Dear Friends,

The women you will meet between these pages live the struggle for peace, justice, and human rights every day, oftentimes at great risk to themselves and their families. They bring awareness of human rights abuses into the mainstream. They navigate spaces of profound difference in their societies not with bullets, but with respect, dialogue, and non-violent action. They interrupt the beat of the drums of war.

What does our conflict-ridden 21st century world need more than this? And yet support and funding for women, human rights, and peacemaking is scarce and ever shrinking. Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights seeks to fill this gap, supporting activists especially in communities experiencing armed conflict, escalating violence, political volatility or extreme repression.

When we provide funds, we do it quickly, and then we get out of the way. We know these women know best how to respond to the challenges in their communities.

I am honored and humbled to support these courageous leaders, and grateful in turn for your support of Urgent Action Fund. With hearts that beat across communities and continents, together we are creating a more peaceful and just world.

Terry Greenblatt
Executive Director and CEO

Imagine you’re a women’s human rights activist, and your office has just been destroyed. Next time, they say, they’ll come for you. Or, imagine your government is about to pass a law that takes away one of your fundamental rights. Maybe you don’t have to imagine.

What do you do? To whom do you turn? Most funders take 3-12 months to respond to grant requests. You need to protect yourself now. You need to mobilize now.

After the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, Ariane Brunet, Mudge Schink and Julie Shaw realized that, when women’s human rights activists face a crisis or critical opportunity for change, they have nowhere to turn. Informed by the input of dozens of activists and donors around the world, they created a unique and strategic philanthropic model: Rapid Response Grantmaking. They founded Urgent Action Fund in 1997 and began making grants within a week. Since then, Urgent Action Fund has made over 900 grants to women all over the world.

Rapid Response Grantmaking: It’s not just about rapidity. It’s about respect. Urgent Action Fund’s grantmaking model was created to embody the feminist values of dignity, trust, and respect: Grantees may apply in any language on any day of the year, and are guaranteed a response within 72 hours. Urgent Action Fund trusts that women know best how to solve problems in their communities.

So, if you are that activist whose office has been destroyed, or that woman whose human rights are about to be stripped away, you can turn to Urgent Action Fund. That’s why we’re here.
Kyrgyzstan: Women build a culture of peace and non-violence ($5,000)

Following the deposition of the President, ethnic tensions boiled over. Hundreds of people were killed, thousands more injured, and hundreds of thousands of minority Uzbeks sent fleeing from their homes. Violence against women and girls surged. UAF funded the Forum of Women’s NGOs of Kyrgyzstan to send teams of women leaders of both ethnic groups to meet with women in conflict areas and build peace.

Afghanistan: Leading women’s rights activist continues work in spite of attacks ($5,000)

In 2010, gunmen attacked two women’s rights activists, killing one and putting the other in a coma. These women worked for the Jalal Foundation, and the attack forced its director, Dr. Massouda Jalal, to halt her travels. A pediatrician by training, Dr. Jalal emerged as a leading voice for women’s rights after the Taliban fell. She became the first woman to run for President in 2004, and served in Hamid Karzai’s cabinet. With UAF funds, the Jalal Foundation hired an unarmed bodyguard and purchased a bulletproof vest, allowing Dr. Jalal to resume her courageous human rights work.

Iraq: Women achieve a stunning political victory ($5,000)

Unable to forge a coalition government, the Head of Parliament refused to convene the government body for eight months. Government services ground to a halt and women’s safety was even further compromised. In response, civil society groups, including women’s organizations, sued the Head of Parliament. UAF provided funds to build public support for the lawsuit. The high court ruled in the activists’ favor, Parliament reached a compromise, and the government began functioning again. In this process, women claimed their voice and catalyzed change at the highest levels of the government.

India: Environmental activist wins ban on sandmining ($5,000)

After leading environmentalist Sumaira Abdulali was nearly run off a bridge and killed by sand miners, she applied for funds to launch a consciousness-raising campaign and travel to New Delhi to inform national authorities about the practice. Sand is a hot commodity in India’s construction business, but when it is removed from riverbeds, it lowers the water table, devastating livelihoods and ecosystems. Abdulali’s campaign resulted in villagers filing suit; in September 2010 the Bombay High Court banned sand mining all over the state.

