



FROM MOMENT TO MOVEMENT

Powering Change for Gender Equality in 2018

STILL WE RISE

THIS PAST YEAR, we saw the many ways in which women standing together are unstoppable. Women in the U.S. and across the world are boldly saying **me too**—a call to action to end violence against women of all kinds, from sexual harassment in Egypt to femicide in Argentina. Moments of outrage at the local level have turned into a **powerful global movement for collective action and solidarity**.

Trends like rising religious fundamentalisms and increasing restrictions on peaceful organizing mean that the risks of speaking out are greater than ever. **But this hasn't stopped women's movements worldwide from resisting rollbacks on their rights.**

In the U.S., we can learn so much from grassroots women's activists across the globe who have been fighting for decades to be heard and believed. In these pages, you will meet women who demonstrate the power of grassroots movements and local action in shaping a brighter future for women and girls.

Now is the time to raise our collective voice. Join us in investing in grassroots women's movements. Together across the world, we have marched; together we are doing the hard work each day to make every woman and girl strong, safe, powerful and heard. **Together we will rise.**

Justiça Justicia Justice

ILLUSTRATION:
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“I AM A FEMINIST—and I am part of all there is to defend the cause of young girls.”



AOUA TRAORÉ
Psychologist

GRANTEE PARTNER: Association Malienne pour la Promotion de la Jeune Fille et de la Femme (AMPJF)

LOCATION: Mali, Sub-Saharan Africa

DESPITE THE ODDS Girls Live Their Dreams in Mali

IN MALI, ENTRENCHED GENDER NORMS LIMIT GIRLS' OPPORTUNITIES. Particularly since 2012, when Islamic fundamentalists took control in Northern Mali, girls have experienced violence and restrictions of opportunity—from forced marriage and the closure of schools to the passage of regressive family laws.

But Aoua Traoré, a young women's rights activist and psychologist by training, is determined to turn the vision girls have for a better future into reality. She works with the girls to rebuild their ability to dream.

Aoua's journey into activism began when she joined grantee partner AMPJF, which provides therapy for girls who have survived violence. At the center, Aoua lets girls express all that has happened to them. She says, **“Often the girls, after sharing their experiences, just want to sleep for a long time. It is cathartic to release all of their feelings.”**

Whether supporting girls to fight back against sexual violence perpetrated by teachers or enabling them to play soccer—a sport usually reserved for boys—AMPJF is smashing stereotypes about girls' potential.

Aoua's success is due to many factors: good organizing by women's rights organizations, the resolve and impact of AMPJF's team, and the faith that propels her forward. **“I use my commitment to the principles of moderate Islam to fight against injustice. That's my strength and my courage.”**

Like many feminists in majority-Muslim countries, Aoua recognizes that religious texts can also support the quest for justice and equality. Today, she is flipping the narrative that fundamentalists are using to exert control over women and girls.



“I FIGHT BECAUSE I know that without water, we cannot live. I do this work for the love of my community, for my granddaughters...so that they can live in a healthy world.”

— REYNA ORTIZ, MOVIMIENTO DE MUJERES DE SANTO TOMAS IN EL SALVADOR



THIS PHOTO AND ABOVE: Association Malienne pour le Suivi et l'Orientation des Pratiques Traditionnelles [AMSOPT]



Our Resistance BRINGS US TOGETHER

IT WAS AN EARLY MORNING

in November when Ana María Hernández discovered the break-in at the office of her organization Consorcio para el diálogo parlamentario y la equidad Oaxaca in Mexico. Although it happened seven years ago, she still remembers the flux of emotions she felt at that moment.

“When we arrived, it was a mess. I felt vulnerable—taking my computer was personal. I also felt guilty because as a Director I believed I had a magic wand to foresee this and blamed myself for it. **I was worried that the cohesion of my team would be weakened...but none of the women from the group left.”**

Since then, Consorcio Oaxaca has experienced 11 break-ins. In some cases, defenders have been threatened with weapons at their office. Consorcio is targeted with this violence because of their work to end land grabs by corporations.

