GBV
* Combination of both categories mentioned above- core and intervention projects.

Grant amount: USD 10,000-87,000

Duration: one to two years [within the span of February 2024- February 2026]

*Key words: synergy, alliance, articulation, collaborative advocacy*

# ELIGIBILITY

CSOs applying for a sub-grant under the FON project must:

* Be committed in favour of gender equality and implement actions to prevent and/or fight gender-based violence.
* The lead of the Network should be based in Sri Lanka or Bangladesh. The other network members can be based in any South Asian country. For Bangladesh- the lead organisation must be regi
* Networks, alliances, movements of organisations, umbrella structure hosting several small and/or informal organisations; formalised or structured; existing or newly formed networks are eligible to apply.

*Ineligible: Initiatives by individuals, Initiatives presented by public/governmental institutions, organisation not working in the GBV sector.*

**Encouraged to apply:**

Particularly encouraged to apply organizations of networks working with or led by people who, in their local context, that may face particularly high discrimination, gender inequalities and gender-based violence, such as:

* Members of the LGBTI+ community and in general people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities
* People living with disabilities
* People living with HIV/AIDS
* Racial, ethnic or indigenous minorities (in the local context)
* Internally displaced, migrant and refugee people
* Sex workers
* Young people
* Members of any other community that in their local context face particularly high discrimination, gender inequalities and gender-based violence.

# SELECTION CRITERIA

* Location: The lead of the network should be based in Sri Lanka or Bangladesh. The other network members can be based in any South Asian country.
* Subject: Level of commitment of the network (and its’ members) to gender equality and implement actions to prevent and/or fight gender-based violence.
* Proposed initiative: Relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the advocacy initiative proposed in the project.

# PROCESS OF FON NETWORK GRANT

# SUBMISSION OF EOI

CREA hereby invites feminist groups to submit expression of interests. The EOI/concept note templates in English, Sinhala, Tamil, and Bangla language, and more information can be downloaded from the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12qPlKwVhAaO7Pu1cTQooF3SK4MeHJB7G?usp=sharing>

**Send your expressions of interest/ concept note to ‘fon@creaworld.org’ by 15th December 2023. Subject of the email should be mentioned as ‘*EOI-Network grant’*.**

# SUPPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

* We, at CREA, strive to assure equal access to all the groups that submit partnership applications. We encourage you to fill the grant application in a language that you are most comfortable with, and we will assure you are given equal attention in the selection process.
* If you have any other difficulties or require any support in filling this application form, please reach out to us via ‘fon@creaworld.org’.

# MORE DETAILS ON THE PROCESS, AGREEMENTS, AND COMMITMENTS

**Applications Assessment**

* The concept notes will be analyzed by CREA. Shortlisted organizations will receive an email requesting them to complete the full application documents.
* The complete applications will be presented to the Regional Coordination and Advisory Committee for Asia (RCAC-Asia), responsible for the final selection of the beneficiary networks. Committee members must respect the principles of impartiality, confidentiality and absence of conflict of interest.

**Selection criteria**

* RCAC evaluates applications based on the eligibility criteria indicated in this call, shared values (such as the organization's feminist commitment, its commitment to diversity, to providing services to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities without discrimination and with gender justice) and the quality of the request (management capacity, contribution of the CSO network to address gender based violence and gender equality, tangible results, important multiplier effects, etc.). Another important criterion to consider in the selection is the candidate's financing needs.
* Upon the selection by RCAC, CREA will carry out due diligence process and finalize the approval of grant receipts.

**Information and contractual provisions**

* If the decision is positive, CREA, as leader of the consortium in Asia, will proceed to sign the contract detailing the commitments and obligations of both parties to allow the transfer of funds, as well as the transfer mechanism of these (according to the installment schedule agreed in the contract). CREA will also ensure monitoring of the implementation of the funded activities.
* All documents and communications related to the awarded grant may remain confidential if justified by the beneficiary CSO network, in particular in the case of existing or potential security threats.

**All applications will receive feedback from RCAC**

* To the extent possible and within the capabilities of RCAC members, all applicants who submit full proposal will receive written or oral feedback on the reasons for receiving or not receiving the requested grant. The main objective is to support all organizations in their growth and development with constructive feedback that can also be useful for future successful application.
* Transparency, impartiality and protection of personal data will be protected.
* RCAC members undertake to study CSO funding requests with complete transparency and impartiality and to protect their data. Applicable national and/or regional data protection laws will apply.