When we respect and support activists’ strategies, we help effect change.

Urgent Action Fund provided 135 Rapid Response Grants to women worldwide in 2010.
ACTIVIST SPOTLIGHT

Attacks against women in Chechnya escalate as government wages “Virtue Campaign”

Excerpts from an interview with Almut Rochowanski, who co-founded the Chechnya Advocacy Network in 2004 and serves as its program and advocacy coordinator.

In Chechnya, women at no point in their lives are considered full, independent adults. They are always under control by male relatives – fathers, brothers, husbands. They cannot decide where to live, whom to marry, whether to get an education, whether to work.

In Chechnya, you can’t criticize the government, can’t criticize human rights abuses. This is a place where you still have torture, disappearances, extra-judicial executions, where you have collective punishment of the relatives of real and alleged militants.

In 2010, the Chechen government expanded its “virtue campaign” to force women to dress “modestly.” Men in security force vehicles assaulted women who weren’t “covered enough” – who didn’t wear headscarves, long dresses, long sleeves – with paintball guns. Men from the government-operated spiritual board harassed them in the streets. Now, threats are a regular feature for women working to improve the lives of women.

Urgent Action Fund is my number one go-to partner when a woman desperately writes to me over skype or email and tells me what is happening. I ask, “How do you want to protect yourself?” – and whatever she says, I contact UAF right away. UAF says they can get us a decision within 48 hours but usually I have one within five minutes.

UAF has saved the lives of several of our partners.

The Grantmaking Team trusts that the work these women are doing is relevant, important, real. No need to persuade or convince anyone. It’s different from what I encounter elsewhere with other funders.

There’s also a willingness to understand the complexity of threats. For example, if they’re angry at an activist and can’t get to her, they’ll come after her children, or her sister. So, often you need to protect the family members as well. A lot of donors want to draw the line there. UAF doesn’t draw the line. They see that this is real, it’s serious, this is directly connected to the activist’s ability to survive and continue to do her work.

Women fighting for women’s rights challenge the underpinnings of patriarchal society – and that elicits a violent reaction. If you want social change, you have to have security. UAF understands this, that investing in activists’ security is not only a moral imperative – it is critical to social change. I hope more donors come to understand this, too.

And it’s also a good investment! These women have built networks and knowledge; they’ve raised money to continue the work. If their work falls apart because of a security threat, you lose all that. But if you make a small investment in security, you keep all of these assets, all the potential, all the momentum.

These are all wonderful people, and the way they live under constant threat of violence is heart-rending. I can’t tell you the actual stories because if any of these stories show up online, it can become very dangerous for the women. But I can tell you they do amazing work, they are amazing changemakers, they are driven by this internal passion to go on and on in the most unsustainable conditions. Recently, a new international partner met with a group of these women and afterwards she said, “They’re all queens! They’re that impressive, that smart, that full of leadership and passion and strength. They’re queens.”
When natural disasters hit societies organized around patriarchy, racism, and classism (just about everywhere), the least powerful are placed even more at risk, and relief efforts unconsciously reinforce those oppressions. Rapes increase. Women and children are kidnapped and trafficked. Women often cannot access aid, and aid packages do not include gender-specific supplies. We saw it in New Orleans and, in 2010, we saw it in Haiti and Pakistan.

While Urgent Action Fund does not generally provide direct disaster relief, our Rapid Response Grantmaking structure positions us well to support women activists who are organizing to reduce violence against women, ensure aid reaches women and children, and advocate for women’s needs.

Haiti

In January an earthquake devastated Haiti, killing over 200,000 people and forcing a million and a half more into camps of tents and tarps. Women and children in the camps became targets of violence, trafficking and prostitution rings. UAF supported multiple women’s initiatives, including the establishment of a safe house for women within the camps, and radio/TV awareness-raising campaigns in the camps denouncing violence against women, which resulted in increased police presence and the arrest of perpetrators.

