



Wild Within

FRIDA
The Young Feminist Fund
2017 ANNUAL REPORT



FRIDA The Young Feminist Fund
Flexibility Resources Inclusivity Diversity Action

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Introducing the theme

"It's the wild ones who set you free."

— Kiana Azizian

Dear Reader,

At FRIDA, we've found our place in a new conversation, one of innovation and opportunity, one that isn't afraid to challenge existing structures, or ask uncomfortable questions. As we embarked on relooking at last year's journey, we thought to ourselves what it really means to be a young feminist activist in today's world of shrinking spaces and competitive resources. We remain an untamed,

untouched and unafraid beauty that blossoms in a seemingly dark place. Young feminist organizing is blooming all over the world---we exist everywhere, we are no longer inconsequential and we refuse to be infantilised. Our identity lies in the way we adapt to changing contexts, continue to branch out and emerge stronger and more resilient, piercing as the sun and organic as the flower.

As young feminist activists emerge like wildfire all around the world, we know nothing can stop our growth. We are carving our own paths and building a sense of community and solidarity, initiating unheard of projects and using innovative while taking care of each other at every step along the way. In fact, we're taking to the virtual and physical streets to advocate for more than just self-care, we're reimagining the scope of our wellbeing and collective care to re-establish each individual's responsibility to prioritize their physical, emotional, and mental good health.

In this special edition of the report, you will find commemorative postcards with "I will..." statements--a set of affirmations that the FRIDA team has curated to emphasize our responsibility to holistic security, self-care, and community care within FRIDA. They are borrowed from FRIDA's Happiness Manifesto, born from our own need to politicize care and happiness in our feminist activism. We, at FRIDA, imagine a world where we can support a community of individuals who have joined together in solidarity, to create a

new culture where happiness and collective care are guaranteed and you have strong feminists as advocates on your behalf, opening channels and access to resources. We believe that it is in this subculture where revolutions begin, and transformative change finds its roots.

To underline this commitment of politicizing care, and recognizing the global spread of youngfem magic, we are pleased to share "WILD WITHIN--FRIDA's annual report. It is a memory, a souvenir and a reminder to everyone who owns it. To seek solace in the wilderness of our work, to derive motivation in the beauty of the wild within ourselves and to remember to find joy in all the work we do. This annual report has been created with the intention of sharing, each statement card is removable, like a postcard, with several opportunities for all of us to reflect on our own personal commitments and document them directly in this keepsake, to stand the test of time, and serve as a reminder to ourselves about our own personal journey with happiness and self-care.

xo

— FRIDA Team

UNLEASHING creativity

FRIDA has always derived its strength from the incredible work of young feminist groups globally. We are proud to be connected to activists and collectives from the remotest corners of the world using new, innovative, tried, tested and experimental strategies to advance the feminist movement in their regions. As a young feminist fund, our strength lies in the spark of youth and the creative intellect that we bring into the activist space. We have redefined how activism operates by breaking out of the traditional and formal spaces, trying to initiate conversations on difficult and diverse topics and use different platforms and spaces to make our voices heard.

We unleashed our creativity, as an organization, by creating moments of engagement that were deep, meaningful and participatory. In the wake of global backlash and the responsive resistance by young women and trans* youth across the globe, we kicked off **#SolidarityStorms**: significant moment of online (and offline) reflection on topics that mattered the most. Solidarity being an operative word in our movements, we conversed on self-care, intersectionality, security and lack of resources. From creating a Thunderclap moment, interviewing individual activists, inviting our audience to participate with words and pictures to sharing resources and reasons to give to the young feminist struggle, we created engagement opportunities for everyone to be a part of!

Here are a few grantee partners whose creative spirit in moving the feminist agenda forward touched our hearts:



📍 MOZAMBIQUE

EXPRESSING THROUGH MUSIC:

The Divas

Lack of female participation in the music sector due to societal norms and gender inequality in Mozambique led to the creation of the DIVAS (a rock band) to bridge the inequality gaps and increase the integration of more girls in music through music education programs. The Divas believe music can influence individual consciousness and challenge

community norms, attitudes and behaviour, and their main activity in the past year was to use music as a tool to build self-confidence in young girls between the ages of ten and sixteen by teaching them how to use various instruments. The girls learned how to express themselves through music and were encouraged to challenge existing gender norms within the Mozambican music scene both with the content of their music and their presence within the field.

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📍 MACEDONIA

PUTTING THE FESTIVE SPIRIT INTO FEMINISM:

Tiit! Inc.

