



## **Call for Proposals: Feminist Movement for Change in Syria** Funds for Syrian Feminist Organisations

### **About the call:**

WILPF seeks to preserve and grow the grassroots nonviolent movement for equality, freedom and justice in Syria. To this end, we are supporting civil society efforts towards a peaceful and just solution to the conflict, premised on respect for and attainment of human rights, women's rights and women's meaningful participation in all aspects of life. WILPF is committed to a rights-based approach to furthering the agenda for feminist peace<sup>1</sup> in Syria. Support for feminist movement building by Syrian civil society is one of three parallel streams through which we work to achieve this objective.<sup>2</sup>

This initiative, "**Feminist Movement for Change in Syria**", will support Syrian civil society organisations to further their feminist agendas, develop sustainable and effective structures, and strengthen networks for collective growth. The initiative will provide a combination of core funding<sup>3</sup> and technical support to Syrian organisations with feminist values.

Last year, WILPF undertook an in-depth needs assessment to assess the current challenges, needs and priorities of a number of Syrian organisations working for the advancement of women's rights. Despite all odds, the organisations were determined to integrate gender perspectives into their work, as well as the community, and have made notable achievements. However, challenges such as insecurity, a lack of funds, the donor-led approach and chronic burnout, have a significant impact on the sustainability and structure of organisations, as well as their ability to plan and implement. In particular, the results showed us that Syrian organisations are in urgent need of space and resources to further their feminist values, in particular through flexible core funding.

### **Grant description:**

The "**Feminist Movement for Change in Syria**" grant is designed to free up feminist leaders and activists from constant project proposal writing to meet basic costs, allowing them the time, space, and resources to think, analyse and act. Through receiving similar funds in the past, Syrian feminist organisations were able to pilot new ideas and initiatives that strategically support progress towards their visions.

### **Core Grant**

WILPF is offering core grants of up to 40,000 CHF for Syrian organisations to further their feminist values and agendas.

The funding requested:

- Can be up to 40,000 CHF for the period: 1 March 2018 to 31 December 2018.
- Should not exceed 15% of the organisation's secured overall budget for 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> WILPF defines feminist peace as "a world free from violence and armed conflict with equality and justice for all, achieved through addressing the root causes of violence with a feminist lens and mobilising for nonviolent action."

<sup>2</sup> The other two streams are women's meaningful participation in political life and gender-sensitive accountability and justice.

<sup>3</sup> Flexible funding that responds to the needs of organisations and is not tied to particular projects or activities.





- Must be for core funding; flexible funding that responds to the needs of organisations and is not tied to particular projects or activities. This grant does **not** support project funding, and is primarily concerned with the capacity development needs of Syrian feminist organisations.

### **Small Grant**

Groups that are not registered and/or do not have access to a bank account registered in their name can apply for funding of up to 5,000 CHF.

The funding requested:

- Can be up to 5,000 CHF for the period: 1 March 2018 to 31 December 2018.
- Can be to cover core costs or for project implementation.
- This category are exempt from the 15% condition.

### **Eligibility criteria** (Applies to both grants)

The applying organisation:

- Must be managed by Syrians, work for Syrians and be committed to furthering feminist values and agendas.
- Must demonstrate how it is working to achieve full and equal political, economic, social and cultural rights for women.
- Must demonstrate that they have the means to receive funds securely and without undue risk of harm to staff.
- Can be located inside Syria or abroad.

### **How to apply:**

Please send a proposal of no more than 10 pages, using the provided template, to [syria.grants@wilpf.org](mailto:syria.grants@wilpf.org) with "Feminist Movement for Change in Syria" in the subject. The 2018 organisational budget should be annexed with conversion to CHF.

In the proposal, you should consider and provide answers for how you see WILPF can best support your feminist values, through a mixture of financial and technical support. We are also interested in learning about what your organisation has found hardest to find funding for and whether core funding could provide a solution to this. In addition, we are keen to hear how your organisation overcame difficulties faced in receiving funds from abroad. We would like to read about examples of how your organisation has addressed this challenge, with a description of the advantages and disadvantages of the different methods you have trialled.

**Deadline:** Sunday 18 February, 2018

