

“LIFE IS LIKE  
AN EVER-SHIFTING  
KALEIDOSCOPE -  
A SLIGHT CHANGE,  
AND ALL PATTERNS  
ALTER.” SHARON SALZBERG





## FOREWORD



Five years ago, a group of young and 'formerly young' feminist activists came together to change a disturbing pattern: young women, girls, and trans\*youth organizing was not getting the support it deserved. They recognized that if something didn't change, the historical gains and future solutions of the feminist movement would not be sustainable.

FRIDA was created to alter this pattern, and ensure young feminist organizing received the resources it needed to make its visions of a different, more just world come true.

We have titled this year's annual report 'kaleidoscope' because we believe it best illustrates what FRIDA is about.

A kaleidoscope is an invention – a tool and also a toy – that lets viewers see the world in colorful patterns. We think that FRIDA is much like a kaleidoscope in that it was built to shine a light on the spirit of young feminist activists, and intensify the changes they seek to make.

Our work takes many forms and always aims to shake things up.

Our participatory grantmaking breaks the tradition, and transfers the power of decision making into the hands of the young women, girls, and trans\*youth that apply. We work with our partners to create linking, learning, and capacity development opportunities that young activists struggle to find, but are critical to strengthening impact, making connections, and building solidarity.

FRIDA's achievements would not be possible without its rainbow of grantee partners, advisors, staff, Board, donors, and supporters. We especially thank our incubating partners the Association for Women's Rights in Development and the Central American Women's Fund for their continued guidance and support, especially as we begin to 'leave the nest' and fly out on our own. Similarly, we thank the Tides Foundation for their ongoing partnership. Lastly, we want to give a special shout out to Jovana Djordjevic, the third member of FRIDA's staff team in 2014 – you kept us smiling with our hands in the air!

It is with great joy and appreciation that we share our collective work with you.

In solidarity,  
Devi Leiper O'Malley  
and Ruby Johnson  
FRIDA Co-Directors



A MESSAGE FROM FRIDA'S  
FIRST BOARD CHAIR



We are so excited to share with you FRIDA's annual report and make our work visible all over the world! 2014 was an extremely important year for us, full of new endeavors, challenges and victories.

We have received over 720 applications from young feminist groups. The participatory grant making process resulted in 25 new groups to be given flexible funds, thus enriching our grantee community! In addition, 22 current grantee partners have been regranted so that they continue their groundbreaking work in their countries and communities. We have also recruited new Advisers who have been shaping FRIDA's future and have put enormous efforts to make FRIDA grow and flourish, staying adherent to its core values – flexibility, resources, inclusivity, diversity and action.

Moreover, FRIDA continued its firm steps toward the absolute institutional independence as the sole young feminists-led fund in the world. Hence, FRIDA has formed its first ever Board! This means that now we have a body to support the transitional period of our Fund,

register FRIDA as a legal institution with its own bank account, policies and staff as well as manage a participatory process to set up FRIDA's global governance structure in the nearest future. As the Chair of FRIDA's Board, it is my honor to highlight these key achievements of our team. FRIDA is more than a unique donor supporting young feminist movements worldwide. FRIDA proves that everything is possible when young feminists come together, express solidarity to each other and make collective decisions. FRIDA shows that there should be nothing without young feminists leadership, meaningful participation and full inclusion, and that the voices of marginalized communities and groups are key. FRIDA believes in the power of young activists as important actors of change and thus supports the existence and operations of young feminists groups throughout the world.

In this report, you will find much more information about the work of FRIDA and its grantees towards a world where young women, girls and trans\* youth are empowered to participate fully and effectively in the decisions that affect their bodies and lives. On behalf of FRIDA team, I would like to thank all our donors, supporters and allies for funding and empowering us and believing in our capacities! This is only the beginning of FRIDA's long journey and being part of this process is absolutely amazing!

In solidarity,  
Anna Nikoghosyan  
FRIDA Board Chair

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# 01

## 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

### JANUARY

STARTING THE YEAR OFF WITH A FRESH NEW TEAM  
Based all around the world, FRIDA is now composed of three young feminists: Co-Directors Ruby Johnson and Devi Leiper O'Malley in Mexico and Cambodia, and Organisational Assistant Jovana Djordjevic in Serbia.

### MARCH

A COMMUNITY EVENT IN NEW YORK CITY  
Co-hosted with Foundation for a Just Society, FRIDA celebrates young feminist activism during the week of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, sharing stories of bold leadership and collective action, and featuring live music from the amazing strings duo: Chargaux

### MAY

SENDS 25 YOUNG WOMEN ACTIVISTS TO THE ASIA PACIFIC FEMINIST FORUM  
SECOND GLOBAL MEETING OF GRANTEE PARTNERS IN THAILAND  
Co-organized with Just Associates, WomenWin, and the Association for Women's Rights in Development, FRIDA brings together over 25 young feminist activists from over 20 countries to exchange skills, learn digital story-telling techniques, and build new relationships.

### JUNE

FRIDA LAUNCHES ITS THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
Open for six weeks, young feminist groups can apply in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, or Russian. Over 300 eligible candidates take part in a participatory voting process to decide on the best proposals in their region.

### AUGUST

GRANTEE PARTNERS SHARE THEIR AUDIO STORIES  
Using the skills they learned at FRIDA's global grantee convening, grantee partners publish their digital stories on themes like their entry to activism, the power of collective action, and the importance of learning to say "No!" Listen to their stories here.