This group organized yet another session of 'FIRSTBORN GIRL', a feminist art festival focused on feminist culture and activism that sought to oppose dominant nationalistic narrative and creating space for discussion on issues that are not often discussed in Macedonia's public platforms. It was also significant in being a non-exclusionary space challenging the often male-dominated festivals within the region and opened up discussions on

women's rights issues, Roma women's rights, girls rights and LGBTQI organizing. In addition to theatre and musical performances by local and regional groups, short films were screened covering themes of aging, love, motherhood and justice, lectures and panel discussions were held.



*I recognize we are all
feminist activists*

📍 EGYPT

WEAVING EXPERIENCES INTO SONGS:

Bnt Al Masarwa

Raising over USD 9000 through their independent crowdfunding, this young feminist band mobilized additional funding to produce their songs. Ten of these 18 songs that were written during the group's journey in Upper Egypt where they did storytelling sessions to record women's experiences of living in an Egyptian society. Three members from this young feminist band traveled to Alexandria to record the album, singing songs in Arabic and completing the storytelling circle.



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"I facilitate storytelling workshops and work with victims of violence and abuse, and I have realised through the years that if I do not take care of myself, in the long run, I cannot fulfil my role as a caregiver. The work is very draining on many levels. And the quality of support I can give heavily relies on the amount of self-care I practice."

SONDOS SHABAYEK,
The BuSSy Project, Egypt

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Me comprometo a mantenerme grandioso.
Vamos a respetarnos a nosotros mismos cuando sentimos que hemos alcanzado el límite.
Me comprometo a motivar a mi gente a valorar sus vidas personales.

I commit to staying awesome.
We will respect ourselves when we feel we have reached a limit.
I commit to encouraging my community to value their personal lives equally.

Let's Sisterhoods (not Cis-terhoods)

As a virtual organization, physical spaces to connect on a deeper level with our community becomes a moment to cherish. FRIDA's community of grantee partners, advisors, and board members value reflections on the impact of our work, connect across continents in our shared vision of young



feminist organizing, and emphasize our commitment to collective care and holistic security. In 2017, we journeyed to spaces far and wide, brought together FRIDA changemakers from Bogota to Bangalore, to connect, collaborate, and create. Our community raised the stakes of spaces like [Asia Pacific Feminist Forum](#), UN Commission on the Status of Women, Conference Of Parties on Climate Change, and more by insisting that young feminists not only have a seat at the table, but are actually holding the mic.



2017 was a year of reflection and strategy for the FRIDA community, culminating in FRIDA's

[biannual Global Advisory Meeting](#), an opportunity for FRIDA's advisors to strengthen the systems and structures of the advisory committee, reflect on challenges and opportunities for supporting the work of young feminist movements, exchange ideas and dream about the future of FRIDA. As one of our co-directors, Devi, shared in the meeting: "Each advisor is a star that is beautiful on its own, but together they form a bigger constellation of dreams and visions".

Read on to see how young feminist organizers are working to create and forge sisterhoods within their community.

📍 BRAZIL

CYCLING TOWARDS EQUALITY:

La FRIDA bike

The project 'Preta, vem de bike' which translates to "Black lady, come by bike!" is an initiative of La Frida that brings together the promotion of bikes and social inclusion, ethnic and gender equality, and contributed to the enhancement of urban mobility, particularly for black women. The group taught girls from the suburbs how to cycle, which, in turn, encouraged women's presence in urban mobility, giving voice to black women and the confidence to occupy physical space. In addition, the group has held workshops with girls and young women on black women's empowerment and exposing sexism. Their work has led to an increase in young women using bikes to commute within Salvador, and greater confidence of girls to tackle racism and sexism (including internalised misogyny).



"Bikes are empowerment instruments in our society."

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📍 INDONESIA

FIGHTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE MAINLY ON CAMPUS

Jaringan Muda Melawan Kekerasan Seksual

To fight the issue of sexual violence on campuses and the silence surrounding it, the group conducted a roadshow campaign called "Aku, Kamu, Lawan Kekerasan Seksual" (Me and You, Fight Against Sexual Violence) based on a book of the same title which highlights the widespread issue of sexual violence is on campuses. The main outcome of the event has been that more young people are talking about sexual violence issues, especially on campus. In addition to this campaign, the group developed and consolidated women's communities on campuses and held a national meeting, where they strategised on how to address several issues such as curfew restrictions for women on campus, forced dress codes, women's leadership and homophobia on campuses. The group held this meeting as a space for sharing experiences, ideas and inspiration as well as to strengthen the shared belief in the prioritisation of gender equality in their campuses and beyond.



