Dear friends –

When the winds of change come, one can shrink and hide, or build a boat and sail out to explore the world.

2011 was a year in which the winds of change blew mightily, both for the world, and for us at the Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights…

Women in the Middle East were equal partners in demanding democracy and their rights as women. Conspiracies of silence were broken and tyrants overthrown. Read more inside about how women’s organizations seized this moment of change.

At Urgent Action Fund, we passed a historic milestone and made our 1,000th grant. This year we supported women human rights defenders in over 100 organizations around the world. Inside, you can see how some of our grantees create cultures of human rights and peace.

We said goodbye and a big Thank You to our Executive Director Terry Greenblatt who stepped down from her post, after giving Urgent Action Fund the benefit of her wisdom and commitment for several years. We welcomed Rachel Pfeffer, an experienced interim Executive Director, to help us position Urgent Action Fund for its next phase of leadership in the world of feminist philanthropy and women’s human rights.

We also moved to San Francisco, coming closer to many partners and allies. Our thanks to all those who had been a part of our Boulder Family for 13 years, and a promise that you will remain with us in the future.

The process of transition will, we hope, bring us new energies for a new beginning.

Thank you to you, our supporters and colleagues, for making this possible. Women human rights and peace activists need all of us!

Sincerely,

Sunila Abeysekera
Board Chair

HISTORY

MISSION: Urgent Action Fund, as part of women’s rights movements worldwide, supports women’s rights defenders striving to create cultures of justice, equality and peace. We provide rapid response grants that enable strategic interventions, and participate in collaborative advocacy and research. We are led by activists, inspired by feminism, and strengthened through solidarity.

WHY RAPID RESPONSE? 15 years ago, women human rights and peace activists from all over the world said they needed a new kind of grantmaking: grantmaking on the real and urgent timelines of activists. Urgent Action Fund was born.

Urgent Action Fund responds to all requests, in all languages, within 72 hours. Activists can receive cash within a week, and sooner if needed. Urgent Action Fund is a lifeline to women’s human rights and peace activists worldwide.

ANATOMY OF A RAPID RESPONSE GRANT

Grantee: Model Iraqi Women Organization (MIWO)

Issue: Women & Peacemaking

Quick summary: In late 2011, sectarian violence escalated; dozens of people were killed. The Iraqi Parliament did nothing. MIWO requested funds to launch an “Iraqi Women for Peace” campaign. The organizers met with hundreds of women activists from various backgrounds across the country, as well as female members of Provincial Councils, to create a strategy for increasing women’s political participation.

THE BREAK-DOWN:

- $900 for unarmed security guards to protect traveling organizers
- $150 for unarmed security guard to protect the organization headquarters (which was attacked and destroyed in 2005)
- $1,000 for print materials, including banners, brochures
- $2,000 to travel to rural areas
- $500 for accommodations and meals
- $300 for articles in newspapers
- $150 for phone lines

Total: $5,000
In the Spring of 2011, peaceful protesters in Tunisia and Egypt demanded democracy and achieved the impossible: the presidents of both countries stepped down, ending a combined 54 years of authoritarian rule. These protesters demonstrated that another world is possible.

**Women’s ‘Preemptive Peace’ in Iraqi Kurdistan**

The protests spread to Iraqi Kurdistan in early February. Militias turned violent, but the protests continued.

In Kurdistan opposition political parties were involved, and partisan media outlets attacked and defamed each other. A few years ago, thousands were killed when disputes between the two major political parties erupted into civil war, with Tehran backing one side, and Baghdad backing the other. People were afraid.

The Kurdish women’s organization Asuda believed that Kurdistan needed an independent voice for peace. With UAF funds, Asuda convened a meeting of women from diverse political parties, media outlets and community organizations. The women formed a peace group to work with media outlets and launch a peace campaign.

Asuda wrote in its post-grant report: “The grant activities helped in building bridges between various diverse groups and re-establishing communication and trust amongst those parties. They also assisted in alleviating the aggressive language used by the politically affiliated media against their rivals. Opposition and ruling parties agreed to meet and settle political differences using dialogue and peaceful negotiations.”

**Women’s Protest & Protection in Yemen**

The protests also spread to Yemen in February. The government responded with missiles; armed groups retaliated. The country has since been locked in conflict.

