

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF INCREASING

World Events

Global Fund for Women Achievements

The World Health Organization and the World Health Assembly adopt resolutions to accelerate the elimination of female genital cutting.

Fall of the Berlin Wall and ensuing collapse of Soviet Union leads to political and economic instability that has far-reaching impact for women and girls in the region.

Mary Robinson becomes Ireland's first female president.

World Health Organization removes homosexuality from list of diseases.

Khaled Zia is elected the first woman prime minister of Bangladesh.

New amendment to constitutional law in Argentina mandates that 30% of all political candidates must be women.

From 1991–1995, 200,000 people are killed in the Bosnia/Herzegovina war and 2 million people displaced. Over 2,000 women raped in the name of "ethnic cleansing."

Unity Dow, a female lawyer, wins the first sex discrimination case in Botswana. Dow is appointed in 1998 as the first woman ever to serve on Botswana's High Court.

The first sexual harassment case is won in Japan.

About 100,000 women and children march for peace in Mogadishu, Somalia.

At the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, declaration is adopted by the General Assembly asserting that the human rights of women and girls are an indivisible part of universal human rights.

UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women appointed.

Kim Campbell is elected as the first woman prime minister of Canada.

Tansu Ciller is elected as the first woman Premier of Turkey.

The UN International Conference on Population and Development is held in Cairo, Egypt. 179 countries, including the US, sign onto the Program for Action.

The UN International Conference on Women in Beijing, China, the largest international gathering of women ever, draws representatives of 189 nations, and over 35,000 women to the parallel NGO forum. For the first time internationally, lesbian rights are acknowledged and the rights of women with disabilities made visible.

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The International Labor Organization, Home Work Convention is adopted. Efforts to pass the Convention are spearheaded by the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) based in India.

South Africa's new constitution is adopted and provides lesbians and gays some of the most far-reaching protections in the world.

Ireland legalizes divorce.

After a 20-year struggle, women in Mauritius win passage of a law protecting them from domestic violence.

Constitution for Argentina's province of Buenos Aires is revised to protect against discrimination on basis of sexual orientation. Several lesbian groups safely go public.

Peru's legislature repeals a 1924 law that allowed rapists to avoid criminal prosecution if they marry their victims.

1988

 **GFW awards first eight grants totaling \$31,000. Incorporated the year before by co-founders Anne Firth Murray, Frances Kissling and Laura Lederer. Dame Nita Barrow joined as founding board member.**

GFW awards \$5,000 to **Women with Disabilities United**, New York, US to help develop and strengthen Disabled Women's International, a group of women with disabilities who came together in 1985 at the UN Decade of Women Conference held in Nairobi to address the concerns of women with disabilities and advance their rights.

GFW awards \$2,000 to **Mujeres en Accion Sindical**, Mexico City, Mexico for a reproductive rights campaign to respond to repressive measures initiated by anti-choice groups.

1989

 **Semillas**, a Mexican women's fund, is formally created with \$7,500 from GFW.

A \$10,000 seed grant is awarded to the **Society for Women and AIDS** in Africa.

Board member **Esther Hewlett** hosts first house party for local donors to meet advisors from Mexico.

1990

GFW awards \$5,000 to the **Women's Library and Information Center Foundation**, Istanbul, the first library in Turkey dedicated to documenting women's participation in Turkish society. Included are women's unique contributions in science, politics and government, literature and the arts.

 GFW awards \$10,000 to **Women Living Under Muslim Laws**, an international network of women whose lives are governed by laws drawn from interpretations of the Qur'an and local tradition, to women seeking to create a united voice within the Muslim community in Pakistan.

GFW awards \$8,000 to **Haifa Rape Crisis Center**, Haifa, Israel to provide services for Arab and Jewish women suffering from rape, incest, battering and other forms of violence against women.

1991

From 1991–1994, **GFW awards \$34,000** to seven key groups in Moscow who are sparking conversations post-Berlin Wall to expand understanding of women's rights.