Pakistan

When the floods hit in July, millions of people instantly became homeless; millions more needed urgent emergency care. One Urgent Action Fund grantee trained over 200 community organizations to ensure the needs of women and children were met and advocated to national and international NGOs throughout the rehabilitation process. Another ensured women received aid. Another taught women how to protect themselves from sexual violence.
Building Cultures of Peace

How can women stop a war before it starts? How can we transform violence? How can we build sustainable peace?

“Women, Peace and Policy is Urgent Action Fund’s extraordinary legacy to women peacebuilders around the world.”

- The Honourable Mobina S.B. Jaffer, Q.C., Senator (British Columbia, Canada)

After 13 years of supporting women activists in some of the most volatile regions of the world, we know that women have developed effective, non-violent ways of transforming conflict. Yet people in power rarely recognize these women as actors capable of helping to prevent war, transform conflict and build sustainable peace.

We have also seen that many women politicians have a vision for peace, yet face tremendous obstacles in effecting the change they yearn to see.

Imagine the possibilities for peace if these women had the time and space to work together.

Urgent Action Fund launched the Women, Peace and Policy initiative with a meeting of twenty women peacebuilders in Amman in March, 2010. We focused on two countries that were on the brink of an escalation of violence, and that also have a rich history of women’s civil society activism: Pakistan and Kenya. The group included leading activists from Kenya and Pakistan, the former Vice President of the European Union Parliament, and several peacebuilders of international stature.

At this ground-breaking meeting, the women reached across divisions of race, ethnicity, tribe, religion, class and country to form strong relationships and alliances. They analyzed the crises in Kenya and Pakistan, shared lessons learned, and created a shared vision for the future.

Upon returning home, the Pakistani women launched Women Action for Peace (WAP), the first-ever coalition of women’s organizations dedicated to peacebuilding in Pakistan. In July, WAP coordinated demonstrations and teach-ins in ten cities across Pakistan, demanding that the government include more women in processes of peacebuilding and policy-making.

“The rallies attracted the attention of people... [because it is] a very new approach to include women in all peace, rehabilitation and reconstruction processes.”

- Women Action for Peace

Research, Publications, Advocacy, & Alliance-Building

In addition to the Women, Peace and Policy initiative, Urgent Action Fund produces security trainings and Sustaining Activism retreats for women’s rights activists, publishes original works designed to raise awareness of critically important issues facing activists, and advocates for grassroots activists in mainstream philanthropic spaces. All of these projects reside in two inter-related programs, Research & Publications, and Advocacy & Alliance-Building.
Yes, Urgent Action Fund makes grants in the U.S. We have a lot to do right here in the United States to build cultures of justice, equality and peace.

**Extreme anti-immigrant policies**

In April 2010, Arizona’s now-infamous immigration bill SB 1070 was signed into law. It requires police officers to interrogate and detain anyone they think might be an undocumented immigrant, and criminalizes legal immigrants for not carrying their papers. Harsh immigration laws have a particularly horrific effect on women and children, since they are separated from their families and can face physical abuse by law enforcement officers.

Urgent Action Fund provided funds to an indigenous people’s organization, Tonatierra, to organize a major protest and raise awareness on the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People.

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**Objectification of women**

Women face not only gender-based violence and discrimination; women also experience a constant barrage of objectifying and exploitative messages from the mass media and the fashion, cosmetics and diet industries. These messages have a deep impact on the psyches of all genders: they contribute to eating disorders, self-hatred, and violence against women. This is a human rights issue. But it had never been recognized as such in the halls of power.

In August, the U.N. Human Rights Council unexpectedly announced it would convene a panel on body image in September. The U.S.-based National Organization for Women (NOW) had been working on these issues for some time with a campaign called “Love Your Body.” Urgent Action Fund supported NOW to purchase a last-minute ticket to Geneva and present to the Council. Getting this issue onto the agenda of the U.N. Human Rights Council gives it enormous visibility and legitimacy as a human rights issue that affects hundreds of millions of people. Information about the panel will be disseminated around the world.

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Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.