### NOVEMBER

FRIDA SENDS 5 YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS TO THE FEMINIST ENCUESTRO IN PERU

RESULTS FROM THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED!  
FRIDA awards new grants to 25 new groups and 24 renewals, in 47 different countries. New groups and projects include: A non-gender conforming band in Chile; the first feminist Roma theater group in Romania; girls who want to raise the legal marriage age in Pakistan; survivors of female- genital mutilation in Kenya; radio and documentary producers in Lebanon.

### DECEMBER

WEBINAR ON SELF CARE AND SECURITY  
The YFA Program and FRIDA co-host a 2-part webinar series that discusses the increasing threats activists face in their physical and digital lives and the compounding pressures that are put on activists. Experts and activists from around the world share their experiences and tips towards protecting one's self-care.

MOBILISES OUR LARGEST GRANT EVER, WORTH ALMOST A MILLION DOLLARS, FROM COMIC RELIEF

CELEBRATES THE LAUNCH OF FRIDA'S FIRST GIVING CIRCLE IN NEW YORK CITY

LAUNCH FRIDA HUB, ONLINE LEARNING AND CONNECTING PLATFORM FOR GRANTEE PARTNERS, ADVISORS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS.

COMMENCE GRANTEE WELCOME JOURNEY WITH SPECIAL PACKS AND WELCOME CALLS IN FRENCH, SPANISH AND ENGLISH

"I AM THE LEGACY OF THE MATRIARCHS BEFORE ME. I AM THEM AND MY WORDS ECHO THEIR VISION, THEIR DREAM. FOR AS LONG AS I CAN WRITE, I WILL WRITE FOR THEM. THAT'S WHAT FEMINISM MEANS TO ME."

~ QUOTE FROM FLORENCE'S AUDIO STORY.  
FLORENCE IS PART OF FRIDA GRANTEE PARTNER, Y-FEM NAMIBIA.





02

## PARTICIPATORY GRANT MAKING

“THIS IS HOW WE WANT TO WORK TOGETHER. THIS IS WHAT FEELS RIGHT FOR US. THIS IS HOW WE FEEL EMPOWERED. THIS FITS WITH THE WAY THAT WE’RE WORKING AND WITH OUR STRUCTURE.”

BUDAPEST - RADICAL QUEER AFFINITY COLLECTIVE

### IMPACT OF PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING

FRIDA seeks to change traditional power relations between funders and grantees, by giving young feminist groups the power to make decisions about our grants. This is how it works: FRIDA opens the call for proposals in multiple languages for at least 4 weeks a year. Once we receive all applications, we work with our Advisory Committee to screen the proposals to make sure they fit FRIDA’s basic criteria. Then all eligible candidates receive a set of proposals from groups in their region to review in their own language. The groups are asked to rank the proposals in order of importance – and of course, groups cannot vote for themselves! Next, FRIDA tallies the votes, and performs a due diligence check, before making a final offer to the groups that received the highest votes per region.

This empowering and participatory decision-making process gives young feminist groups a chance to learn about other organizers in their region as well as instills a strong sense of accountability and ownership over the process.

### 1,701 ACTIVISTS WORK WITH GROUPS LIKE:

high school students / young lesbians / mothers of young lesbians / young indigenous women / young women seeking abortions / LGBTQ communities / transgender youth / female political prisoners and their families / sex workers / activists and young women human rights defenders / young women from rural areas / young women artists

**\$177,000**

US-DOLLARS AWARDED TO GRANTEE PARTNERS WITHIN FRIDA’S THIRD GRANT CIRCLE

+113%

2015 PROJECTION  
**\$400,000**

+68%

2014  
**\$177,000**

+87%

2013  
**\$112,000**

2012  
**\$60,000**

IN FRIDA’S 2014 GRANT CYCLE, WE:

RECEIVED 720 APPLICATIONS;  
FROM 102 COUNTRIES; IN 5 LANGUAGES;  
338 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS VOTED;  
188,000 USD WAS AWARDED IN  
48 GRANTS TO FIRST-TIME AND RENEWAL GROUPS



