



### **Urgent Demand to Donors from the Feminist Action for Afghanistan**

As a coalition of feminist donors, women’s rights organizations, and members of Afghan civil society working for women’s rights, including members of the LGBTQI+ community and women’s rights defenders, we wholeheartedly recognize the need and obligation to financially support Afghan civil society and human rights defenders both in the immediate short-term, as well as critical sustained long-term support.

**We call on peer donors and allies to avoid mechanisms that legitimize the current regime such as releasing funds to the Afghanistan Central Bank.** We recognise the need to get funds into the country as a matter of the utmost urgency. As the discussions on the creation of a trust fund to support salaries of public sector workers and others are advancing, they must ensure the rights of women to work are locked in and until transfers can be made. We urge an interpretation of humanitarian resourcing to enable livelihoods support pending resolution of the trust.

**We call on donors and allies to expand and fulfill their funding commitments to support gender equality and the rights of women, girls, and the LBTIQI+ community and people from ethnic minorities in Afghanistan**

We highlight the need to ensure the security of those that we are supporting, and we urge the international donor and philanthropic community that seeks to support the efforts of Afghan women and civil society to adhere to the following recommendations:

#### **In the immediate short term:**

- Include the voices and needs of Afghan women at the front and centre of all funding and advocacy efforts, and in particular focus on centering and elevating the voices of activists in Afghanistan and those currently in exile
- Leverage your influence to advocate for evacuation, long-term safe accommodations, and guarantees against deportation
- Acknowledge that supporting the evacuation of human rights defenders also requires sustained long-term funding, in particular for people that are in transit, a minimum of 6

months of funding to cover costs related to housing, medical, security, and communication among other needs is absolutely necessary

- Prioritize funding to Afghan civil society and, in particular, women's rights and women-led organizations that are equipped with firsthand knowledge of the current situation and have been working to advance women's rights in Afghanistan for decades
- Avoid the release of funds to Afghanistan's Central Bank. As above, we encourage the international community to explore other mechanisms that will not legitimize a regime that is detrimental to the advancement of women's, girls', and the LBTQI+ people's rights as well as ethnic minorities
- Handle all information related to Afghan organizations and individuals with the utmost care in terms of digital and physical security
- Include Afghan women and women officials on any humanitarian missions and negotiations, with at least a 50% representation quota; Ensure that your missions and delegations do not prevent women from participating, nor enforce gender segregation
- Ensure funds from all sources (multilateral, bilateral, philanthropy) uphold the rights of women's, girls', and people from the LBTQI+ community as well as those that are part of ethnic minorities in Afghanistan. This must include a ban on forced marriage and ensure access to girls' education at all levels
- Make funding available that is flexible (due to the rapidly changing context and the strategic agility it requires) and core support rather than project-based (to allow civil society and the feminist and women's rights movement to survive this difficult time) as well as sufficient resources for physical and digital security and psychosocial wellbeing
- Establish processes and procedures (application, reporting, etc.) that are accessible to civil society and defenders at high risk in terms of time and resources investment they require
- Advocate and negotiate for including a humanitarian exemption to the current targeted sanctions on individuals and entities (UN 1988 Regime) and for national level targeted sanctions against the current regime, individuals, and entities. This is necessary to enable local partners to do their work, particularly when it comes to responding to the dire humanitarian crisis that will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on women, girls, the LBTQI+ community and people from ethnic minorities

#### **In the long-term:**

- Ensure that any efforts to create a trust fund or mechanism to sustain significant long-term funding should be inclusive of women, girls, and members of the LBTQI+ community as well as those that are part of ethnic minorities in Afghanistan
- Direct funding to existing feminist funding mechanisms, including women's funds, to support women's organizations and those of LBTQI+ people at significant levels
- Ensure that all humanitarian and development assistance to Afghanistan respects international commitments to the rights of women and LBTQI+ people; the women, peace and security normative framework, and good practices relating to gender equality
- Commit to the equitable participation of Afghan women in all negotiations and processes to build peace in Afghanistan
- Channel direct funding to local civil society organizations based in neighboring countries that are receiving an influx of women, girl, and gender nonconforming people's rights defenders such as Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan Tajikistan, and Turkey

### **Feminist Action for Afghanistan**

- Global Fund for Women
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- MADRE
- Equality Fund
- International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
- Count Me In! Consortium comprised of Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Mama Cash, CREA, JASS, Urgent Action Fund and Urgent Action Fund-Africa
- Urgent Action Funds sisterhood comprised of Urgent Action Fund, Urgent Action Fund Asia & Pacific, Urgent Action Fund Africa and Urgent Action Fund Latin America