



Collective Care Collaborative Advocacy Tool

Lack of resources for activists for collective care is a global issue. Feminist activists are responding to the most pressing crises of their time– supporting their communities through war and destruction, genocide, natural disaster, the rise of fascist governments turning back the clock on basic rights– all while leading critical movements to protect the vulnerable communities most affected by these crises. The work of activists is unrelenting and tiresome, done by the tireless. Collective care is a key part of sustaining the feminist movement ecosystem, yet it has been globally neglected as an essential resource to activists.

Over the past two years, a collective of women's funds has steered a comprehensive research and strategy process in order to strengthen the role that women's funds play in advocating for and resourcing collective care in the feminist movement ecosystem. Collaboratively led by Doria Feminist Fund, Mongolian Women's Fund, TEWA, Women's Fund Fiji, and FRIDA Young Feminist Fund, this process has offered a unique opportunity for women's funds to engage in deeper discussions around the need for dedicated collective care resources, and unite in collective action to advocate within philanthropic spaces to prioritise collective care as a key element of supporting activists' growth, sustainability, and resilience.

The Collective Care Collaborative is inviting the philanthropic community to embark on deep reflection on collective care within feminist funding practices, and grantee partner communities. The Collaborative offers this advocacy strategy as a tool for strengthening collective care systems within women's funds, defining accountability mechanisms, and highlighting pathways for advocating for increased resources for collective care for grantee partners.

Women's funds foster connection to grantee partners by demonstrating their own commitment to collective care and influence the movement ecosystem through practice.

Grantee partners appreciate opportunities to learn and exchange with feminist funders on shared issues such as collective care, wellbeing practices, and community care, and the transparency of women's funds to reflect and discuss their challenges and limitations, as well as celebrating positive shifts in collective care culture in their teams. As women's funds embark on their own journeys to strengthen collective care systems internally, transparency about the process can help shape perceptions of collective care from an abstract concept, to a system for organisational strengthening, accountability, and sustainability.

Women's funds are resourced to support grantee partners through dedicated funding, capacity strengthening, and flexible funding that responds to collective care needs.

Women's funds are resourced without restrictions, in order to respond to the needs of the grantee partners. Women's funds are positioned to advocate for increased and dedicated funding for collective care, and generate influence within the philanthropic ecosystem to prioritise collective care as a critical element to sustaining the feminist movement ecosystem.

Additionally, maintaining flexible funding structures and core funding to enable grantee partners to choose how to allocate funds offers grantee partners the flexibility to designate funding to collective care, however in the face of more urgent needs, grantee partners often sacrifice collective care to fund emergent issues. Dedicated collective care funding is essential, as well as mutual accompaniment in setting up collective care systems, funders can work closely with grantee partners to identify opportunities for utilising flexible funding to support collective care systems.