(America never was America to me…)

I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,
I am the Negro bearing slavery’s scars.
I am the red man driven from the land,
I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek-
And finding only the same old stupid plan
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak…

O, let America be America again--
The land that never has been yet--
And yet must be--the land where everyone is free…

O, yes,
I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath--
America will be!

-Langston Hughes
(excerpts from Let America Be America Again)
We’re working for the same thing – so let’s work together!

During this global economic crisis, we have a choice. We can work from a model of scarcity, fear, and competition. Or we can see the crisis as an opportunity to try new tactics, work together in new ways, and expand our donor community.

In April 2010, Urgent Action Fund partnered with a Host Committee of five of our Colorado donors and our colleague, the Global Fund for Women, to put on a fundraising house party. Together we raised over $40,000 and expanded the donor base of both organizations. Thank you to the wonderful people who made this possible!

Sisterhood across continents: African, Latin American, and North American Urgent Action Funds come together for first time

In 2010, the three autonomous Urgent Action Funds, based in Kenya, Colombia, and the U.S., convened a joint 3-Sisters board meeting. Women from all over the world converged on Boulder to learn from each other and strengthen our sisterhood. We discussed the values and vision we share, new developments that are surfacing in women’s human rights activism, and our complementary regional strategies for addressing these needs.

Our global advisory network ensures our decision-making is informed from within the communities we support

Our regional advisors provide input on every grant request; two positive endorsements are required for grant approval. Advisors also spread the word about Urgent Action Fund, refer prospective new grantees, and provide guidance on the changing socio-economic and political contexts of their regions and the impact on women’s rights work.

Our Board of Directors

Urgent Action Fund is governed by an international activist Board of Directors. The board provides leadership on strategic initiatives, grantmaking priorities, organizational development, and reviews every grant made and declined. The board meets twice a year in various locations around the world.

2010 Board of Directors

- Sunila Abeysekara, Chair (Sri Lanka)
- Anissa Hélie, Vice Chair (Algeria/France/USA)
- Jelena Đorđević, Secretary (Serbia)
- Marta Drury, Treasurer (USA) (not pictured)
- Amalia Fischer (Brazil)
- Rachel Wareham (United Kingdom/Afghanistan)
- Terry Greenblatt (USA)

2010 Staff

- Terry Greenblatt, Executive Director & CEO
- Trena Moya, Director of Finance and Operations
- Saira Hamidi, Grantmaking Team
- Keely Tongate, Grantmaking Team
- Sierra Shaffer, Grantmaking Team
- Clare Murray, Office Coordinator
- Erika Carlson, Philanthropic Partnerships
- Kris Abrams, Communications & Individual Giving
- Marcy Wells, Research & Publications
- Advocacy & Alliance-Building
WE INVEST YOUR MONEY STRATEGICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY

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 2010 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, 2010

Support and Revenues
Contributions $1,506,002
Investment Income 97
Miscellaneous Income 244
Total Support and Revenues $1,506,343

Expenses
Program Services
Rapid-Response Grantmaking $819,534
Research & Publications Program 213,304
Advocacy & Alliance Building Program 225,487
Total Program Services 1,258,325
Management and Administration 146,253
Fundraising 157,533
Total Expenses $1,562,111
Change in Net Assets (55,768)*
Net Assets, beginning of year 1,295,072
Net Assets, end of year $1,239,304

*The negative change in net assets was provided for by UAF’s beginning cash balance of over $800,000. As a policy, UAF does not deficit spend.

2010 Income Sources
Non-U.S. Governmental Agencies 29%
Non-U.S. based Foundations 14%
U.S. based Foundations 37%
Individuals, Donor-advised & Family Foundations 20%

2010 Expenses
Grantmaking Program 52%
Research & Publications Program 14%
Advocacy & Alliance Building Program 14%
Management & Admin 9%
Fundraising 10%