**ARGENTINA**  
Col. Feminista Rabiosa

**BOLIVIA**  
Col. Agitadoras Sociales

**CHILE**  
Agrupacion Lesbofeminista  
Segundo Patio

**COLOMBIA**  
Col. Juana Guzman

**ECUADOR**  
Salud Mujeres

**GUATEMALA**  
Las Impertinentes

**GUAYANA**  
Trans United

**HAITI**  
Aifcd

**JAMAICA**  
I'm Glad I'm A Girl

**MEXICO**  
Remjina  
Yocoyani

**NICARAGUA**  
Mujeres Xitiali

**SAINT KITTS ISLAND**  
Catchafyah Feminist Net

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**  
Womant

**BURKINA FASO**  
Col. Vivre Ma Vie

**BURUNDI**  
Gycal

**D.R. CONGO**  
Sos Sexualite Pour Tous

**KENYA**  
Girls Re-defined

**MALAWI**  
Focese

**NAMIBIA**  
Yfem

**NIGERIA**  
Women's Health and  
Equality Initiative

**TANZANIA**  
Maono Safi

**UGANDA**  
Crested Crane Lighters

**ZIMBABWE**  
Her Zimbabwe

30  
2013

49  
2014

## GRANTEES

from 44 countries worldwide

**ARMENIA**  
Beyond Borders  
Equal Rights

**BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**  
Trans Mreza Balkan

**GEORGIA**  
Helping Hand Ngo

**HUNGARY**  
Radical Queer Affinity Col.

**ROMANIA**  
Giuvlipen  
Support After Rape Col.

**SERBIA**  
Femenergy

**SLOVENIA**  
Revolt Social Workers

**UKRAINE**  
Women's Workshop

**AFGHANISTAN**  
Ruidad Weekly  
Femin Ijtihad  
Strategic Advocacy for  
Human Rights

**CAMBODIA**  
New Waves

**FIJI ISLANDS**  
Elfai

**INDIA**  
Red Brigade Lucknow

**NEPAL**  
Radio Udayapur

**PAKISTAN**  
Girls United For Human Rights

**PHILIPPINES**  
Young Feminist Org.

**TIMOR**  
Madalenas Timor Leste

**VIETNAM**  
Living My Life

**ALGERIA**  
Asurif

**EGYPT**  
Ganoubia Hora  
The Bussy Project

**LEBANON**  
Female

**TUNISIA**  
Chou

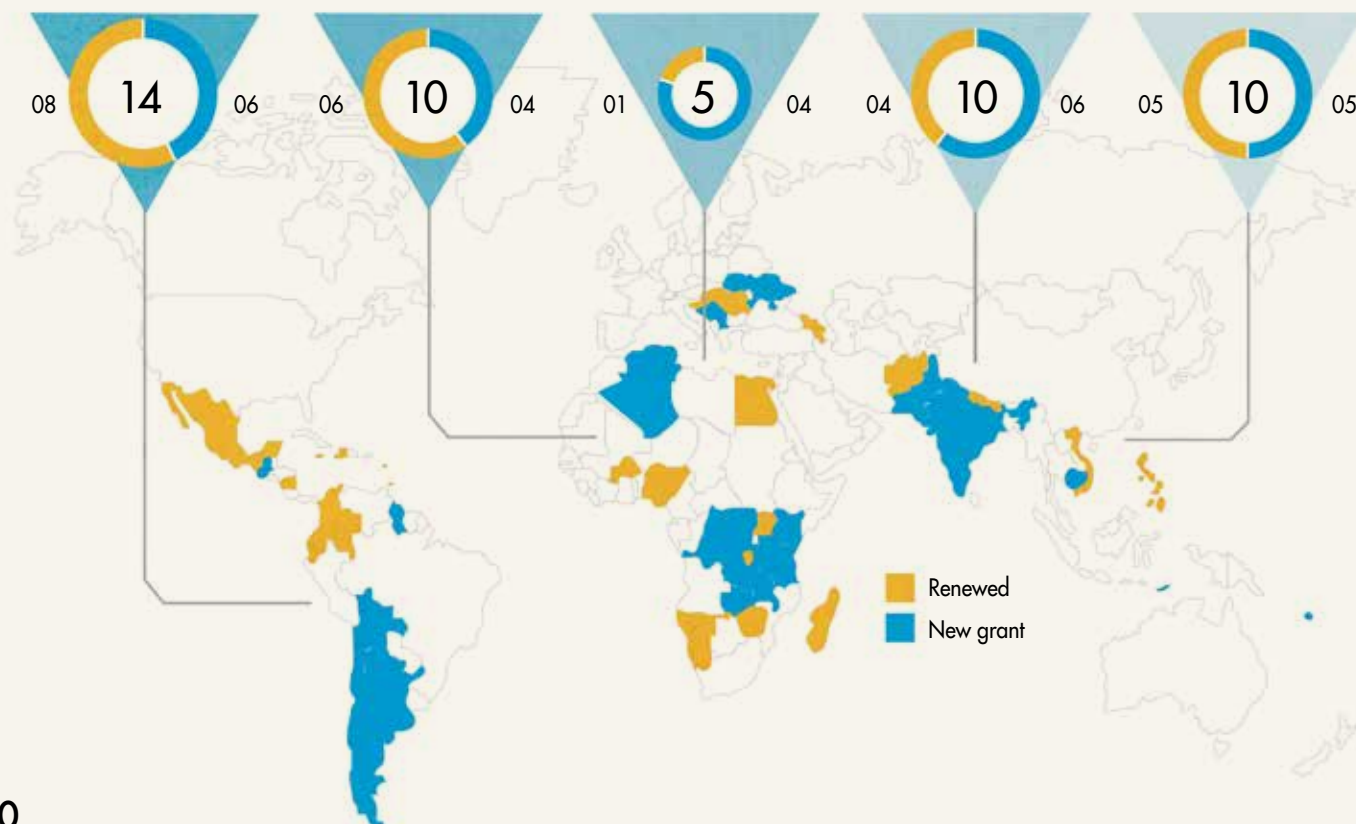
LATIN AMERICA  
CARRIBEAN

SUB SAHARAN  
AFRICA

MIDDLE EAST  
NORTH AFRICA

EAST EUROPE  
CENTRAL ASIA

ASIA  
PACIFIC



## STRENGTHENING YOUNG FEMINIST ORGANISATIONS

84%

of groups that have increased their visibility, developed new contacts, networks and coalitions

36%

of groups secured a safe space to meet regularly and hold activities

60%

of groups have been able to register in their countries

48%

of groups say a FRIDA grant was integral to obtain additional grants and resources

