



**STRENGTHENING SOUTH ASIAN  
FEMINIST MOVEMENTS**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2017/18

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2017

## SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND

### Call for Applications 2017-2018

South Asia Women's Fund is pleased to announce the call for applications for 2017-18

South Asia Women's Fund is committed to supporting organisations and activists working towards realising the human rights of women and trans\* people in the Asian region. Through its grant making portfolios, SAWF provides access to resources for women-led/trans-led interventions in 18 countries in South, Southeast and East Asia<sup>1</sup> with a special focus on supporting the voices and leadership of those facing multiple discriminations, working within difficult contexts and circumstances.

The common threads that run through all SAWF's grant making programmes are:

- Promoting a rights based perspective and feminist principles in women's rights/trans\* rights work in the region, key components of which are decision making, agency and voices
- Strengthening the leadership of women and trans\* people, especially of second line leadership
- Networking and collaborations among and between groups and activists working at a sub-national, national and regional level

The call for applications is open from 1<sup>st</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Women and trans\* rights groups, organisations and activists from Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are eligible to apply for this call.

Applicants are invited to apply under any of our themes (details below). You can download our [Letter of Interest \(LOI\) format here](#) or from [www.sawf.info](http://www.sawf.info). Completed LOIs should be emailed to [sawfrgp@sawf.info](mailto:sawfrgp@sawf.info) with the subject "Application for Grant 2017-18" no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2017.

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<sup>1</sup>South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka.  
South East and East Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and Mongolia

## GRANT TYPES AND THEMATICS

Applicants can apply for the following types of grants:

- i.** *Project/Programme Grants:* Supporting the implementation of new, innovative ideas; up scaling of a previous/on going programme; support for on going programmes.
- ii.** *Core or Institutional Grants:* Supporting institutional costs such as salaries, equipment, travel costs, rent, office maintenance, audit and costs of other legal and financial compliances. Core funding is also given for setting up new organisations as well as supporting the secretariat costs of sub-national, national, and regional networks.
- iii.** *Collaboration Grants:* Supporting a joint initiative between two or more organisations at the sub-national, national, sub-regional and regional level.
- iv.** *Mentorship Grants:* Supporting a capacity strengthening process for an individual activist or a women's group by an expert/mentor identified by the applicant.
- v.** *Travel Grants<sup>2</sup>:* Support for events, conferences, and capacity building initiatives, which are critical spaces for learning, growth, exposure, and strengthening of regional perspectives and collective voices for women's rights and empowerment.
- vi.** *Research Grants:* Support for baseline research or a needed publication by women's rights groups or activists, which is focused on/addressing critical women's issues that also feeds into the larger canon of feminist work or is for the purpose of influencing policy or undertaking advocacy, at the local, national or regional level.

SAWF accepts applications under the following themes:

1. *Strengthening Feminist Voices, USD 1000-10,000:* This thematic offers flexible funding opportunities, with a focus on community leadership development, grassroots mobilisation and outreach, as well as strengthening the institutional capacity of small community led organisations. More information on this thematic can be found [here](#).
2. *Movement and Labour, USD 5000 - 10,000:* This thematic supports interventions focused on women and trans\* people's right to movement, economic justice, and right to access resources to increase their opportunities. The types of strategies and interventions supported under this thematic include (but are not limited to) promoting women's/trans\* mobility and labour rights, especially in the informal sector (sex work, garment factory workers, tea plantation workers, domestic workers, among others), and countering

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<sup>2</sup> SAWF accepts applications for travel grants throughout the year, for up to USD 1000; however, grants are very limited, and applicants are advised to apply at least two months in advance.

practices, policies and discourses that violate these rights such as “forced rescue and rehabilitation”. More information on this thematic can be found [here](#).

3. *Autonomy, Decisions and Sexual Rights, USD 5000 - 10,000*: This thematic supports initiatives that promote the right to sexuality, decision-making and bodily autonomy of women and trans\* people, with a particular focus on issues such as forced marriage, right to choice, and right to information and education to enable informed decision-making. More information on this thematic can be found [here](#).
4. *Access to Justice, USD 1000-5000*: This thematic supports initiatives focused on increasing women and trans\* people’s access to justice, including raising legal awareness among communities; creating pathways and mechanisms for survivors to access lawyers and the judicial system; training women paralegals; supporting women lawyers etc. More information on this thematic can be found [here](#).

\*\* SAWF is also in the process of introducing a fifth thematic on Environment and Gender Justice. We welcome applications for funding from organisations and groups already working on issues under this theme, looking at climate change, natural disasters, climate adaptation and mitigation and so on, in relation to women’s human rights.

## CRITERIA

Who can apply?

- Any woman’s/trans\* rights organisation whose annual budget is under USD 50,000, located in the focal countries<sup>3</sup> can apply.
- The organisation/group should have women’s/trans\* leadership in its governance and staff. ie. The team should be led by a woman/trans person, and at least 70% of its decision-making body and staff should be women or trans\*.
- At least 70% of the organisation’s programmatic resources should be spent on working for women/trans\* rights.
- The organisation should be committed to feminist principles and rights based approaches
- A second-line woman/trans\* leader of an organisation (which is not a women’s rights organisation) may apply for an individual grant.
- Individual women and trans\* activists or scholars may apply for small grants (USD 1000-5000) under any of the thematic.

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<sup>3</sup>Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

## LETTER OF INTEREST (LOI)

### Guidelines for the Letter of Interest (LOI)

1. SAWF will accept LOIs submitted in English and any of the regional languages<sup>4</sup> ([Bangla](#), [Hindi](#), [Nepali](#), [Sinhala](#), [Tamil](#) and [Urdu](#))
2. Duration of the proposal: New applicants should apply for a grant for a duration of no more than 12 months. SAWF partners who have received funding for two consecutive years are eligible to apply for funding for up to two years, with a maximum budget of \$10,000 per year.
3. All LOIs should state clearly:
  - The issue which the project seeks to address
  - The immediate objectives of the project
  - The project strategies and main activities
  - The outcomes and measurable indicators
  - Demonstrate the rights based approach in the project design
  - Provide a detailed budget, outlining the expenditures per activity
4. Priority will be given to interventions that:
  - Show fresh and new thinking
  - Are innovative, build upon other ideas
  - Show ways in which they will sustain the gains of the project
  - Use the grant to leverage the gains from an on-going project
  - Show links between this project and other on-going tasks, in a way to add value and contribute to strengthen the human rights movements
  - Use this grant to link with other national or sub-national initiatives to ensure a regional resonance
5. Activities not eligible for grants:
  - Microcredit, microfinance and other income generation activities
  - Sponsorships and scholarships
  - Service provisions activities such as running of health camps
  - Direct or indirect interventions in electoral or party-based political activities such as election campaigns, election processes, supporting or opposing a political

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<sup>4</sup> Please email us for word document versions of the LOIs in the regional languages, if required.

candidate during elections and contributions to political party or individual candidate's fund (even if independent)

- Re-granting: using the funds to provide grants and fellowships to other groups and individuals.
- Buying or construction of office space or any other space for the organisation

## **REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

The following documents are required, without which applications will not be accepted:

1. An attested copy of the registration of the organisation
2. List of its governing body and executive staff
3. Tax exemption status
4. Legal registration to receive grants from foreign sources
5. Audited accounts of the previous financial year
6. Annual report, or any other document in its stead that lays out the activities, achievements and challenges that the organisation undertook in the preceding year

For any questions or clarifications regarding the call for applications or the Letter of Interest format, please contact us at [sawfrgp@sawf.info](mailto:sawfrgp@sawf.info)