

Global Fund for Women Launches "System Reboot" Campaign to Mobilize Technology as a Force for Gender Justice

The Longtime Feminist Fund Has Partnered with Leading Global South Activists to Mobilize New Funding Commitments Ahead of the United Nations Generation Equality Forum-Paris

For Immediate Release

In line with the United Nations Generation Equality Forum, Global Fund for Women has launched "System Reboot", an unprecedented multi-sectoral campaign to mobilize at least US \$5 million over the next five years to support feminist technology innovators in the Global South and East and to mobilize technology as a force for gender justice.

Technology is a key driver of gender justice and holds great potential to support structural and social change. At the same time, technology has been used by governments and corporations to spread misinformation, to facilitate online violence and algorithmic bias, and to surveil, control, and criminalize communities who are most impacted by multiple forms of systemic oppression. The COVID-19 pandemic has both increased digital accessibilities and exacerbated existing inequities.

On July 2, Global Fund for Women will hold an official Generation Equality Forum event: "System Reboot: Joining Forces to Reclaim Technology for Gender Justice" bringing leaders from social justice movements, the technology sector, and feminist funding to discuss the perils and possibilities of technology for women, girls, and marginalized communities. The event will be accompanied by a social media campaign gameifying tech equity and digital security by offering concrete actions that followers can take to advance these issues. The System Reboot event and campaign complement Global Fund for Women's own bold, scalable commitment to invest directly in feminist technology leaders.

System Reboot speakers include climate justice activist Disha Ravi; Signal Foundation Board Member and one of the lead organizers of the Google walkouts Meredith Whittaker; and Jac Sm Kee of Numun Fund, the first feminist technology fund in the Global South. Erin Williams of Global Fund for Women will moderate the discussion.

Panelists will discuss how technology is embedded in our lives, but not neutral. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed all further online, raising the risks, particularly for activists and movement leaders. Yet at the same technology can be an instrument for gender justice movements to drive change through online organizing, social media, and digital messaging tools.

"Global Fund for Women is proud to launch this campaign to mobilize technology to work for gender justice and movements for social change, not against them," said Latanya Mapp Frett, President and CEO of Global Fund for Women. "We hope the Generation Equality Forum will inspire concrete commitments to invest funding so



activists can respond more effectively to the challenges and opportunities that the internet and other technologies bring to feminist organizing around the world and to better resource movements for equality, justice, and liberation."

Disha Ravi added: "Technology has become an integral part of organizing but it has been used to violate the fundamental rights of activists around the world. We have had our free speech and privacy curbed. We desperately need technology that empowers us, not technology that mines our data and scans our irises."

Available for media interview: Disha Ravi; Erin Williams, Program Director at Global Fund for Women; and Latanya Mapp Frett, President and CEO of Global Fund for Women

Attend the System Reboot event on July 2, register <u>here</u> and email atranovich@globalfundforwomen.org for press event attendance Media contact for interviews or additional information: Anja Tranovich atranovich@globalfundforwomen.org

ABOUT GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN

Global Fund for Women envisions a world in which movements for gender justice have transformed power and privilege for a few into equity and equality for all. As a feminist fund, we offer flexible support to a diverse group of partners—more than 5,000 groups across 175 countries so far—to create meaningful change that will last beyond our lifetimes. To learn more about our work, visit www.globalfundforwomen.org or follow us on <u>Facebook, Twitter</u>, or <u>Instagram</u>.