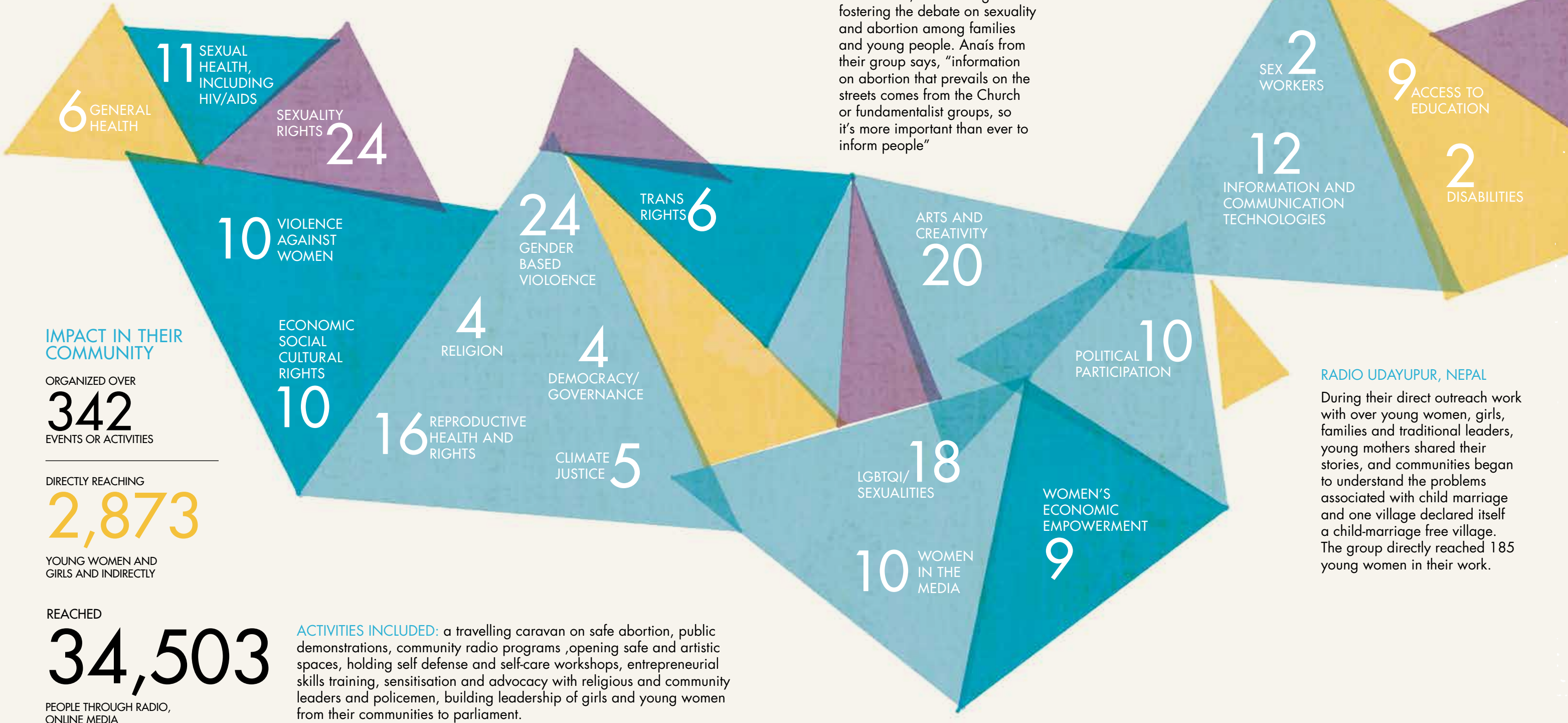
Grantee Partners increased their membership from 779 to 921 people

"THE GENERAL SUPPORT GRANT WE RECEIVED FROM FRIDA HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY HELPFUL TO US IN LAYING THE ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF OUR ORGANIZATION'S FOUNDATION. WE HAVE ALSO APPRECIATED FRIDA'S VERY OPEN AND HONEST LINE OF COMMUNICATION."  
WHER, NIGERIA



# GRANTEE PARTNER IMPACT

WHO ARE FRIDA GRANTEES?  
AND WHAT ARE THE ISSUES  
THEY ARE WORKING ON?





# 4 TYPES OF CHANGES

YOUNG FEMINIST GROUPS ARE MAKING CHANGES AT MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS AND IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. HERE ARE FOUR STORIES TO SHOW YOU THE DIVERSITY AND DEPTH OF CHANGE THAT YOUNG FEMINISTS CAN ACHIEVE.

FRIDA USES THE CHANGE MATRIX - AN EVALUATION FRAMEWORK DEVELOPED BY **GENDER @ WORK** - TO CATEGORIZE AND UNDERSTAND THE RANGE OF IMPACT ACHIEVED BY ITS GRANTEE PARTNERS. THE MATRIX TRACKS CHANGES AT INDIVIDUAL AND SYSTEMIC LEVELS, AS WELL AS IN FORMAL AND INFORMAL WAYS.



