

A LETTER FROM KATE

Dear friends,

I write today to reflect on 2021, including the challenges that have come our way, as well as the successes and achievements that the support of our donors, staff, board members, advisors, grantees, and partners have helped make possible.

2021 was a difficult year, marred by the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a time in which both the challenges, as well as the moments of joy, became more pronounced.

The challenges, as always, are easy to enumerate: threats to democracy, from the attack on the Capitol in the US, to the persecution of pro-democracy activists in Belarus, rollbacks to abortion and LGBT rights in Poland, the US, and Central Asia, government corruption in Lebanon that has cost its citizens profoundly, and the list goes on.

Feminist activists led the movements responding to these challenges and UAF's rapid response grants supported them to mobilize their communities, hold their governments accountable, and stay safe while doing their work.

In fact, in 2021, UAF provided 328 rapid response grants to women and trans activists, totaling \$2.4M.

This funding supported fierce activism at critical moments, small steps towards justice worldwide. As feminist activists push for justice, their victories are more worthy than ever of celebration. And here we are celebrating - the successes, the obstacles overcome, the chances for survival, and the moments of joy and peace made possible through the movements we build together.

In 2021 and onward, even in moments of intense struggle and reckoning, we here at UAF choose optimism and joy, all made possible by those who have contributed to the fight for liberation and supported UAF. It's thanks to you that we're able to continue the work, from 2021 into the future.

In solidarity,

Kate Kroeger | UAF Executive Director

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2021 BY THE NUMBERS

FEMINIST INNOVATION FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CLIMATE JUSTICE GRANTS
\$448K

4 CONVENING GRANTS \$60K

••••

174
SECURITY GRANTS
\$921K

\$2.4
MILLION
TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED

328 GRANTS AWARDED

95 OPPORTUNITY GRANTS \$584K

> 28 BEIJING +25/26 \$244K

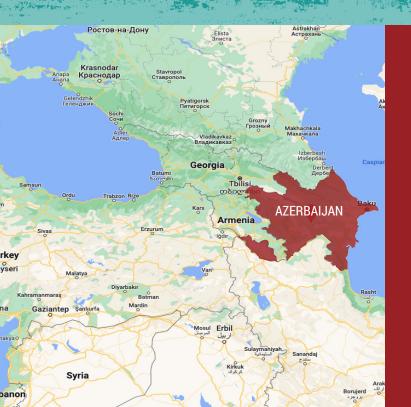
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2021 GRANTMAKING HIGHLIGHTS



UAF anticipates, responds to, and stays the course when it comes to crises. Our deep, trust-based relationships with our grantee partners and advisors and our rapid, flexible grants enable us to monitor situations in real time, prepare for crises even before they develop, and address activist movements' needs swiftly and effectively. In 2021, we supported activists facing crises across the world and also continued to respond to our partners' needs as they experienced the enduring effects of COVID-19 on their lives and work.

COVID-19 RESPONSE



As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact millions worldwide in 2021, UAF maintained our support of feminist activists working in response to the consequences of the pandemic or working to sustain their activism despite the negative effects of the pandemic. Funds helped activists strengthen collective care and holistic security, provide psychosocial support, campaign and organize, and hold convenings and trainings.

COVID Relief in Azerbai ian for Trans Communities

A grantee organization supporting trans communities in Azerbaijan, that works to advance trans rights and combats the ongoing discrimination against trans people, used support from UAF to provide direct relief to trans people who did not receive government aid during the COVID-19 pandemic - covering medical costs and livelihood needs. Communities already marginalized and threatened for their identities face even greater threats of oppression.

THE FEMINIST INNOVATION FUND: Environmental and Climate Justice Work Through a Feminist Lens

In 2021, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights piloted a new funding initiative, the Feminist Innovation Fund. This past year, the Fund's main focus was to resource feminist movements across regions to pilot intersectional projects highlighting gender and climate justice, support the growth of feminist movements and bring marginalized voices (including women, LGBTQI communities, people with disabilities) into the climate conversation.