DONORS
Anonymous (11)
Sunila Abeyesekera
Dick and Jan Abrams
Kerry Abrams
Kris Abrams
Jason Ahearn
AJG Foundation
Julia Alvarez
American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International
Judith Amorsa
Arcus Foundation
Cynda Collins Arsenault
Angelika Arutyunova
Kathleen Barry & Bob Burnett
Debi Baydush
Mekayla Beaver
Joanne Berghold
Bhakti Chai and Brook Eddy
Nancy Billica
Elizabeth and Rodney Black
Chela Blitt
Rita and Irwin Blitt
Diane Brumfitt
Kathleen Burgin
Sandra Butler
Laura Butzel
Amy Laura Cahn
Michael and Katherine Campbell
Erika and Jeremy Carlson
Channel Foundation
Janet Cole
The Colina Foundation
David Colson
Elizabeth Colton
Community First Foundation:
Community Foundation Serving Boulder County
Carolyn L. Schuhman
Philanthropic Fund
Jared Polis
Foundation Gift Fund
Sadie Gift Fund
Serendipity Charitable Gift Fund
Sunshine Fund
Susan Livingstone Tocher Fund
The Anchor Point Gift Fund
Friedman/Meyer Foundation Gift Fund
Chenoa Donov
Mary and James Downton
Marta Drury
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MDG3 Fund
Diane Dvornik
Harriet Edelstein
Jill and Alex Elkin in honor of Erika Carlson
Jill Ertel
Cindy Ewing and Luchie Tizcon
Matt Ferraro
Amalia Fischer
Elle Flanders and Tamira Sawatzky in honor of Mrs. Kappy Flanders
The Fledgling Fund
Dan Fosco
Veronique and Tom Foster
Foundation to Promote Open Society
Suzy Foy and Katie Krause
Marcia Freedman
Ana Freiberg
The Friedman/Meyer Fund of the San Francisco Foundation
Fund for Nonviolence
Garfield Foundation
Judith Ansara Gass
General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church
Carol Gerlitz in memory of Eliza Gerlitz
Margery Goldman
Veronica Good
Google Matching Gifts Program
Janet Graaf
Green Fund
Terry Greenblatt
Katherine Grover and Janet Graaf
The Henry M. and Tamar K. Edelstein Foundation
Nancy Jo and David H. M. Lang Foundation
Katherine Grover and Terry Greenblatt
Katherine Grover and Michael Campbell
Tammy Sawatzky in honor of Mrs. Kappy Flanders
Donna Hall
Alexis Halstead

OUR PARTNERS IN CHANGE
OUR PARTNERS IN CHANGE
CONTINUED
We believe one of the most critical and effective ways to support long-lasting, systems-level change is to support women’s leadership at the grassroots. The reality is, these women need money to do their work. It takes money to print flyers, run campaigns, stay safe in volatile regions, and devote entire lives to peace and justice.

Yet the dominant U.S. culture engenders fear, anxiety, and conflict around money. We are bombarded with messages that encourage us to get as much as we can for as little as possible, to use money to maximize our comfort and accumulate things. What and who benefit from this ideology? Certainly not women.

And so, Urgent Action Fund chooses to take the radical step of challenging the dominant ideology and moving money into women activists’ hands. It is a way to express our deepest values. It is a vehicle for justice.

We invite you to invest with strategy and soul. With a single donation, you can invest in women who face the world’s most challenging problems and achieve lasting change, from halting environmental destruction, to achieving equal rights, to creating sustainable peace. Please give. The women of the world need you.

Like breathing, if we only accumulate, if we keep all the resources in the global North, if we don’t exhale, we cannot live in harmony and freedom with our sisters around the world.
Gandhian Unit for Integrated Development Education (India)

Istanbul LGBTI – Sivil Toplum Girişimi (Turkey)

Istanbul LGBTI – Sivil Toplum Girişimi (Turkey)
Cover Photo: A member of the “Morong 43” after her appearance in court. In February 2010, 43 health workers participating in a first aid training were illegally arrested by the military in the Philippines, which insisted they were armed rebels. They were blindfolded, interrogated, tortured and held incommunicado for many months. Urgent Action Fund supported a Filipino human rights organization to launch a campaign involving legal, diplomatic, media and international organizing strategies demanding their release. In December, the President ordered the charges to be dropped and most of the workers were freed.