## INFLUENCING THE LAWS REGARDING RAPE IN AFGHANISTAN

In Afghanistan cultural stereotypes of female/male sexuality, myths about what rape is and how it happens, as well as, misinterpretations of Shariah law have resulted in victims of rape to be easily charged with "moral crimes", "adultery", and "attempt to commit". Strategic Advocacy for Human Rights / Femin Ijtihad, created three typical defense statements based on common scenarios in the courtrooms of Afghanistan. These statements were used in a series of mock-trial workshops, that developed and tested arguments, counter-arguments and counter-counter arguments on part of the prosecutor and defense lawyer to ensure they tackled every line of argument that a court can conjure to prosecute victims of rape from a charge and conviction of adultery. SAHR's extensive research and practitioner guides on Islamic law and Afghan civil law are now being freely dispersed and promoted in trainings by other groups and institutes.

## STRENGTHENING THE AGENCY AND CONSCIOUSNESS OF TEENAGE GIRLS IN NICARAGUA

Grupo de Mujeres Xitlali (Women's Group Xitlali) supports the comprehensive development of young women, allowing them to know their rights as social beings. Thanks to the support provided by FRIDA, the group has worked with over two hundred adult and young women and girls. They shared the following feedback from one of the teenage participants of their activities: "I think it's really important to be informed on the topics they presented, including Sexual Abuse. We were able to ask tons of questions and that was great because sometimes we feel so ashamed to talk about these issues with our parents," Lucia

## CHALLENGING EVERYDAY SEXISM IN SLOVENIA

"Because we didn't have to worry about funding, we were more creative in our actions," explains Revolt Social Workers. The group consistently challenges sexist attitudes and actions in their community through public demonstrations, feminist calendars, and art installations. The group explains that everyday sexism, sexual violence and street harassment are completely missing from public discourse and are hardly ever discussed as problematic but every week at least one woman experiences sexual violence in Slovenia. In this photo, the group is protesting in front of a national television station after they aired a documentary that was offensive to women. Through collected efforts, the group has successfully shut down a misogynistic blog and website in the past year. "We get a lot of support and positive feedback... Of course we also get negative feedback from people we target, but that just means we're doing it right!"

## INCREASING ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEX WORKERS IN UGANDA

The mission of Crested Crane Lighters (CCL) is to uplift the well-being of sex workers in Uganda. The group provides a range of resources and opportunities for communities of sexworkers. With health being a priority concern, the group counselled members in family planning, HIV/STI prevention, treatment and care. In addition, the group organized free STI tests at a local hospital and arranged for free condoms to be distributed on a monthly basis. In addition, CCL partnered with two successful businesswomen who volunteered to offer free business talks. The topics included; how to start up a business, how to attract and retain customers, how to save, how to identify business opportunities and how to conduct a SWOT analysis for a business.



# 03

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### CONVENING YOUNG FEMINISTS

FRIDA successfully organized its second global grantee convening in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Collaborating closely with Just Associates South East Asia (JASS), Women Win, and the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), the convening speaks to a core aspect of FRIDA's model of 'funding+' which supports learning, linking, and movement-building among grantee partners across thematic and regional areas. The convening provides an invaluable opportunity to meet face to face and strengthen relationships.

The convening aimed to cover political and thematic issues, as well as technical skills building. It also worked to create spaces for discussion regionally through Regional Solidarity Lunches so that groups were able to connect with each other in more informal ways as well. Feminist analyses ran straight through the convening, looking at power structures and the manifestation and sources of power that impact one's work; as well as ways of challenging and overcoming them.

The audio story telling workshop was a hands-on training session that worked with participants to write, digitally record and edit a personal story that could be used as a tool for social change! Grantee-led workshops allowed grantees to showcase their own skills and strengths, as well as share information and knowledge with each other.

### FRIDA LAUNCHES ONLINE PLATFORM FOR IT'S GRANTEE PARTNERS AND ADVISORY COMMUNITY.

### THIS IS A PLACE FOR RESOURCES, WEBINARS AND DISCUSSION FORUMS.

"ALL THE PARTICIPANTS WERE AMAZING, EXCEPTIONAL, YOUNG FEMINISTS I CAN RELATE TO. IT WAS NOURISHING IN MANY WAYS, POLITICALLY AND PERSONALLY."  
FRIDA GRANTEE GROUP

2<sup>nd</sup>

GLOBAL GRANTEE  
CONVENING  
27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May

Chiang Mai

THAILAND

ASIA PACIFIC  
FEMINIST  
FORUM  
30<sup>th</sup> MAY-  
01<sup>st</sup> JUN

25 GROUPS FROM 22 COUNTRIES

### FIRST TIME EVER...

AS YOUNG ACTIVISTS, THE CONVENING MARKED MANY 'FIRST-TIME' EXPERIENCES, INCLUDING:

- First time leaving their country: more than half of participants had never left their country, or even the town where they live! Flying all the way to Thailand was a huge journey and took a lot of courage.
- First time with a passport: **30% of the participants did not have a passport** before travelling to the Convening. FRIDA team worked with them to get their first passport!
- First time meeting each other: Although groups chatted on Facebook and over Skype, for more than 60% of participants this was the first time they had ever been face to face and been able to share and learn from each other. Bringing them together created a magic, power and energy that words cannot explain!
- First time facilitating a workshop: **3 young women facilitated their first workshops** on graffiti as feminist activism, digital security, and the rights of young women in Islam.
- FRIDA supported **25 young women** to attend the Asia Pacific Feminist Forum for the first time.



