



# Women's Funds manifesto for change-European election 2024

As creators of a culture of feminist philanthropy, as movement strengtheners, as funders, and as fundraisers, our goal is to advance women's rights and gender equality both locally and globally to create a fairer and more inclusive world. Women's Funds Europe has been created by feminist funds working together because we believe when social change efforts are led by those most impacted, everyone benefits. We are values-oriented, basing our approach on the principles of trust, inclusion, collaboration, openness, transparency, accessibility, and collective decision-making. Our expertise in the field, emphasis on action-oriented achievements, and an intersectional framework makes us uniquely positioned to connect donors with grassroots organisations and bolster the field of feminist philanthropy.

This is a call to action ahead of the European elections to all European political parties and on the next European Parliament and European Commission to address the ever-shrinking civil space, supporting the objectives of ending gender-based violence; challenging gender stereotypes; closing gender gaps in the labour market; achieving equal participation across different sectors of the economy; and achieving gender balance in decision-making and in politics.

## Strategic Objective 1:

### Prevent and combat gender stereotypes and sexism.

**Integrate** gender mainstreaming across all EU funding programmes to defend women's, girls' and queer people's perspective into policy design and delivery.

**Guarantee** the commitment of gender budgeting in all EU policies, funding programmes, in particular gender impact assessments.

**Promote** initiatives to combat gender stereotypes and gender mainstreaming particularly focusing on the Citizens Rights and Values Programme (CERV) and ERASMUS+ Programmes.

**Promote** research into identifying how stereotypical gender perceptions influence people's lives and on how they can be overcome.

**Support** training for media and advertising professionals as well as for formal and non-formal education professionals to combat negative gender stereotypes.

**Develop** conditions for granting EU funds to grassroots women's organisations for public campaigns on gender equality and violence against women to confront gender stereotypes.

## Strategic Objectives 2:

### Prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence.

**Develop** a permanent consultative forum for the feminist movement which could support and advise the Commission around the improved implementation of initiatives to address gender-based violence to strengthen community CSO engagement in EU Gender Equality actions.

**Provide** ringfenced funding which specifically supports grassroots civil society organisations active at local and national level to build administrative and financial capacity to support projects combating gender-based violence initiatives. This could take the form of supporting regional resource centres, training and mentoring of CSO representatives in specific activities including participative and evidence-based policy making, monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, communication/awareness-raising and campaigning.

**Ensure** civil society is fully involved in an EU network on the prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence, bringing together Member States and stakeholders to exchange good practice, and will provide funding for training, capacity-building and support services.

### Strategic Objective 3:

#### Ensure the equal access of women to justice

**Promote** greater public awareness campaigning of the importance of ensuring equal access of women to justice to promote human rights and the rule of law.

**Enforce** the collection and dissemination of data and of information regarding women's access to justice and women in the judiciary.

**Develop** training solutions regarding women's access to justice adjusted to the needs of related stakeholders.

**Identify** and disseminate best practice and targeted policies on women's equal access to justice.

### Strategic Objective 4:

#### Achieve a balanced participation of women in political and public decision-making.

**Engage** with civil society to devise strategies to increase the number of women in decision-making positions in politics and policy making.

**Oblige** the Commission to distribute annual data trends on the representation of women and men in decision-making positions jointly with the European Institute for Gender Equality.

## Recommendations:

To maximise impactful results with grassroots CSOs across Europe while bolstering a culture of feminist philanthropy, engage with Women's Funds because they are best situated to:

- 1 Support organisations led by those most-impacted as they are the experts in the field.
- 2 Connect with grassroots organisations that may not have access to other sources of funding.
- 3 Forge strong relationships with partners to enhance collaboration and networking and lift up the next generation of leaders.
- 4 Balance flexible long-term core funding with emergency funds to boost sustainability and manage crisis situations.
- 5 Break down funding silos to increase access and promote intersectionality.
- 6 Pilot creative learning and evaluation methods to better assess, reflect and communicate positive outcomes.
- 7 Invest in holistic security and collective and individual care to protect activists and avoid burnout.
- 8 Engage in quantitative and qualitative research to enable both policy and social change.