GFW joins with other funders and women's rights organizations to create the **National Front for the Right to Choose**, based in Mexico. GFW awards three grants of \$15,000 each to **Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida**, **Catholics for the Right to Decide** and **Equidad de Género** to develop a national strategy to make abortion safe and legal in Mexico.

GFW awards \$5,000 to **Media and Women** in Cairo, Egypt, to raise the consciousness and participation of women in rural Arab communities.

 GFW awards \$10,000 to **Maple Women's Center** to start first national women's crisis hotline in China.

1992

GFW celebrates 5th Anniversary. Celebration includes the awarding of ten partnership grants to groups in every region of the world who in turn re-grant \$55,000 to 53 women's organizations. GFW's cumulative grant total is now \$2.7 million to 412 women's groups in 94 countries.

1993

GFW hosts first regional meeting of southeast Asian advisors and grantees to discuss trends affecting women's rights. As a result, they form the **Southeast Asian Women's Information Network** to tackle violence and trafficking.

GFW awards \$7,000 to Argentina's **Fundacion Mujeres en Igualdad** to increase the participation of women in the political sphere.

 GFW awards \$8,000 to the **Young Women's Network**, founded to create opportunities for young South African women to develop leadership skills and speak out about their vision for rebuilding post-apartheid society.

Bosnian war women create **Medica Zenica**. GFW awards \$10,000 in 1993, our first grant to serve survivors of rape and torture in concentration camps.

1994

From 1994–2000 in the aftermath of the Balkan conflicts, **GFW provides \$125,000** to six women's organizations that are helping women survivors to rebuild their lives and countries.

 GFW staff and grantees attend the **UN International Conference on Population and Development**, which makes groundbreaking connections between reproductive rights and women's empowerment.

GFW awards \$10,000 seed grant to the newly formed **Women for Women's Human Rights** in Turkey, which will become one of the most significant women's rights' organizations in the country.

GFW awards \$7,000 to the newly formed **AISHA: Arab Women's Forum**, a network of 14 women's groups from seven countries in the MENA region.

1995

GFW staff organizes a series of fundraising workshops and a panel about financing women's organizations at the **Fourth UN World Conference on Women** in Beijing, China.

 **Mongolian Women Lawyer's Association** works on voter education, resulting in large female voter turnout for first democratic election and high percentage of women in the Mongolian Parliament. By 2008, MWLA has 36 branches throughout Mongolia and boasts 700 members.

 Inspired by GFW workshops on financing women's organizations, Rita Thapa starts the women's fund **Tewa** in Kathmandu, Nepal, with a \$10,000 seed grant from GFW.

GFW awards \$5,000 to what was then the only lesbian women's group in the MENA region, **Sisters of Venus**, in Turkey.

1996

GFW awards \$4,000 to **Elgon Free Generation of Girls**, an eastern Ugandan group of adolescent girls who fled their community to escape female genital cutting (FGC). The grant enables them to stay in school while campaigning to end FGC.

The **Donors' Circle on Trafficking** travels to Europe to visit groups working against sex trafficking. They are hosted by **Payoke, Belgium** and **La Strada Programme of STV**, the Netherlands.

GFW's Honoring Women campaign raises \$1.5 million in major gifts to recognize inspirational women.

1997

 **Kavita Nandini Ramdas** succeeds Anne Firth Murray as GFW's new President and CEO.

 After an extensive advocacy effort, GFW grantee **Red de Mujeres Contra la Violencia** succeeds in passing Law 230, which criminalizes family violence in Nicaragua.

GFW celebrates 10th anniversary. Its cumulative grant total is now \$7.6 million awarded to 927 women's groups in 122 countries.

WOMEN'S VOICES, VISIBILITY AND POWER

V-Day, a global campaign to stop violence against women and girls, is launched in New York on Valentine's Day.

Coalition of women's rights activists, including **Women for Women's Human Rights**, join forces to change laws that permit murder of women in the name of restoring family honor.