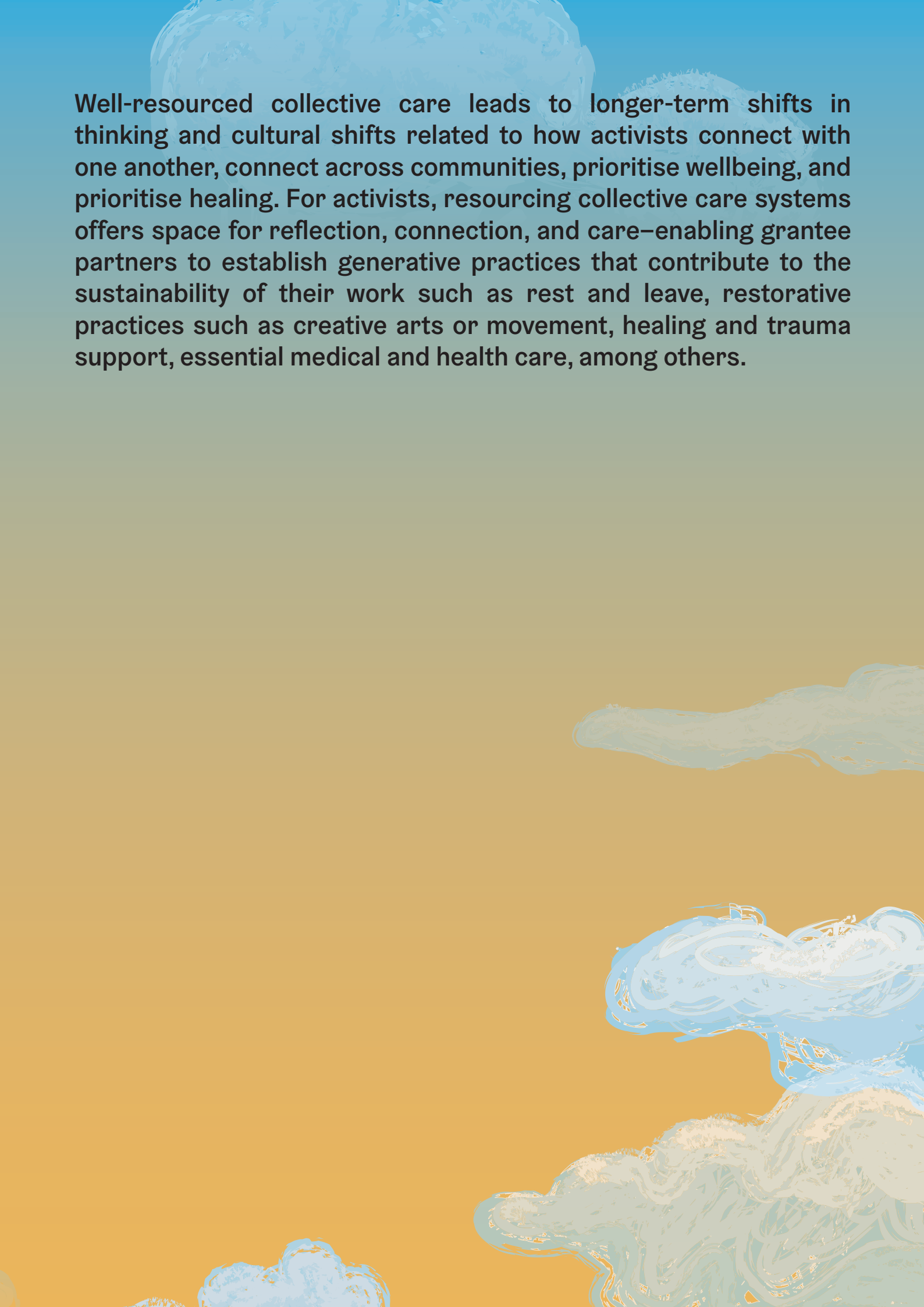
Collective care is a shared issue, grantee partners appreciate opportunities for mutual accompaniment with funders such as offering consultative/participatory processes, knowledge sharing, and enabling ownership in informing their collective care journeys.

Grantee partners are resourced and empowered to steer their narrative around collective care, on their own terms, in their own language. Women's funds create dedicated opportunities for visibility and access.

Collective care is a resource for creating grounding and solidarity in the feminist movement ecosystem, as activists face incredible challenges and setbacks to their wellbeing. Resources for collective care would enable grantee partners to make space for their own wellbeing without sacrificing resources for urgent issues or vulnerable communities that they work with. If resources were abundant, the grantee partners would be enabled to establish collective care for their communities, using the funding to prioritise care and well being for their communities, and focus efforts on healing, creating space for connection, visibilizing the human efforts of activists. Women's funds can empower grantee partners to steer their own collective care strategy through financial resources, capacity strengthening, open discussion between funders and grantee partners about needs and challenges related to collective care, and flexibility of funding to respond to collective care.

Resources for collective care are essential to the organisational resilience and sustainability of grantee partner communities.

Without dedicated resources for collective care, grantee partners face the risk of burnout and deterioration of their wellbeing, leading to compromising their ability to implement the work that is critical to sustaining their communities.

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Well-resourced collective care leads to longer-term shifts in thinking and cultural shifts related to how activists connect with one another, connect across communities, prioritise wellbeing, and prioritise healing. For activists, resourcing collective care systems offers space for reflection, connection, and care—enabling grantee partners to establish generative practices that contribute to the sustainability of their work such as rest and leave, restorative practices such as creative arts or movement, healing and trauma support, essential medical and health care, among others.