*I will understand my
mental and physical
limitations--listen to my
body and mind*

📍 MEXICO

RAPPING THEIR WAY INTO FEMINISM:

Las Hijas Del Rap

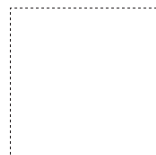


Las Hijas Del Rap translates to 'the daughters of rap' and in the past year, the group has conducted urban dance, art and rap workshops with girls in their community (specifically Mayan speakers in Yucatan). They discussed feminism, reflected on identity, their rights and talked about the power of female friendships. The purpose of the workshops was to give girls an opportunity to share about their challenges and reinforce their identity and their ability to influence their spaces. The workshops have served as an important space for self-awareness, acceptance and celebration as well as building feminist friendships and support systems through the use of rap music! One of the main outputs of the workshops was for the girls to co-write a song, and direct a music video for the song.

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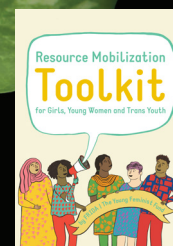
**"We are the rappers of Kimbilá,
we like to work and paint,
we are the girls of Kimbilá,
we like to dance and rap,
we are the daughters of rap,
we were born in Kimbilá,
we are the daughters of the moon
We are beautiful like roses,
we are one, we are free like butterflies."**

- Lyrics of the song composed by young Mayan speaking girls of Yucatan, Mexico

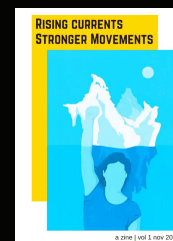


Disrupting the SYSTEM

Last year, FRIDA led conversations and produced resources that in its own small and large ways contributed towards disrupting the status quo.



As an extension to our commitment to building the resource mobilization capacities of young women, girls, and trans* youth so they can create long lasting change, we published our first-ever Resource Mobilization Toolkit!



RISING CURRENTS STRONGER MOVEMENTS is a zine of prose, poems and art telling stories of how climate change is experienced by young feminists. Thanks to the support of Young Feminist Climate Justice collective, along with Sierra Club and the Women's Environment and Development, for helping us put this together!

We used the power of the pen in shaping opinions and questioning normative thinking. Co-directors, Ruby Johnson and Devi Leiper O'Malley, shared their tips and reflections on how they make the virtual co-leadership structure work at FRIDA. Team members, María Díaz Ezquerro and Deepa Ranganathan, wrote an op-ed on holistic security and what it means to practise it everyday in human rights work. Team members, Ruby Johnson and Ledys Sanjuan, wrote about the gaps between funders and activists, and the opportunities to cultivate more honest engagements and build collective power. FRIDA & AWID co-wrote about young feminists pushing back and forging new paths in global resistance, while still needing financial support and personal security to achieve real gains.

Read some of our grantee partners who inspired us with their work on disrupting the system:

LEBANON

ADVOCATING FOR FAIR LEGISLATION:

Fe-Male



Fe-Male was part of the campaign aiming to abolish Article 522 from the Lebanese penal code, which allowed rapists to marry their victims to avoid punishment and imprisonment. While the campaign was launched by ABAAD (a resource centre for gender equality), Fe-Male participated through direct, on-the-ground advocacy as well as online advocacy, leveraging their large social media following to create social awareness and pressure for the abolition of this article. In August 2017, the pressure created by the collective action of feminist activists culminated in the abolition of Article 522, which served as a good foundation to campaign for the abolition of articles which negatively impact the lives of women and girls in Lebanon.

COLOMBIA

DEFENDING THEMSELVES POWERFULLY:

Crisálidas

The group focused on self-defence and protection, using their funds to secure a space for physical techniques to defend themselves in situations of 'macho' aggression. They provided lessons such as mixed martial arts, Jiu Jitsu, Aikido, Kung Fu and Chi Kung, training a total of 65 women in the process. The group views this work as critical to transforming attitudes and practices in the ways of facing gender based violence (in particular, addressing male chauvinist aggressions towards women). Overall, the increased confidence of the women trained to physically protect themselves, has given rise to their confidence to tackle patriarchal norms, practices and attitudes in their communities.