# STORIES OF 4 YOUNG WOMEN FROM ST KITTS, NEPAL, ZIMBABWE AND GEORGIA

BELOW ARE QUOTES FROM THEIR AUDIO STORIES, EACH RECORDED, EDITED, AND PRODUCED BY THE YOUNG WOMEN THEMSELVES DURING FRIDA'S DIGITAL STORYTELLING WORKSHOP AT THE GRANTEE CONVENING IN THAILAND. HEAR THEIR FULL AUDIO PLUS MORE ON OUR **WEBSITE**

## ZAHRA: NO

"Saying 'no' can be some hard, fucking shit. Talking to other women, I realized that my experience was not isolated, but something so many women go through everyday. The taboo of it all had prevented me, had prevented us from being candid about our experiences."

**By Zahra, a member of Catchafyah Feminist Network, FRIDA's grantee partner in the Caribbean**

## BANDANA: AFTER ALL GRIEF, CHANGE INTO POWER

When I turned 17, I got married. At the time, I couldn't say no to marriage because of culture. Most people think that married women should stay at home, look after her husband, family just, but I crossed a line and I passed class two with highest mark in college. Then I joined a radio in 2009. I started to think about community issues, especially women's issues, and I started to collect content and I got a radio program... I believe that everything is possible if I want, if you want. And this is [great], they believe me and my team. So I say: Let's give an opportunity to a young lady, she can do everything."

**Bandana Danuwar, a member of Radio Udayapur, FRIDA Grantee Partner in Nepal**

## NATASHA: EXPANDING SAFE ONLINE SPACES FOR WOMEN

"The more women become bolder and self-expressive in highly patriarchal societies like Zimbabwe, the more they risk experiencing attacks on women-centric content, or abuse of their person and characters online. This is why I founded the Tactical Communications Network, or TCN, within Her Zimbabwe. Today, all members of the TCN are on a continual path of digital security learning."

**Natasha Msonza is a member of FRIDA's grantee partner Her Zimbabwe**

## TIKO: THANKS FOR HAVING ME

"Yes, it is crucial to increase the level of leadership of young women and provide them opportunity to gain experience, knowledge, to share their skills with others. Working with young women and girls in Georgia makes me to ensure that we as women are able to have a voice. I love being a woman. I love to support young women and girls. I believe because we are women, we can make a huge difference in our communities."

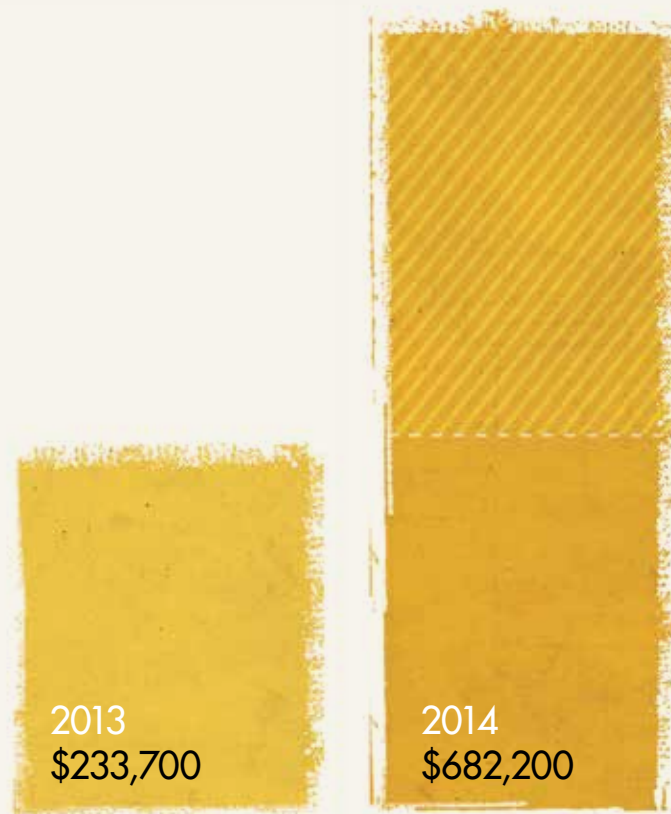
**By Tiko Meskhi founded Helping Hand, an NGO and grantee partner in Georgia**