Women took a strong stand in these protests. On March 8, International Women’s Day, for the first time ever, thousands of Yemeni women poured into the streets to demonstrate for democracy and their rights as women. They returned in even larger numbers three weeks later.

President Saleh responded to this new threat by condemning the women for violating traditional cultural norms. Religious extremists then began stalking women protestors. The Yemeni WATAN Coalition—Women for Social Peace and Gender Concerns International leveraged UAF funds to create a secure office space for women protesters.

The concurrent economic upheaval forced many women and girls onto the streets to beg in the middle of the violence. The Shawthab Foundation for Childhood & Development leveraged UAF funds to hold trainings for them on how to protect themselves, and how to manage small profit-generating projects.

In another grant, the Maeen Center for Social Development supported women activists and lawyers to document and disseminate information about women’s human rights violations.

“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

— Arundhati Roy

Yemeni women and girls learn how to protect themselves and manage small microbusinesses in the wake of social upheaval.
RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS AROUND THE WORLD

AFGHANISTAN: Women’s freedoms • $5,000
The Taliban is extinguishing women’s freedoms and making it even more dangerous to organize. In response, the Jalal Foundation held conferences in rural areas to educate women about their rights and stand against extremism. The Foundation used UAF funds to provide security for the historic gatherings and keep targeted activists safe.

NEPAL: The Constitution and LGBT rights • $5,000
When the male-dominated sexual orientation rights movement excluded women from its advocacy, women’s LGBT rights organization Mitini Nepal used UAF funds to hold a hunger strike and 15-day sit-in outside the Constitutional Assembly. They educated Assembly members and obtained commitments to protect LBT women’s rights.

CAMBODIA: Land rights • $5,000
When the government forced thousands of villagers from their farms and livelihoods and gave the land to a private corporation, women’s rights organization Strey Khmer protected threatened activists, held trainings for women on non-violent tactics and their rights and waged a media campaign for justice.

PHILIPPINES: Violence against women • $5,000
In a remote region of the Philippines, politicians, police and the military are increasingly raping and murdering women without consequence. Women’s rights activists educated women on their rights and gave them a voice in an underground journal. Now, women are writing, sharing and even singing aloud poems and stories about the violence.

COLORADO, USA: Midwifery rights • $5,000
When the state government announced it would review the laws regulating home birth, women’s rights activists launched the Delivering Natural Care for Families Coalition. The coalition organized and lobbied, and new laws were passed that make it easier for women to give birth at home in Colorado.

IN 2011, URGENT ACTION FUND MADE 103 RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS TO WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN 39 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.
The following are excerpts from an interview with Rauda Morcos, a Palestinian queer activist who lives in Kofer Yassif, a Palestinian village in the north of Israel, in Galilee. She is a regional advisor to Urgent Action Fund and is studying for a law degree.

**What are you working on right now?**

I’m organizing the Mantiqitna Network, a regional platform for the development of transnational initiatives that strengthen gender and sexual human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. Right now, we’re focusing on building relationships across ethnic identities and arbitrary national borders. Because of the realities we’re living in, the politics, the totalitarianism, the patriarchy, it feels like we’re doing the impossible. But we’re doing it! We’re building a movement!

**How did you get into activism?**

I grew up in an activist house. And if you are Palestinian and aware, it’s hard not to become an activist. It’s like learning the ABC’s.

I also grew up as a girl in a patriarchal community. I experienced a desire to change this reality, for myself and others.

Later, when I moved to Tel Aviv, I faced another kind of patriarchy. As an activist in the anti-war movement, I felt I had to hide part of me, the lesbian part. And in the women’s movement, I had to choose between my identities and silence the word ‘Palestine.’ But you can’t continue to silence who you are. By living your identities you learn to accept and find a connection between those parts of yourself. That is my activism, too.

**If there were one thing you wish for Americans to understand, what would it be?**

Violence will never be a way to stop violence. Fighting is never a way to achieve peace. And as Audre Lorde says, “silence will not protect you.” We have to learn how to sympathize with each other, to support each other, and to stand for the rights of the people who need it — even if that means supporting Palestinian independence. Western movements are in some ways still driven by a colonialist approach: “I will show you how to do it.” We need to cooperate, see and accept the differences between us.