*I will be kind, loving,
and respectful
to my fellow feminists*



📍 SOUTH AFRICA
COMBATting ONLINE ABUSE:

Holaa Africa



A pan-Africanist queer womanist collective, HolaaAfrica's work revolves around the online space, and by extension, exposure to online abuse, trolling and cyberstalking. In order to combat this, the group did a couple of self-care and mental health sessions, partnering with local organizations and encouraging the team to create spaces for themselves where they can track their mental and emotional health.

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"We often forget the pressures of the virtual world, to be great on social media, to be on the defense, to be slaying online because we have started seeing it as part of the natural order of socializing. Being able to recharge means you are strong enough to fight another day (should that twitter troll come at you at some point)."

TIFFANY MUGO,
a member of HolaaAfrica and FRIDA Board Member as of May 2018

Being an Example



At the root of our commitment to happiness and collective care is the FRIDA community's bold initiatives that serve as an example across the community for innovative and creative practices. Our community guided FRIDA to a new generation of young feminist leadership in the participatory election of the FRIDA board. Trying to set an example, especially around transforming power structures and dynamics in a participatory and transparent way, FRIDA held its first-ever Board elections with over 100 people from FRIDA's community of grantee partners, advisors, and staff taking part in the election that was held in six languages. The final results ensured FRIDA's governance by activists of multiple skills, regions, identities, struggles and contexts. In addition, we had representation from the FRIDA community itself – grantee partners and advisors.

For a complete list of Board members of 2017, see Page 30

FRIDA grantee partners have exemplified transformative visionary leadership in many ways. Here are some examples:

📍 GEORGIA

ENCOURAGING YOUNG FEMINISTS TO SPEAK UP:

Women's Gaze



The group created short videos of various young women talking about their challenges in the workplace and university, lack of access to health care and housing through a feminist lens. The group used the grant to then boost these videos on Facebook to reach a larger audience within the country. They have received a lot of positive feedback online, having had a substantial increase in online followers including requests by other young women to share their own stories on the Women's Gaze page. Their work has, therefore, not only lead to the increased visibility and awareness of young women's experiences but also encouraged other young women to speak up about their own experiences and challenges.

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📍 EGYPT

SELF-CARE SPACES

The Bussy Project

The group organized storytelling workshops designed to provide for marginalized communities a space to share their personal stories, everyday experiences and obstacles, bringing together girls and young women who are homeless, wives and widows of fishermen in Damietta and the youth populations in Luxor. In addition, BuSSy also held private storytelling sessions for people working on gender-related issues, like researchers, councilors and activists. This was done to create a space for them to share the challenges and joys of their work, and to exchange strategies of self-care given the emotional strain that comes with the work they do. BuSSy's participants have expressed appreciation for the creation of a space for self-expression, the identification of self-care tools as well as creating and linking them to support networks.

📍 POLAND

LOVE YOURSELF & SHOW IT:

Mamyglos



Girl-led feminist group MamyGlos has been redefining and reshaping how young women look at their bodies in Poland. Last year, they conducted workshops on self-love, body positivity, mental health awareness and activism with over 150 participants in 5 Polish cities. They partnered with Humanity in Action Poland and launched #bodystory: an online campaign aimed at empowering girls and spreading the idea that 'everybody is a good body' to raise money for their body positivity workshops.

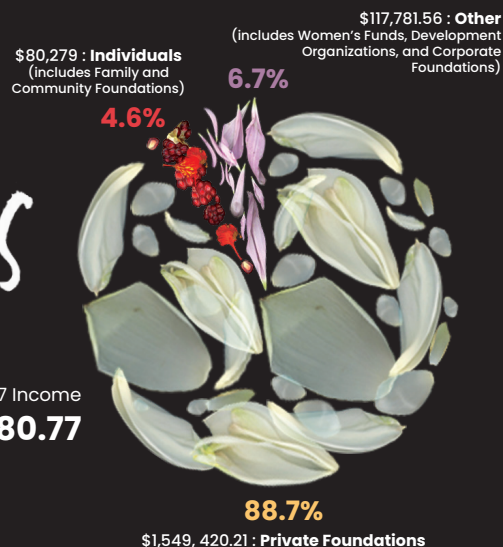
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"One gloomy Thursday, three of us started a small-scale initiative to remind other girls that they have a right to stand up against sexism in everyday life. We called the initiative MamyGlos ('We've got voice') because that's what we wanted to say: girls are here, girls have voice and girls will use it."