**What do you (the beneficiaries) commit to?**

Networks that request financial support from the FON Project agree to observe a series of rules, the main ones being the following:

1. Information on verification operations (screening)

* CSOs that submit a Funding Application to the FON Project on behalf of the network are informed that there will be an “ex ante” verification of their organization and governance, to ensure that they do not appear on the Financial Sanctions Lists. These are lists of people, groups or organizations subject to financial sanctions by the United Nations, the European Union and France in the name of combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. This obligation called “screening” is requested by the Project donor, the French Development Agency (AFD).
* If the CSO, movement or platform applying for a grant is not legally registered in your country, its representatives and, in particular, the person accredited to receive the funds (if the organization, platform or movement does not have a bank account in its name) , will be subjected to verification operations.
* By submitting a funding request to the FON Project, the organizations or people who represent them accept the verification operations. CSOs, platforms or movements that appear on the Financial Sanctions List will not receive any funding from the FON Project.

1. Information on “Integrity Due Diligence”

* CSO networks submitting a Funding Application for the FON Project will also be informed that they will be subject to an "Integrity Due Diligence" by CREA, as requested by AFD.
* Next, the real existence of the organization, its reliability, the economic coherence between the activities of the CSOs and their resources and the absence of negative information in the public domain from reliable and objective sources will be verified.

1. Relationships between beneficiary organizations and their suppliers and service providers.

* For the purchases and provision of services necessary for the implementation of the activities financed by the grant, the beneficiary network/CSOs must have their suppliers and service providers sign a declaration called "declaration of absence of sanctions linked to terrorism." This is a mandatory request from AFD. If the beneficiaries do not comply with this obligation, the expenses incurred may not be eligible, and the organizations must reimburse the corresponding amounts.
* The declaration that suppliers and service providers must sign must say the following: "We certify that we are not included, and that none of the members of our group, suppliers, contractors, consultants and subcontractors, are on the financial sanctions lists."
* Organizations will not have to request from their suppliers and service providers a signed declaration regarding expenses related to the regular operation of their company, such as: meal supplies, travel and operating expenses (electricity, internet, heating, small computer equipment, telephone, etc.).

1. Commitments regarding the use of funds obtained and supporting documents

* The transfer of funds to the beneficiary of the subsidy will be made to the bank account of the network lead, by bank transfer. The funds can be transferred in one or several payments, according to what was agreed between CREA and the beneficiary.
* If the CSO, platform or movement does not have a bank account in its name (for example, for security reasons) or cannot receive foreign funds into a domestic account, it is possible, on an exceptional basis, to transfer the funds to the account bank of another entity or an individual if this is due to a legitimate reason, in particular for security reasons, and if the traceability of the transfer of funds is satisfactorily ensured. In such cases, two people will sign a certificate confirming receipt of the funds.
* The beneficiaries of the FON project undertake to use the funds in accordance with what was agreed in the contract. Any modification regarding the use of funds must receive prior authorization from CREA and must be justified.
* Otherwise, the beneficiary could see their expense as ineligible and would have to repay the corresponding grant amount.
* In accordance with the administrative and financial management of the allocated funds, the network will follow its internal procedures, in particular with respect to the methods of authorization of expenses and control of purchases. If the beneficiary does not have written procedures, they can follow their internal methods, as long as they guarantee transparency and common good practices in the sector. Consortium members will follow a zero-tolerance policy with respect to fraudulent supply practices such as kickbacks, bribery, price rigging, conflict of interest, non-competitive practices and any other unethical and equitable acts.
* The beneficiaries will keep the supporting documents (invoices, receipts, payroll, etc.) of the expenses incurred within the framework of the FON Project as established in their contracts and will share them with CREA and/or the auditor when requested.

1. Reporting obligations.

* The beneficiaries undertake to report on the use of the funds.
* At a minimum, they will submit to CREA narrative reports and financial reports on the implementation of the project and the actions financed, as well as all supporting documents, originals or copies, as established in the contract.
* To report on the implementation of the project, they must attach all documents, stories, images, photographic files, etc. to their reports. If they encounter difficulties in preparing their reports, organizations can request support from CREA.
* CREA may request clarifications, additional information or documents from the beneficiaries regarding the submitted narrative or financial reports. Failure to submit these reports or failure to respond to requests for additional information may justify a request for reimbursement of allocated funds.