**Given everything else you are doing, why do you make time for UAF?**

Because Urgent Action Fund is one of the only sources for Rapid Response funds, and this is critical.

I was involved in three asylum cases with UAF: women whose lives were in grave danger because of their women’s rights activism. It takes money, not just a statement of support, to buy a ticket for someone to get out of danger. And sometimes you need the funds within hours! UAF provided these women with the opportunity to be safe.

My experience with Urgent Action Fund — as an advisor and as a grantee — is different from the experiences I’ve had with most other international organizations. Urgent Action Fund listens, communicates, and adapts to the needs of activists. When you speak with UAF, you’re speaking at eye level: activist to activist.

**What keeps you going?**

It would be difficult to continue if I didn’t have something inside me that believes. If you only look at the dark side, there would be no reasons to keep going.

Our skin is made of layers. Every time something happens, it reveals another layer, making you more aware, more sensitive. You can either become more vulnerable, or use this exposure to see more, listen more, feel more, do more. I choose that!
As part of our daily grantmaking activities, Urgent Action Fund accumulates a vast amount of knowledge about trends impacting women’s human rights and peace activists around the world. Our Advocacy & Alliance-Building program is informed by this knowledge. Here is a look at one of many initiatives in 2011.

**Painting Protesters as Terrorists**

After 9/11, governments around the world exploited fear to create oppressive laws governing activism and the expression of dissent. Such laws have been used to justify the arrest, torture, and disappearance of women’s human rights and peace activists. Urgent Action Fund has played a leading role in documenting this trend, supporting women’s human rights activists, and advocating in funder and policy circles.

In 2011, Urgent Action Fund co-sponsored a meeting of Asian women’s human rights defenders in Bangkok. In the meeting they shared their experiences, developed a framework for understanding, and developed recommendations for policy-makers, funders, and activists themselves. Here are a few excerpts from the conversation:

*One Indian activist said:* “It is very easy for us to brand Islam as a terrorist religion. And gradually you see how that has percolated into the psyche of the people… [Now], it is not only the Muslims that are being tagged but also the non-Muslims. When you are an activist and you join a protest, you can be tagged as terrorist or communist.”

*Another activist reflected:* “Slowly, slowly, our spaces of demonstrations have been stripped.”

Participants said they are under surveillance, harassed, and have even become suspicious of one-another.

*In Nepal, a long-time human rights defender described what happened when a landless community started to demonstrate. The government opened fire on them, and justified it by saying the protesters were a threat to the security of the country. “Anything that happens becomes a threat to security.”*

In 2012, we plan to continue our critical Rapid Response Grantmaking program, hire a permanent Executive Director, strategize next steps for our Advocacy & Alliance-Building programs, and strengthen our collaborative relationships with our sister Urgent Action Funds in Latin America and Africa.
WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

The financial statements for Urgent Action Fund are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the U.S. As of publication date, UAF’s 2011 external audit was in progress and the financial statements presented herein are preliminary. To obtain a copy of the full auditors’ report once published, please contact Urgent Action Fund or visit our website. UAF is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Statement of Activities January 1-December 31, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
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<td>850</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restriction</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>227,573</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,322,949</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**EXPENSES:**

**PROGRAM SERVICES:**
- Grantmaking (2) $716,916
- Research & Publications (3) $354,098
- Advocacy & Alliance Building (4) $221,417
**Total Program Services** $1,292,431

**SUPPORT SERVICES:**
- Management & Administration (5) $315,846
- Fundraising (6) $145,375
**Total Support Services** $461,221

**Total Expenses** $1,753,652

**CHANGES IN NET ASSETS (7)**
- (458,276) $27,573
**Net Assets, Beginning of Year** $546,532
**NET ASSETS, END OF PERIOD (8)** $88,256

**INCOME**
- 46% US based foundations
- 25% Non US government agencies and foundations
- 29% Individual/Family Foundations

**EXPENSES**
- 41% Rapid Response Grantmaking
- 20% Research & Publications
- 13% Advocacy & Alliance Building
- 18% Management & Administration
- 8% Fundraising