STATISTICS:

- 100 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
- 24 GRANTS AWARDED
- **\$448,000**
- 17 COUNTRIES

Reimagining the Medical Industrial Complex on Behalf of Climate

Grantee partner Health Justice Commons used a grant from UAF to run a political education series exposing the connection between the medical industrial complex and corporate polluters.

The current medical industrial complex profits from widespread disease, environmental destruction, and racism, as many areas seriously affected by pollution directly impact communities of color.



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE WORK IN POLAND & TEXAS

In 2021, threats to reproductive justice and access to abortions were felt across the globe, and UAF funded notable responses to protect those rights in both Poland and Texas.

POLAND: In January 2021, abortion under nearly all circumstances was banned in Poland. In response, activists took to the streets, leading strikes and protests to challenge the extreme barrier to reproductive justice and the tragic consequences the ban had on the lives of many across the country. UAF supported the strikes, and also funded a grant to help feminist abortion rights



activists get access to psycho-social support to prevent burnout and heal from violent police assaults during the protests.

TEXAS: On September 1, 2021, Senate Bill 8 (SB8) went into effect in Texas, making it illegal to have an abortion after six weeks. This law does not allow exemptions in circumstances involving rape, sexual abuse, incest, or a high-risk birth defect. It further criminalizes anyone who performs, assists,



aids, or abets in abortion and abortion care and support. SB8 also allows private citizens to report and get a reward for turning in those who do seek an abortion. Through our rapid response grants, UAF supported organizations to conduct advocacy, public campaigns, increase youth engagement, shift narratives, coordinate efforts across states to ensure access to safe abortions, challenge the constitutionality of SB8, and educate the public about the negative effects of this law.

BEIJING +25/GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM.



Beijing +25 commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and served as a rallying point to demand and uphold human rights for all women and girls. The Generation Equality Forum (GEF), which consisted of two forums, one held in Mexico City in March 2021 and one in Paris in June 2021, was organized on the occasion of Beijing +25, and convened civil society, governments, multilateral institutions, and the private sector, to make and implement bold commitments over the coming five years to accelerate progress towards gender equality.

In 2021, UAF made grants to 23 groups with complementary geographic and thematic areas of focus and strategies to engage with Beijing +25 processes. The activist movements UAF supports face disproportionate barriers to inclusion in global advocacy spaces, and the aim was to provide the opportunity to directly engage in these spaces, and elevate their voices.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Goldman Environmental Prize Awarded to UAF Grantee

Sharon Lavigne was one of the 2021 recipients of the Goldman Environmental Prize for her work leading a grassroots mobilization to prevent the construction of a US \$1.25 billion plastics manufacturing plant alongside the Mississippi River in St. James Parish, Louisiana. Sharon's organization, RISE St. James, received multiple grants from UAF, the first to fund and support the groups' activism and opposition of the plastics plant, and the



second to improve the security of members of the organization who were under threat because of their work. Thanks to Sharon and her activism, a region already contending with toxic air pollution was saved from a plant that would have generated one million pounds of liquid hazardous waste annually.

Recognition for Children of Same-Sex Marriages in Bulgaria

Bulgaria did not recognize same-sex marriages, and as a result, had previously refused to grant birth certificates and identity papers to children born to parents of the same sex. Thanks to the advocacy of UAF grantee Deystvie, this is no longer the case. Using funding from UAF, Deystvie raised awareness of the issue using video and media coverage to reach thousands of people across Bulgaria and Europe, and also participated in a hearing before the Court of Justice of the European Union.



AS THE RESULT OF THEIR
EFFORTS, THE COURT OF JUSTICE
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION RULED
THAT BULGARIA NOW MUST
ISSUE IDENTITY PAPERS TO THE
CHILDREN OF SAME-SEX COUPLES
- A HUGE VICTORY!

THE UAF SISTER FUNDS



Sustaining Feminist Activism Worldwide

Care at the Center

The Urgent Action Funds represent the only global consortium of independent women's funds with a mission to sustain feminist activism worldwide by providing rapid response funding to women and LBTQI+ human rights defenders. Along with UAF, the Sister Funds include UAF Africa, UAF Asia & Pacific, and UAF Latin America & the Caribbean.

