NOTE FROM KATE

At the end of each year, I make it a practice to look back on Urgent Action Fund’s work and take stock of what happened in the world and how feminist activists have stepped up to respond in the face of crisis or opportunity.

Looking at the overall numbers, the geographies, and the issues provides a snapshot of the world’s hotspots and the conditions under which activists carried out their work.

As I read through the grants we made this year, it struck me just how many were for security and evacuation of activists. This was always a part of UAF’s work but it is quickly growing. In the past, just about half of our grants were for these kind of requests, but now they make up almost three-quarters of our rapid response grants. This trend speaks to the conditions in which activists now find themselves as they challenge repressive governments and take on ultra-conservative forces that have pitted themselves against these activists’ very survival.

Each grant made a difference. Sometimes a single life was saved, sometimes it changed the policies and conditions affecting thousands of women and LGBTQI people.

Thank you for being part of this work. Your support is essential to the activists we support and because of you, the work continues.

Thank you for all you do.

— Kate Kroeger, UAF Executive Director

MISSION

Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights is a feminist fund that protects, strengthens and sustains women, trans, and gender nonconforming human rights defenders at critical moments. We are led by activists, inspired by feminism, and strengthened through solidarity.

HOW WE MOBILIZE

We intervene quickly when activists are poised to make great gains or face serious threats to their lives and work. At UAF, we provide rapid response grants that enable strategic interventions, and participate in collaborative advocacy and research.

MOBILIZE WITH US AT

facebook.com/urgentact
instagram.com/urgentactionfund
twitter.com/urgentactionfund
BY THE NUMBERS
In 2019 Urgent Action Fund made 166 grants totaling to $743,161, supporting more activists than at almost any other time in UAF’s history.

46 OPPORTUNITY GRANTS
$223,775

28%

120 SECURITY GRANTS
$519,386

72%
IMMIGRATION RIGHTS

Around the world, harsh immigration laws endanger activists and divide families and communities. Children are separated from their families, and women, trans and gender non-conforming people face heightened risk of physical abuse by law enforcement officers. These laws also have a silencing effect, as people grow more and more afraid to speak out.

In 2019 UAF provided grants to feminist activists in the United States who were:

- Monitoring and pushing back against regressive and harmful legislation that separates families
- Advocating to abolish ICE and close detention centers
- Addressing the safety and security needs of immigrants who are targeted and harassed
In the United States, policies like the Migrant Protection Protocols or “Remain in Mexico” policy require vulnerable migrants seeking asylum to return to Mexico as they await their day in U.S. immigration court. Women, children, and families are forced to wait in dangerous and often unsafe living conditions.

*Sueños Sin Fronteras de Tejas* advocates for vulnerable women, children, trans and gender non-conforming immigrants crossing the Texas-Mexico border by educating legislators, providing health and healing support to immigrant and undocumented women, trans, gender non-conforming people and their families by partnering with local movements to build solidarity.
DIGITAL SECURITY

Women, trans and gender non-conforming human rights defenders have taken the frontlines online. These activists are organizing and advocating in the digital age and face new and persistent threats: hackers, doxxing, online intimidation, and violent threats.
In 2019, UAF deployed funds so our grantees can be better prepared to handle complex digital security threats. Our grantees:

- Hosted digital security workshops, where experts and activists shared best practices for developing both short and long term security policies.
- Set up digital security services, infrastructure, and training for activists.
- Relocated activists or offices because of increased harassment and threats from authoritarian and fundamentalist right-wing organizations.

Grantee partner, Lallabs is determined to give Muslim women in France a voice. Lallabs is a Muslim feminist organization highlighting the interplay of racism, sexism, and Islamophobia in Muslim women's daily lives in France.

In response to cyberstalking, hate messages, and threats, Lallabs held media trainings with their members and staff. These training sessions helped their members to strategically voice and uplift their experiences on the treatment of Muslim women despite the online threats they were facing.
Our Sister Fund model relies on a constructive balance of autonomy and collaboration – while each fund exists independently with its own registration, board, staff, and budget, we share a history and set of values, as well as a commitment to sustaining activism and rapid response grantmaking.
Together in 2019, the Urgent Action Funds:

• Collectively provided over 550 rapid response grants to feminist activists.

• Actively engaged with our network of almost 500 advisors around the globe.

• Uplifted the power of local leadership to collectively support women, trans and gender non-conforming activism in 110 countries.

The UAF Sister Funds also focused on elevating the voices and participation of women, trans and gender non-conforming human rights defenders in advocacy spaces like the United Nations and the European Union.

During the Commission on the Status of Women, the UAFs provided an opportunity for feminist activists to engage with the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice. These activists made concrete recommendations to Member States and UN entities to ensure an enabling environment for activists, including stronger protections for women, trans and gender non-conforming human rights defenders.