# 04

## RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND FINANCIALS



THANKS TO OUR DONORS IN 2014,  
FRIDA MOBILIZED A TOTAL OF

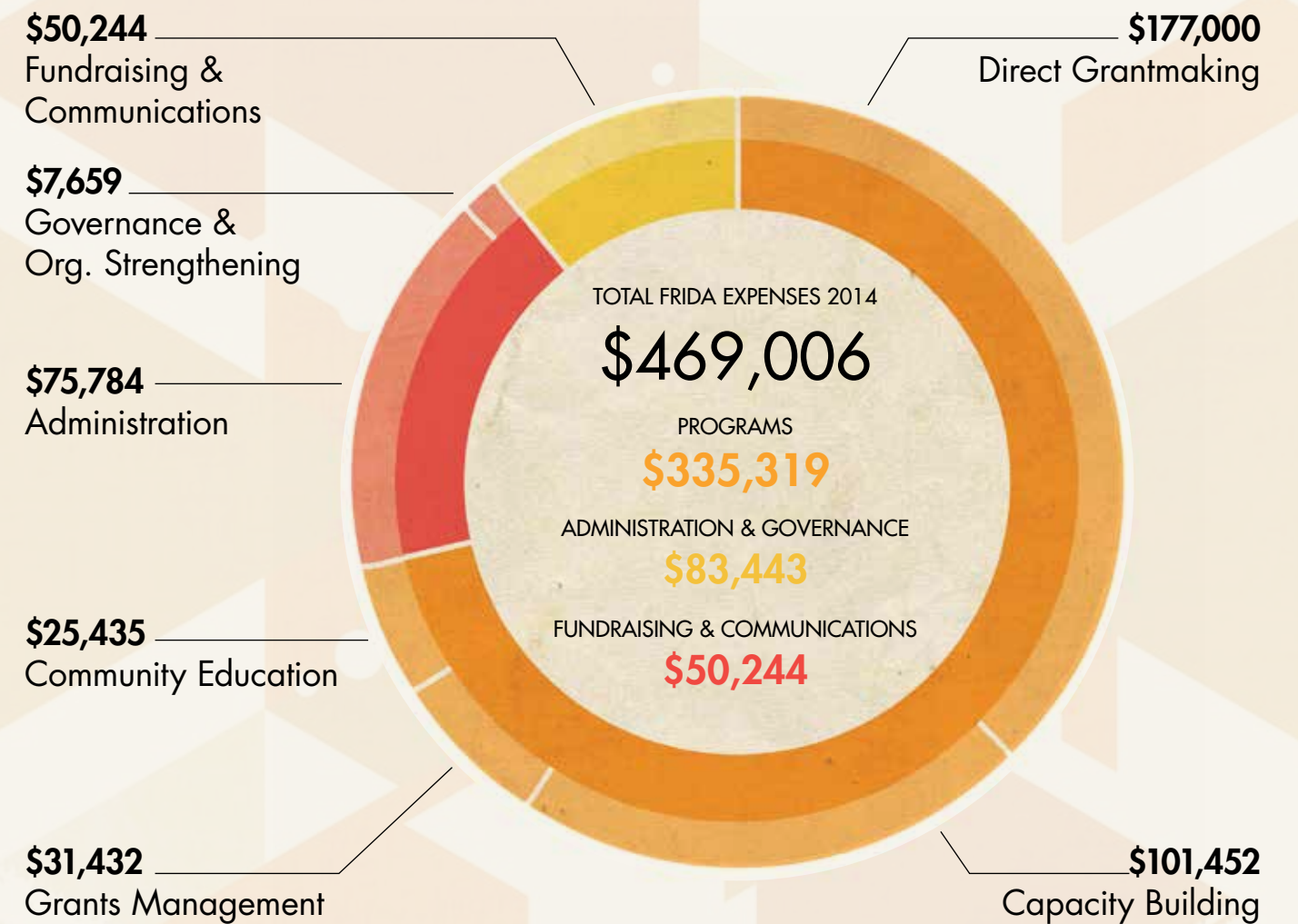
**\$682,200 USD**

AT THE END OF 2014, FRIDA WAS ALSO  
INFORMED THAT IT WOULD BE AWARDED ITS  
LARGEST GRANT EVER FROM COMIC RELIEF: A  
5-YEAR GRANT, WORTH OVER

**\$850,000 USD**

TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE  
YOUNG FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN  
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2014





# IT'S ALL ABOUT INTENTION

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW YORK YOUNG FEMINIST GIVING CIRCLE

A group of young feminists shared a commitment to supporting young feminist and social justice activism. They got together to form the New York Young Feminist Giving Circle (NYFEM) and have pledged their first grant to FRIDA. To explore this alternative participatory philanthropic model and learn more about their work, we spoke with NYFEM's Caitlin Ho and Jessica McCarthy.

**FRIDA:** So, what exactly is a 'giving circle' and why did you decide to come together and create one?

Caitlin: A giving circle is a group that comes together and contributes resources — funds and skills, for example — towards a larger goal. There are many different models of funding, but this can be an alternative and really give groups the agency to decide where the money is going. Groups of any size can come together to form a circle- even small amounts can make a real difference!

Jessica: We noticed that there isn't enough funding for young feminists or work by young feminists- not enough resources, time, money, or attention for their leadership! We work to mobilise resources particular to young people and to young feminists."

**FRIDA:** What is your experience as a young donor or activist, and where does the giving circle fit in?

Jessica: Young donors are putting funds and resources towards causes that mean something to them, rather than just the institutions. They will give to those that do things that align or are how they want to work. Young donors, they want to be a part of the community, they want to know information and understand- they want to be a part of something bigger and not just of institutions. The giving circle fits in with that a lot- the coming together as a group and doing different things together: offering 'thought leadership' and skill, for example.

"IT'S A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED GIVING MODEL, BUT WE'VE ADDED THE ELEMENT OF DECADES OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISM TO IT AND ARE LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER."



Caitlin: At our first circle meeting- Devi, a co-director of FRIDA was there- we talked about what is 'money', what is 'giving', and what is the value of resources in our lives. We've had this conversation a few times — two of the questions we asked was, 'What is the best gift you've received from someone?' and 'What is the best gift you've ever made?' Some talked about being a young feminist activist and receiving a donation for their work and what that meant for them, and some shared about when they first gave a gift. We carved out a space to talk about money and relationships and resources in our lives, and how we- as a group- want to think about a particular way to relate to resources.

**FRIDA:** You've already touched a little on young feminist organising and how it connects to your work — why do you think it's so important? And do you see similarities in how the circle connects to FRIDA's work or mission?

Jessica: For me, it's about intention and thinking about how funding works: that women's human rights issues and women's groups don't get money, or are not registered and find it difficult to access funds. I think it's also about believing in the next generation and supporting that work. It's a human rights-based giving model, but we've added the element of decades of women's rights activism to it and are learning from each other.