In 2021, the Sister Funds launched the Care at the Center initiative. The Care at the Center work seeks to build regional collective care infrastructure that is informed by and benefits from deeply-rooted local expertise, together with global initiatives that weave together learning and emergent practices to benefit even wider communities of defenders, movements and philanthropy. The Urgent Action Funds seek to provide women and LBTQI+ human rights defenders with sustained access to holistic movement infrastructure for collective care, deepening their resilience, wellbeing and safety, and supporting them to sustain their lives and long-term social change work.

CONSORTIUMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Count Me In! Consortium: Fighting for a Gender Just World

Through our partnership in The Count Me In! Consortium, a group of member organizations aiming to support movements fighting for a gender equal and gender just world, UAF provided \$355,715 in grants to feminist activists and groups working on gender-based violence and/or economic justice in 2021. Additionally, UAF continued to support connectivity and alliance-building across movements for Black liberation by resourcing a virtual meeting of 18 Black feminists based in France, Lebanon, Spain and the US. The meeting had as its theme, "Labor and Blackness," and was an opportunity for activists to dialogue, strengthen relationships, exchange lived experiences and build shared analysis and solidarity.

ProtectDefenders.eu: Addressing Threats and Risks for Human Rights Defenders

2021 came with crackdowns on civil society movements worldwide, and increased risks and threats to human rights defenders. Through our partnership with ProtectDefenders.eu, UAF awarded 39 grants and \$190,974 to feminist activists at risk. A portion of the grants supported human rights activists in Belarus where human rights organizations and defenders were prohibited from doing their work within the country and the rights of many were violated as the Belarusean regime cracked down on civil society. This funding supported human rights organizations now forced to work in exile, and helped ensure physical safety for activists.

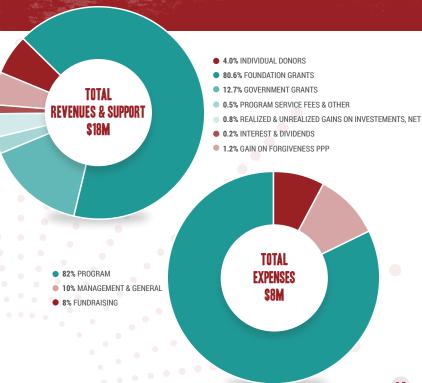


The CLIMA Fund: Support for Grassroots Climate Justice Solutions

Through our partnership in The CLIMA Fund, a collaboration between Urgent Action Fund, Thousand Currents, Global Greengrants Fund, and Grassroots International, UAF mobilized over \$600,000 to feminist grassroots groups working on the intersections of gender and climate justice in 2021. These grants supported Indigenous women to resist extractive industries, activists adopting a multipronged approach of divestment campaigns, frontline actions of land and water protections, and healing and care work of defenders and caretakers. The funds also helped frontline defenders working on intersecting issues of disaster relief, public health crises, sexual health and reproductive rights, migrant rights, and other human rights issues exacerbated by the climate crisis.

FINANCIALS

REVENUES & SUPPORT	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	20,335,316	740,034
FOUNDATION GRANTS	5,960,530	14,642,088
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	2,182,044	2,304,903
PROGRAM SERVICE FEES & OTHER	14,747	97,708
REALIZED & UNREALIZED GAINS INVESTEMENTS, NET	21,265	145,916
INTEREST & DIVIDENS	5,440	40,333
GAIN ON FORGIVENESS PPP		222,300
GAIN (LOSS) ON FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION		(16,134)
LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	-	(4,300)
TOTAL REVENUES & SUPPORT	28,519,342	18,172,848
EXPENSES		
PROGRAM	21,668,279	6,976,169
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	531,738	804,297
FUNDRAISING	585,944	684,899
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,785,961	8,465,365
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF OPERATING REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	5,733,381	9,707,483
NET ASSETS	•	•
BEGINNING	5,441,168	13,844,754
PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT	2,670,000	• -
END PROGRAM	13,844,549	23,552,237



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