Eight women win seats in Fijian Parliament, and five women are named ministers.

UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1325, urging member states to involve women in all aspects of securing sustainable peace from conflict-prevention to post-conflict democracy-building efforts.

Global Fund grantees join in worldwide outpouring of solidarity for the US in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Ukraine's president signs a new law against domestic violence. The law is the culmination of a five-year campaign by **Kharkiv Center for Women's Studies**.

President George W. Bush reinstates "global gag rule," which forbids international family planning organizations that receive US funds to speak freely about reproductive methods, including abortion.

In Cambodia's 2002 elections, 950 women gained seats—a rise from just 10 before the elections.

In response to pressure from activists, including **Women for Women's Human Rights**, the Turkish government amends its civil code to ensure equality for women.

Egyptian government grants nationality rights to women, thanks to the efforts of coalition built by GFW grantee **ADEW**.

Peace agreement is signed in Liberia, due in large part to the concerted organizing and pressure by women's groups such as **WIPNET, the Women in Peace-building Network**.

Women claim 49% of the seats in the lower house of Rwanda's Parliament, surpassing Sweden as the leader in women's legislative representation.

The Law Regarding the Elimination of Violence in the Household is established by the Indonesian Parliament.

The Constitutional Court of Uganda passes new law that allows Ugandan women to sue for divorce in the case of their husband's adultery.

A landmark new family code (moudawana) is passed in Morocco through the efforts of women's rights organizations.

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is elected President of Liberia, the first woman elected as an African head of state.

Iraqi and Afghani women come out in record numbers to vote and run for positions in their countries' first permanent postwar legislatures. In Afghanistan, 68 female candidates win seats in the 249-member legislature.

Togo becomes the 15th member of the African Union to ratify the Protocol on Women's Rights.

Michelle Bachelet is elected Chile's first woman president.

Colombia's Constitutional Court overturns the country's complete ban on abortion, permitting cases where pregnancy threatens the life or health of the mother.

The Yogyakarta Principles are established to provide a unified framework for applying international human rights law to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Mexico City legalizes abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Nigeria rejects an anti-gay bill on the grounds that it will contribute to human rights violations and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Mauritanian women win 34% of local council seats and 18% of Parliament seats.

Mokarrameh Ebrahimi is released from 11 years in prison in Iran where she awaited execution by stoning. Her freedom is the result of organized pressure by international human rights groups and the Stop Stoning Forever grassroots campaign started by Iranian feminists.

1998

GFW launches **Africa grantmaking initiative**. The result: Grants awarded to Sub-Saharan Africa grow from 29 to 131 in two years.

GFW awards its first grant, \$10,000, to a Kurdish women's group in Turkey, **KA-MER**. At the time, the group provided the only hotline in Anatolia to survivors of domestic violence.

1999

A \$5,000 award from GFW helps **Pacific Women in Politics** in Fiji provide training to women candidates in parliamentary procedures and how to work effectively with constituents.

WHEAT (Women, Hope, Education and Training Trust) Women's Fund founded in Cape Town, South Africa, with GFW seed grant of \$15,000.

GFW awards \$10,000 to **Rifka Annisa Women's Crisis Center (RAWCC)**, the first women's shelter in Indonesia.

2000

Ukrainian Women's Fund is founded with \$22,000 seed grant in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Second meeting of the **International Network of Independent Women's Funds** held in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Angela Borba Fund in Brazil established with \$10,000 seed grant.

Nirnaya Fund in India established with \$6,700 seed grant.

Pitseng Trust Women's Fund in South Africa established with \$9,000 seed grant.

2001

Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation conducts successful campaign with other women's NGOS to increase representation in Parliament. Women parliamentarians representation grew from 11% to 26%. By 2008, GFW had awarded over \$89,000 to the Gender Project, which has become the first independent women's fund in Bulgaria.

