



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

URGENT ACTION FUND
FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



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.

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

MOBILIZE WITH US AT



URGENTACT



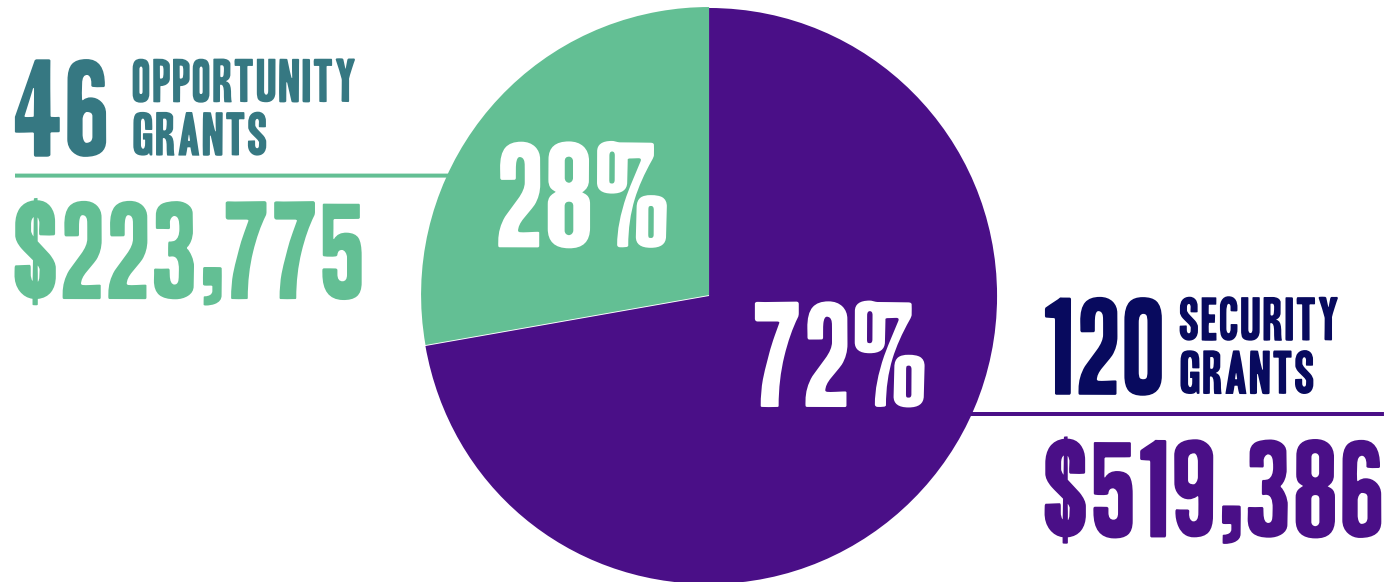
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URGENTACTIONFUND

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.



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

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 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.



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.

DIGITAL SECURITY



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 LGBTQI 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.



**URGENT ACTION FUND
FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN
RIGHTS IS PROUD
TO BE A MEMBER
OF A CONSORTIUM
OF GLOBAL SISTER
FUNDS. TOGETHER
WITH UAF AFRICA,
UAF LATIN AMERICA &
THE CARIBBEAN, AND
UAF ASIA & PACIFIC,
WE ARE COLLECTIVELY
KNOWN AS THE
URGENT ACTION
FUNDS.**

SISTER FUNDS

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.



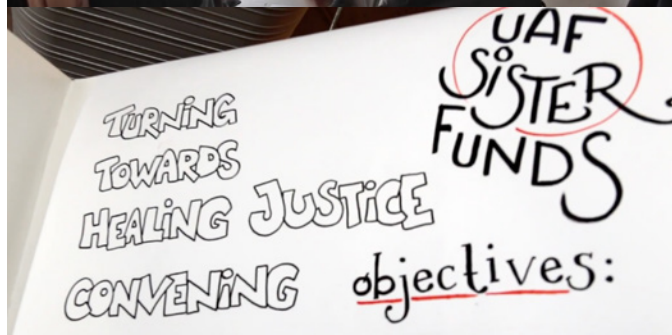
Together in 2019, the Urgent Action Funds:

- 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.