MEMBERS OF MAMYGLOS,
POLAND

Financials

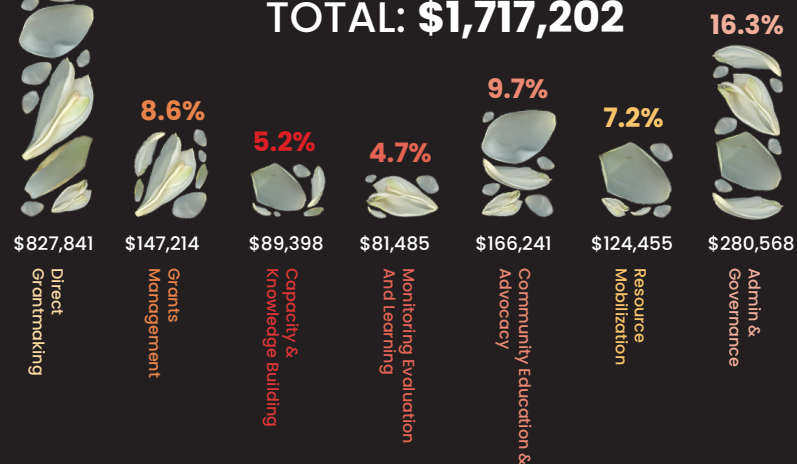
2017 Income
TOTAL: \$1,747,480.77



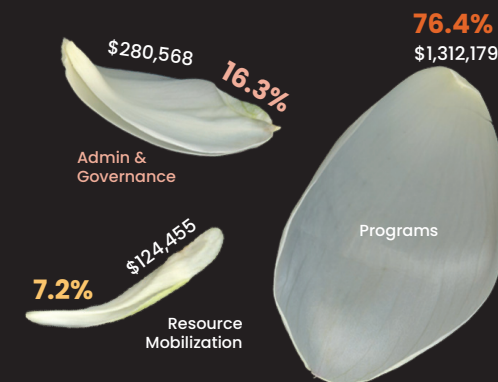
48.2%



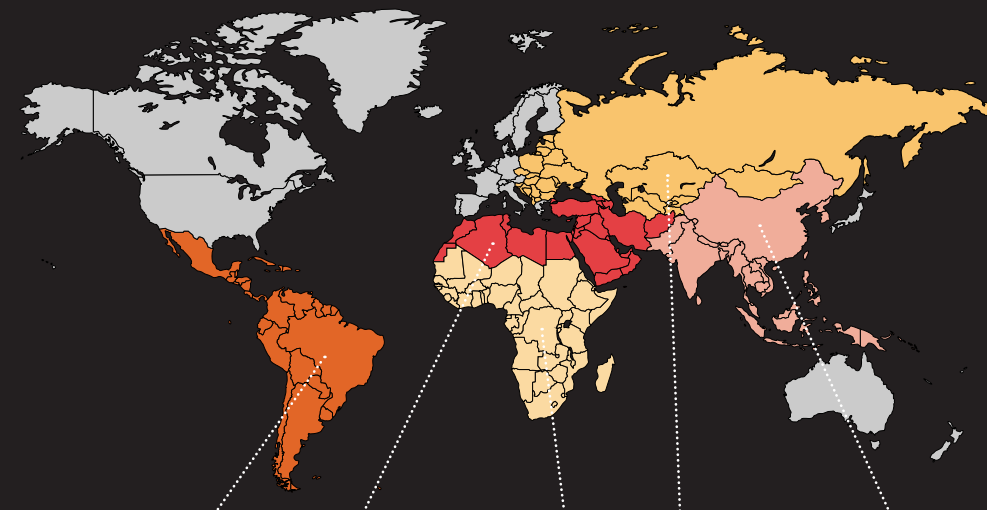
Total 2017 FRIDA Expenses
TOTAL: \$1,717,202



Total 2017 FRIDA Expenses by Area
TOTAL: \$1,717,202



New Core Support: **\$314,213**
Renewal Core Support: **\$363,000**
Special Grants Support: **\$150,628**



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA		SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA		EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA		ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	
New Core Support	Renewal Core support	New Core Support	Renewal Core support	New Core Support	Renewal Core support	New Core Support	Renewal Core support	New Core Support	Renewal Core support
USD 74,313	USD 69,000	USD 49,000	USD 40,000	USD 50,000	USD 90,000	USD 64,900	USD 67,000	USD 76,000	USD 97,000

All amount figures in US dollars

Showing Appreciation

We can't do this work without the incredible support of our community: Staff, Advisors, Board, Consultants, donors, partners, and other supporters. Thank you to all of what you are.

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Foundation for a Just Society
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Open Society Foundation
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*Outgoing in 2017

Write your own
appreciation here



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