GFW ensures strong participation and presence of women activists at the **UN World Conference Against Racism and Xenophobia and Related Intolerance**, held in South Africa.

Mongolian Women's Fund founded in Ulaanbaator with the help of GFW seed grant of \$4,500.

GFW awards \$6,000 to **Kup Women for Peace**, whose efforts are crucial to halting the ongoing conflict between five warring tribes in Papua New Guinea's highlands region.

2002

Women for Prosperity in Cambodia trains 5,500 women to run as candidates in the February 2002 Cambodian elections.

Colectivo Alquimia, a women's fund, is launched in Santiago, Chile, with a seed grant of \$50,000.

By 2002, GFW has awarded **Kharkiv Center for Women's Studies** three grants totaling \$42,000 to support the drafting, campaigning for and subsequent implementation of Ukraine's new law against domestic violence.

GFW awards grants to **46 organizations** that deliver reproductive health programs in 28 countries—an increase directly related to the reduced funding available to women's organizations because of the "global gag rule."

GFW 15th anniversary with \$24.6 million awarded to 2082 organizations in 157 countries.

2003

A \$7,500 grant from GFW supports the efforts of the **Bangladesh Centre for Workers' Solidarity** to pressure the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Export Association for minimum wages, on-site childcare, overtime pay and protection in organizing in six facilities.

GFW awards grants to three new women's funds: **Slovak-Czech Fund, Reconstruction Women's Fund in Serbia and the Bulgarian Fund for Women**.

GFW launches **Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Grantmaking Initiative**.

2004

GFW launches the **Investing in Women** campaign to raise \$20 million for women's organizations worldwide. That total included \$10 million for the Legacy Fund, the world's largest endowment exclusively dedicated to women's rights and \$10 million for the Now or Never Fund, a five-year fund to provide critical and timely funding to women's organizations.

First-ever **Encuentro of Meso-American Indigenous Women** is supported by GFW grant of \$13,000.

Georgia Women's Fund starts with \$50,000 seed grant from GFW.

2005

By September 2005, GFW reaches its \$20 million goal for the **Investing in Women** campaign.

GFW holds board meeting in Cairo, Egypt, to demonstrate and deepen GFW's commitment to the women's movement in the MENA region.

In the aftermath of Liberia's successful peace talks, GFW awards **WIPNET** \$10,000 to support civic and voter education for Liberian elections. This builds on three awards totaling \$33,000, which were used to involve women in peacebuilding.

GFW publishes **Caught in the Storm**, a groundbreaking report that describes how women suffer disproportionately from disasters and makes recommendations for changing that by including women's input and advice.

2006

Women's Link Worldwide, a Global Fund grantee, plays a key role in Colombia's decision to overturn the ban on abortion. Two grants totaling \$18,000 in 2003 and 2005 supported the group's work.

GFW awards the **National Coalition on Domestic Violence Legislation** a \$20,000 Now or Never grant, which helps the group wage a successful campaign for passage of Ghana's new domestic violence bill.

GFW awards more than \$1.7 million to 120 women's groups in 62 countries **promoting women's ability to influence and create media**.

2007

GFW awards \$53,000 to two new women's funds in the MENA region—the **Mediterranean Women's Fund** and the **Arab Women's Foundation**.

GFW brings together 35 women representatives from the organizations we have supported in Western Congo (DR) to meet and collaborate. We award \$54,000 to women's groups working in Eastern Congo (DR) to address the impact of gender-based violence.

GFW opens New York office.

2008

In a model for future strategic partnerships, GFW co-organizes with the **Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID)**, a meeting in Morocco on resource mobilization for women's rights organizations and movement building in the MENA region.

GFW celebrates its **20th anniversary** with a gala in New York City.

Global Fund launches a new five-year strategic plan and the first phase of grantmaking initiative to decrease militarism and increase peacebuilding worldwide.

Over the course of 20 years, we've awarded more than \$68 million to more than 3,700 groups in 167 countries.