“This territory is our body as well as the place we live. **The compañeras [defenders] we accompany are the guardians of the territories, of the rivers, of the continuity of life.** So when a corporation tries to destroy that social fabric and the symbols of our community, the damage is very deep. But we are there to prevent this.”



“Our resistance brings us together. When they attack, it doesn't cause terror, but rather it causes people to need each other more.” Women land defenders like Ana María in Mexico and across Latin America are standing tall in the face of danger so that the generations to come can inherit a healthy planet. Despite the challenges, Ana María remains hopeful. **“Resilience is the ability to transform a dramatic event into strength. Even in the worst moments, there is light.”**

“IT IS NOT AN OPTION but rather an obligation to speak out, all of us together, to demand changes. I do not imagine my life without my activism. It is my conviction to do it and it makes me want to live.”

— BETTY VASQUEZ, CENTRO DE DERECHOS DE MUJERES IN HONDURAS

Building the MOMENTUM OF MOVEMENTS

Given what we've seen and learned, Global Fund for Women is prioritizing its movement-building strategies to ensure women's groups can turn their momentum into lasting change for women's rights worldwide.



FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

OUR PRIORITY: Dismantling social norms and cultural and religious practices that perpetuate violence against women, girls, and LBTQI people.

FOR EXAMPLE

NOT ONE LESS:

In Argentina, a woman dies from gender-based violence every 30 minutes. Before #MeToo went viral, there was #NiUnaMenos or 'not one less'—a campaign to stop femicide in Argentina. The campaign has spread across Latin America, with thousands taking to the streets in Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

“WE HAVE RECLAIMED the women's movement in a massive way. This movement has transcended national and regional borders, and has forced our country's mainstream media to cover our activities as never before. In this way, women's groups are growing and fighting for a life free from violence.”

— GRANTEE PARTNER COLECTIVO NI UNA MENOS IN ARGENTINA THAT HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE MOVEMENT

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

OUR PRIORITY: Resisting rollbacks in reproductive justice and abortion rights while advancing alternative women-centered models of care.

FOR EXAMPLE

WHY RACE MATTERS:

In Brazil, Black women are two-and-a-half times more likely to die from an unsafe abortion than White women. They lack access to high-quality care for pregnancy and maternal care, reflecting a discrepancy also seen in U.S. hospitals and clinics. Because of discriminatory national abortion policies, Black women in Brazil risk their lives when accessing healthcare. Grantee partners Grupo Curumim and CRIOLA are leading strong campaigns to address the racial injustice that impacts maternal and child health in Black communities.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

OUR PRIORITY: Supporting the rights of workers within sectors of the economy where women are most at risk, particularly domestic workers and garment workers.

FOR EXAMPLE

THE INVISIBLE WOMEN MAKING OUR CLOTHES:

All across Asia—where 55 million women work in the garment industry—female workers suffer physical, verbal, and sexual abuse at the hands of mostly male supervisors. Global Fund for Women has joined forces with C&A Foundation, NoVo Foundation, and Gender at Work to strengthen movements helping these workers across Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, and Vietnam. The initiative supports women garment workers to learn about their rights, realize their power to secure these rights, and become leaders who can prevent violence today and tomorrow.

“MY MOM WAS A FIGHTER, she taught me to believe in other women. I believe in every single woman in this world. I know they can overcome challenges they are facing. As activists, we need to believe in ourselves... Women are strong and they can achieve anything.”

— YOUNG LEBANESE ACTIVIST, BEIRUT ROOTSLAB CONSULTATION

LEADERSHIP

OUR PRIORITY: Strengthening a pipeline of young movement leaders who are organizing across issues and developing innovative approaches to social change.

FOR EXAMPLE

YOUNG FEMINISTS ARE THE LEADERS OF TODAY:

Imagine if young women and trans* folks came together to test bold new ideas for social change. This is the vision of RootsLab, a social innovation lab to advance young women and trans* youths' rights, leadership, and collective action. RootsLab was born out of a collaboration between Global Fund for Women, FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund, Oxfam, and the Young Foundation. Our first pilot is now taking root in Lebanon. It is equipping young activists with the tools, resources, networks, and mentoring needed to ensure their voices are heard on the most pressing issues—from the invisibility of migrant domestic workers to the lack of basic community services for refugee women.