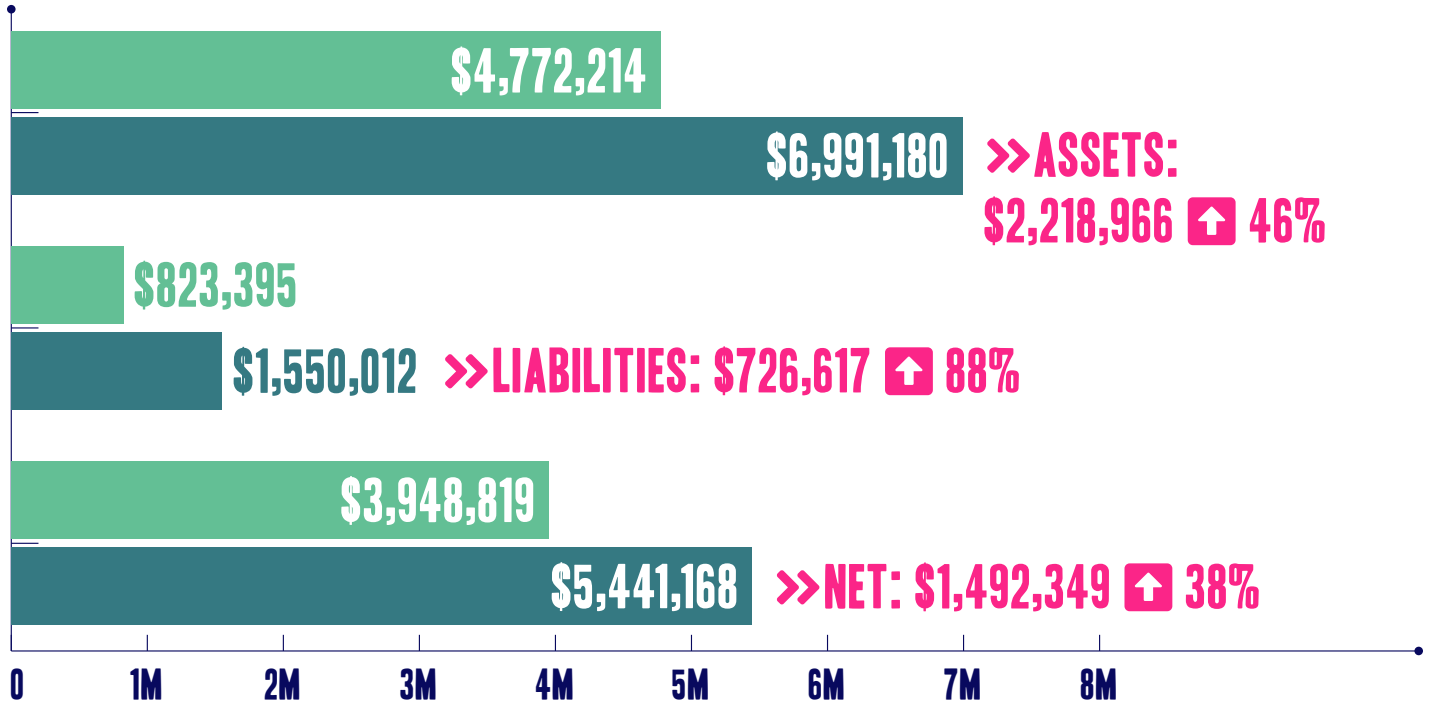
During the Commission on the Status of Women, the UAFs provided an opportunity for feminist activists to engage with the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice. These activists made concrete recommendations to Member States and UN entities to ensure an enabling environment 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.



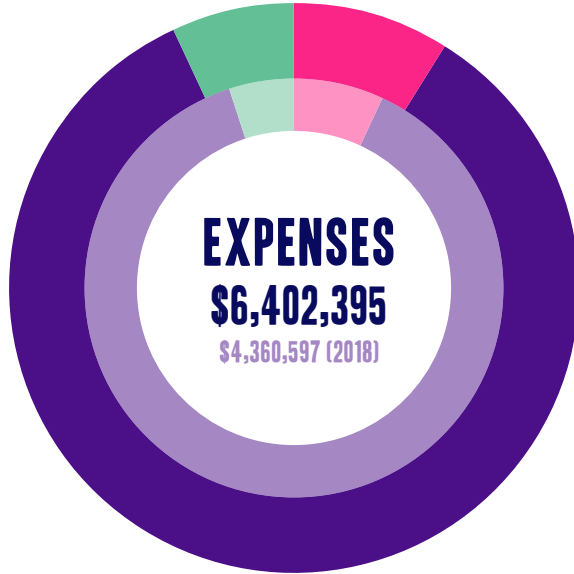
UAF'S FINANCIAL GROWTH

2018 2019



ADMINISTRATION

7% (2018) | **5% (2019)**



PROGRAMS

84% (2018) | **88% (2019)**

FUNDRAISING

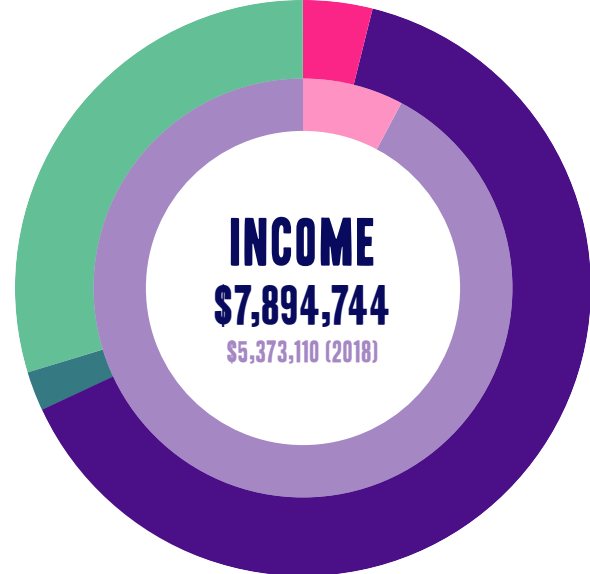
9% (2018) | **7% (2019)**

GOVERNMENT

0% (2018) | **29% (2019)**

INDIVIDUALS

8% (2018) | **4% (2019)**



MISCELLANEOUS

Less than 1% (2018) | **2% (2019)**

FOUNDATIONS

92% (2018) | **65% (2019)**

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
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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
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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 Foundation
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URGENT ACTION FUND
FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

SUSTAIN COURAGE ELEVATE FEMINISM

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

Send a check to:

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Oakland, CA 94612
415-523-0360