Caitlin: Ditto! In thinking about how we relate to FRIDA- they were so open to us and presented this idea, 'hey, we're noticing that there are young women all around the world thinking about how do we raise funds for groups that doing incredible work? We know that funding pot is small but how do we expand that and how do we enable younger folks to participate in this outside the formal space? If FRIDA is only able to fund a certain number of groups, then we can step in and ask 'would you like to fund more groups?' and help to make the pot for young feminists bigger.

**FRIDA:** It's been an exciting year for you- what were some of the best moments for your circle in 2014?

Jessica: We're still in our infancy and we're still working it out but the launch event was a great moment. I didn't expect it to work, but a lot of people came and participated in a huge way and expressed a need for this kind of group. They expressed a need for not just a funding space but emphasised the community aspect of it, which was unexpected, but also very cool and gratifying. Partnering with North Star and having a way to

collect money was meaningful- just getting it online and letting people know where to donate and the matching gifts.

Caitlin: Some of us have either fundraising or giving experiences, and philanthropy spaces are usually very stuffy...but we want to create these spaces that are like being in someone's living room and talk about how to do social justice giving. Every time we meet it feels so much easier than I think it will be- I am really proud of the group we have and how we relate to each other! We've raised a little over USD 1153 so far, and we're hoping to raise a total of USD 2000 by the end of 2015.

**FRIDA:** That's amazing, congratulations!

**What are you hoping to achieve in the near future?**

Jessica: Until the end of the year, we'll be thinking about reaching our financial goals and then working with FRIDA to select the right recipient, but we will open it up to the circle and people in our network as well. We'll continue fundraising and more community building events. We also want to widen the circle- we have an executive committee at the moment, but we want to widen and grow the circle in a more formal way while also engaging people in a way that isn't overwhelming!

**FRIDA:** Do you have any advice or thoughts for others who might want to start their own giving circle?

Jessica: Be open to meeting new people and forming in an organic way- I really didn't know a lot of the folks in the giving circle when I started, even though we had mutual friends- things just sort of fell into place for us. Having some sort of structure is necessary so that we can get things done- official rules, by laws, for example. Have conversations that are hard: what this means to us and what we've committed to, and bringing people together and living by the guiding principles as a group.

Caitlin: Just get started and you'll be surprised by what can happen when you share this interest with other people- they may join as members or support you or pass it on- and you'll feel that there's a community of people who are interested and want to know more! Having a sense of shared leadership is also important: we don't have a designated lead, it rotates and that's a nice way of sharing leadership that I don't see in the giving world. A theme helps- it isn't mandatory but it's fun to create an identity for your giving circle. We also have really great food and wine- that's always great!



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND INFLUENCING PHILANTHROPY

A HEADLINE, TWEET, OR PRESENTATION  
– FRIDA WAS BUSY TELLING THE STORY  
OF YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISM AND THE  
RESOURCES THEY NEED TO THEIR WORK.

## WORKING GROUPS AND ADVISORY PANELS

Member of Plan International's Advisory Panel  
for State of the World's Girls 2014 Report  
Founding member of International Human  
Rights Funders Working Groups on Youth and  
Children, and Participatory Grantmaking

## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Indiegogo Crowdfunding Campaign  
(Mar 2014)  
#4FRIDA Guest Curator Project  
(Nov 2014)  
#16Days Twitter Based #TeachIn (Nov 2014)

## PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

Community event with Foundation for a Just  
Society, with special guests Chargaux  
(New York, March 2014)  
Presentation at Clinton Global Initiative's  
'Empowering Women and Girls Program'  
(Arkansas, March 2014)  
Lightning Presentation "The Kids Are All Right"  
and Panel Presentation "Bringing the Field  
to Philanthropy: The Role of Participatory  
Grantmaking", IHRFG Semi Annual  
Conference (Jul 2014)

## IN THE NEWS

THE GUARDIAN: **Why do we need an  
International Women's Day?** (Mar 2014)  
LAFAYETTE PRACTICE REPORT: Who Decides:  
How Participatory Grantmaking Benefits Donors,  
Communities and Movements' (Apr 2014)  
PHILANTHROPY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE  
BLOG: **5 Things that make FRIDA grants  
Unique** (Jun 2014)  
IHRFG IN FOCUS NEWSLETTER:  
Experts of their own Realities (Jul 2014)  
THE ABLE ALTRUIST: 4 Steps to Creating Stellar Annual  
Report (Jul 2014)  
OPEN DEMOCRACY: **Claiming Rights,  
Facing Fire** (Oct 2014)  
OPEN DEMOCRACY: **Young Feminists: Resisting  
the Tide of Fundamentalists** (Dec 2014)





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## DONORS AND CREDITS

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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### FRIDA ADVISORS

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“FEET, WHAT DO  
I NEED YOU FOR  
WHEN I HAVE  
WINGS TO FLY?”  
FRIDA KAHLO

### SPECIAL CONSULTANTS, INTERNS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Barbora Nemcova, Camille Risler, Courtney Payne, Irina Blanche, Kanjapond 'Nami' Phromratsarana.

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### PHOTO CREDITS

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This report is dedicated to Mary Hoody



FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund

Flexibility Resources Inclusivity Diversity Action

[www.youngfeministfund.org](http://www.youngfeministfund.org)