

PUBLIC STATEMENT FACING 2020 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CRISIS



Urgent Action sisters Funds as feminist rapid response grant makers, operate under constant crises and over decades have built the infrastructure and capacity, nurtured by the trust of movements, to respond together in an urgent, secure and strategic manner to advance rights and social justice agenda. Our expertise is the experience facing crisis, through approaches on sustaining feminist activism, rooted in diverse context where the four Funds operate across the globe. This moment obliges us to continue globally to sustain movements and feminist resistances to re-imagine new systems and collective and communal practices that comes from women, feminist, anti-colonial, anti-racist and trans-feminist initiatives that have sustained life worldwide.

Sustaining movement's resilience in front of 2020 health and social crisis, implies for us to put care at the center. Care organically became intentional in our work and through the years we have learned that collective and self-care are part of the same issue. Hence, the approach starts from us. As Sisters Funds we created our own COVID mitigation and wellbeing plan among the staffs, embracing that every team member also straddles multiple roles in families and communities and is also affected by the current crises. Thus, each Sister Fund provided flexible working hours, regular check-ins, collective care sessions, additional funding for connectivity or health needs. This new rhythm has allowed us to re think creatively our plans and the perspective of work, to deepen our contribution to the collective responses and wellbeing on a post-pandemic world.

Our agile response model is rooted on realities on the ground, centered around care and social justice. It is strategic, flexible, and is both urgent and holistic at the same time. We know how to act immediately in times of crisis by reaching out activists, listening to their needs and responding to their priorities. In this pandemic, we support collective and cultural practices of care, and sustain organizations survival of those who lack of access to humanitarian aids from their government. And at the same time, we support cyberfeminism work that allows communities to keep connected on digital systems and virtual infrastructures free of violence.

Despite the urgency our response is always strategic, and allows longer-term sustainability. Therefore, in the pandemic our grantmaking is not for humanitarian aid. It responds to our ethical-political strategy to support the sustainability of movements, by recognizing their critical importance and collective dimension. Sustainability and protection of activists and movements having being broadened and at the core of this response in this context.

We are here to accompany movements, to back up communities that seek to dismantle structures of systemic oppression and to support social change to happen.

**UAFs resource the creativity, innovation and power of communities to respond
strategically**

UAFs do not support individual's needs, we support movements

UAFs in response of COVID continue *sustaining feminist activism worldwide*