**DONORS**
- Karen Abrams
- Kris Abrams
- Richard & Jan Abrams
- Nancy B. Allen
- American Jewish World Service
- Summer Amin
- Global Impact Caring
- at Work Campaign
- Anonymous (4)
- Anonymous
- In honor of Iraqi women
- Anonymous
- In honor of Afroz Huda
- Nargiza Arjevanidze
- Cynda Collins Arsenault
- Arsenault Family Foundation
- Carol Auld
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- In honor of Rita, Irwin & Chela Blitt
- Diana Barrett
- The Fledgling Fund
- Kathleen Barry
- Amy Batchelor & Brad Feld
- Anchor Point Gift Fund
- Debi Baydush
- Mekayla Beaver
- Susan Beckerman
- Julia Parker Benello
- Joanne Berghold
- Lesly Black
- Merrill Black
- Chela & Dorianna Blitt
- Rita & Irwin Blitt
- Beyond Our Borders
- Fund of the Denver Foundation
- Cristina Bordes
- Viera Böttcher
- Beth Bowman
- Stephanie Bryan
- Jane Butcher
- Sandra Butler
- Amy Laura Cahn
- Channel Foundation
- Lin Chew
- Joanie Ciardelli
- Carol Cohn
- Boston Consortium on Gender, Security & Human Rights
- Lori & Simon Colina-Lee
- The Colina Foundation
- Paul Collins
- David Colson
- CORDAID
- Elizabeth Colton
- The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County
- Sadie Gift Fund
- Serendipity Gift Fund
- Sunshine Fund
- Martine Conway & Tyson Bennett
- Pat Cooper
- Bunni & Paul L. Copaken
- Copaken Family Foundation
- Susan Corbett
- Irina Costache
- Emily Davis
- Diane Deschanel
- Barbara Dobkin
- Dobkin Family Foundation
- Mary & James Downton Jr.
- Marta Drury & Kerry Lobel
- Horizons Foundation: Girls just wanna have funD
- Brook Eddy
- Bakhti Chai
- Harriet Edelstein
- Shari Edelstein
- Grant from 18 Pomegranates in honor of Julie Shaffer
- Gayle Embrey
- Wendy Emrich
- Elaine Enarson
- Ellen Epstein & Ian Brownell
- Jill Ertl
- Jodie Evans
- Lee Everding
- Cindy Ewing & Lucie Tizcon
- Dr. Chip & Evey Fagadu
- Judy Feland
- Louise Forrest
- Kay & Michael Forsythe
- Anne Fox
- Marcia Freedman
- David Friedman
- & Tirza Firestone
- The Funding Exchange
- Mariam Gagosh
- Judith Ansara Gass
- Helen Gemmill
- General Board of Global Ministries
- Carol N. Gerlitz
- In memory of Elna Gerlitz
- Daria Ghiu
- Global Impact
- David Gogishvili
- Margery Goldman
- Marvin Naiman & Margery Goldman Gift Fund, in honor of Kris Abrams
- Lynda Goldstein
- Robinpat Gossard
- Alex Gaulder
- Green Fund
- Sondra Greene
- Capital Sisters International

*The negative change in net assets was provided for by a combination of UAF’s beginning cash balance, and by payments from our reserve fund. As a policy, UAF does not deficit spend.*
OUR PARTNERS IN CHANGE – CONTINUED