In March 2019, the UAF Sister Funds convened 40 participants made up of global feminist activists, healers, academics, cultural workers, and staff and board members of the UAF Sister Funds. The convening offered a space for reflection and learning centered on healing justice as a political and spiritual framework rooted in ancestral traditions and cultural practices.
UAF’S FINANCIAL GROWTH

2018 2019

$4,772,214 $6,991,180

$823,395

$1,550,012

$3,948,819

$5,441,168

$2,218,966 → 46%

$726,617 → 88%

$1,492,349 → 38%
WITH US IN THE FIGHT

STAFF
Kate Kroeger, Executive Director
Shalini Eddens, Senior Director of Programs
Kathleen Klock, Director of Partnership
Laura Smith, Director of Finance and Operations
Nathalie Margi, Senior Advocacy Officer
Huong Nguyen, Senior Learning & Impact Officer
Raisa Borshchigova, Program Officer
Belguun Bat-Erdene, Grantmaking Coordinator
Olivia Trabysh, Development & Communication Officer
Keishla Gonzalez-Quiles, Development & Communication Coordinator
Melissa Dominguez, Philanthropic Engagement Officer
Alex Holy, Senior Financial Officer
Mahalet Solomon, Operations Associate

BOARD
Patricia Viseur Sellers, Chair (United States and Belgium)
Maryam Al-Khawaja, Vice Chair (Bahrain)
Paulette Meyer, Treasurer (United States)
Charlotte Bunch, Secretary (United States)
Ruth Baldacchino (Malta)
Dorianna Blitt (United States)
Paola Salwan Daheer (Lebanon)
Roshmi Goswami (India)
Val Napoleon (Canada)
Wanda Nowicka (Poland)
Mariam Gagoshashvili (Georgia)

INTERNS
Sahana Prakash Mehta
Marissa Wu
Jenail Mobarak
Eden Wondmeneh
PARTNERS IN CHANGE

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Arcus Foundation
Belote-Morgan Family Foundation
Bobbi Brown Cosmetics
Bright Funds Foundation
Channel Foundation
CLIMA Fund
Count Me In! (A Project of the Dutch Foreign Affairs)
Equality Fund
Ford Foundation
Foundation for a Just Society
Green Fund
Gudas Trust
Horizon Foundation - girls just wanna have funD
Lederer Foundation
Levi Strauss Foundation
Melody & Chris Malachowsky Family Fund
Mize Family Foundation
Moriah Fund
Nathan Cummings Foundation
Novo Foundation
Oak Foundation
Orchard House Foundation
Owen Family Giving Fund
ProtectDefenders.EU
Robert and Helen Hardman Family Fund
Robert Bosch Stiftung
SIDA: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Tides Foundation
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
Timken- Sturgis Foundation
Twanda Foundation
Underdog Fund of the Common Counsel Foundation
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
William M. & Miriam F. Meehan Foundation

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Anonymous
Cheryl Ackerson
Judith Albrecht
Elana Anastasio
Christine Andre
Ahlem Arfaoui
Beth August
Amy Batchelor & Brad Feld
Carolyn E. Beecher
Louise Bell
Joanne Berghold
Jill H. Berliner
Nancy Bernstein and Robert Schoen
Nancy Billica & Brian Vickers
Merrill Black
Wesley Blickenstaff
Cassandra Blume
Anne Bowhay
Alexandra Brodsky
David Brown
Gregory Brown & Mekayla Beaver
Sara Bucht
Barbara Buklad
Charlotte Bunch and Roxanna Carillo
Jane Burke
Patrick Callahan
Paul Cannon
Jenna Capeci
Mark Carlton
James Castro
David Cheng
Joanie Ciardelli
Chris Mehling
Paulette Meyer and David Friedman
Rebecca Mills
Zehra Mirza
Letitia & Milan Momirov
Marea Murray
Kellie-Ann Myrtle
RC Nemer
Margaret Newell
Martha Newell and Mike Kadas
Huong Nguyen
Elaine Nonneman
Marguerite O’Brien
Margo Okazawa Rey
Kimberly C. Oxholm
Alice Pang
Catherine and Bill Parrish
Linda Peri
Melissa Pierce
Mara Pottersmith
Nina L. Pratt
Mona and Bahman Rabii
Lindsay Ralphs
Melissa Ramirez
Jean Rannells Saul & Carla Ficke
Margaret Ringler
Elizabeth and Jack Rix
Ted Robbins
Lucie Roberts
Laura Roebuck and Bill Meehan
Kathy Rokni
Susan Rosenberg and Dawn Reel
Amy Russo
Shira Saperstein
Bob Sauerbrey
Jane Scarborough and Louise Wylan
Peter Schattner and Dr. Susan Lessin
Rose Scilla
Patricia Sellers
Sumita Sen
Samira Shaikhly
Caryn Sherne
Catherine and Rony Shimony
Amiraj Singh Dhawan
Laura Smith
Melinda Smith
Naomi Sobel and Rabbi Becky Silverstein
Chivy Sok
Elizabeth Stands
Caitlin Stanton and Randy Trigg
Timothy Stanton
Paul Staten
Mary Ann Stein
Julia Stone
Teresa Stroud
Mrs. Sturges
Anna Suiter
Alisa Surkis
Joel Swetow
Beth Tamminen
Barbara and Larry Tongate
Shelley and David Trabysh
Pannie Trifillis
Celia Turner
Keisha Walker
Alexander Wan
Judyth Weaver
Kirsten Westby & Phill Bartell
Jo Lynne Whiting
Teresa Williams
Janice Wyrick
Carlyn Zuckert
SUSTAIN COURAGE
ELEVATE FEMINISM

Support women and LGBTQI human rights globally
Make a donation online at www.urgentactionfund.org

Send a check to:
Urgent Action Fund
660 13th Street, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94612
415-523-0360