Elaine Grossman
Katie Grover & Michael Campbell
Celeste & Jack Gryenberg
Josie & David Hadden
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Alexis Halstead
Susan Hamra
Tom & Peg Hanks
Michael Hirschhorn & Jimena Martinez
Edie Hooton
Market Kronkova
Diane & Russ Hullet
Human and Civil Rights Organizations of America
Diane Hunckler
William & Diane Hunckler Foundation
Arina Isaacs
In honor of Terry Greenblatt
Mahnaz Isphani
Bartos
Lisa Jackson
Juliana Johnson & Mike Brunot
Sandra K. Johnson
Lisa Kane
Karen Kent
Karen Kinnear
Beth & Jamie Klein
Julia Kovats
Cindy Kraft
In honor of Liza Hensleigh
Heather Kurland
Robyn Landry & Gerhard Assenmacher
Linda Latenser
Dorothy Lebach
Joan Lebach
Ann Lederer & Robert Hickler
Tiffani Lennon
Levi Strauss Foundation
Marc Levy
Leocha Fund
Jane Lewenthal & Tomo Tsukayama
Sheila & Bob Lindberg
Cindy Lindsay & Steve Shearof
Leslie Singer Lomas
Sidne & Lisa Long
Sandhya Luther
Jan Manzotti
Sandi McCarthy
Peace by Peace Fund
Molly McCourt
Bill Meehan & Laura Roebuck
Peter Mercer
Paullette J. Meyer & David Friedman
Friedman/Meyer Fund of the San Francisco Foundation
Sara Michl
Kit Miller
Orchard House Foundation
Rebecca Mills
Anna Milner
Ursula Miniszewski
Geri Mitchell-Brown
Moriah Fund
Anne Nemsitsverde-Daniels
Peggy & Robert Newell
Jill Nunokawa
In memory of Nilak Butler
Susan O’Neal
Kim Oxholm
In honor of Ann Lederer & all Women Donor Network Members who support UAF
Oak Foundation
Jessica Ozberker
Linda Peri
Christine Pielenz & Bill Laven
Carolyn Powell
Marianne Poulos
Sue & Paul Raab
Bahman & Mona Rabii
Joellen & Scott Raderstorff
Sandra Radetsky
Ann & Jerry Raisch
Kate Alyson Ramil
Jean Rennells Saul & Carla Ficke
Rissi Ana Robbins
Rose Community Foundation
The Mally Fund
Samuel Rubin Foundation
Raymond Santiago
Margaret Schink
Judith & Alan Schnurman
Kate Schregardus
Yrueta
Darell & Mary Schregardus Foundation, recommended by Kate Schregardus & Dave Schregardus
Carolyn & Steven Schuhman
Carolyln L. Schuhman Philanthropic Fund
Julie Shaw
Sue Sherman
Ruth S. Silver
Elizabeth Stands
Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Freda Gail Stern
In honor of the Blitt Family
Carrie Stiles
Julia Stone
Norma Stone
Jaymie Strecken
Beret Strong & John B. Tweedy, Jr.
Lucy Strupp
Kathleen Swayne
Lisa Tarkhan-Mourav
The Tides Foundation
Potrero Nuevo Fund
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
Kathryn Tilton
Kathleen Tkach
Linda To Kit Lai
HER Fund
Barbara & Tony Tong
Jolene & Michael Toccano
Carol Totten
Susan & David Tricket
Emily Utz
Nisha Varia
Violet Jabara
Charitable Trust
Rachel Wareham
Barbara Washburn
Jody Weiss
Triskeles Foundation, Peacekeeper Fund
Rita Weiss
Marissa Wesely
Effie Westervelt
Diane Jordan Wexler & Bruce Beron
Judith White
Jo Lynne Whiting
Jennifer Wilson
Marie Wilson & Nancy Lee
Nicky Wolman & Dave Fulker
Natalie Wolman
Eliza Woloson
Women Donors Network Honorarium
Women’s Foundation of Colorado
Galen Wood
Christine Wrenn
Mary Zinn
Interns
Maggie Flesher
Anna Milner
Volunteers & in-kind donors
Cynda Collins
Arsenault
Chela Britt
Rita & Irwin Britt
Pat Cooper
Margery Goldman
Linda Goldstein
Terry Greenblatt
Ann Lederer
Jane Lewenthal
Cindy Lindsay
Jill Neuendorf
PeaceJam Foundation
Mary Zinn
“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.”
— Alice Walker
"Those of us who stand outside the circle of this society’s definition of acceptable women… know that survival is… learning how to stand alone, unpopular and sometimes reviled, and how to make common cause with those others identified as outside the structures, in order to define and seek a world in which we can all flourish. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths. For the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change."

– Audre Lorde

Please support women human rights and peace activists around the world.
You may give online at www.urgentactionfund.org, or write a check and send it to:
Urgent Action Fund, 333 Valencia Street, Suite 250, San Francisco, CA 94103
You may contact us at urgentact@urgentactionfund.org, or (415) 824-8384.

Thank you for your support!

Cover Photo: Iraqi Kurds organize for peace. See page 4 for more info.