



**GENERATION
EQUALITY** REALIZING
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS FOR AN
EQUAL FUTURE



THE FEMINIST MOVEMENTS & LEADERSHIP ACTION COALITION

Feminist organizations and movements remain chronically under-resourced. They receive less than 1% of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) committed to gender equality and women's empowerment and very little funding flows from private philanthropy. In addition, the ways in which funding is allocated make it inaccessible to large parts of feminist movements, including those which are girl-led and young feminist groups.

Feminist-led organisations and movements refer to the activists, women's human rights defenders and groups who work from feminist and women's rights perspectives and are led by the people they serve. Their primary mission is to promote the human rights of women, girls, and/or all trans, intersex, and nonbinary people. They work on issues that are marginalized, and contested and push for structural change, and address issues at their root.

In recent years, feminist activists, organisations and women's human rights defenders are under attack. The anti-gender and anti-rights forces, which are often avidly anti-feminist in their agenda, are gathering momentum globally. These forces are increasingly well-funded and well organised. Because of the harassment, attacks and violence against feminist activists, organisations and women's human rights defenders, their civic space and opportunities for feminist action has been restricted, both online and offline. Women and feminist leaders are also targeted as a means evicting them out of politics and decision-making spaces.

The Feminist Movement and Leadership Action Coalition were launched at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris in July 2021 to advocate for increased funding to feminist organisations and movements and to urgently address and significantly reduce existing systemic barriers that hinder women from active leadership.

Vision for the Coalition by 2026

Feminist leaders and activists, women's human rights defenders, and their movements and organizations, including, but not limited to those led by trans, intersex, and nonbinary people, racialized people, indigenous women, women, and persons with disabilities, women, and persons living with and affected by HIV, young feminists, girls, sex workers, and other historically marginalized people, regardless of their status before the law, are fully resourced and supported to become sustainable, can carry out their work without fear of reprisal, and advance gender equality, justice, peace, and human rights for all from an intersectional approach.



#GenerationEquality | @eassigender | #EASSIregional



Why does Feminist Movements and Leadership Matter?

Feminist leadership offers new, transformative, and innovative approaches that model broader participation of diverse partners, and a greater commitment to democratic principles, toward creating long-lasting and sustainable solutions to inequality and inequity.

What Needs to Change? Organisations and institutions in all sectors, namely the public and private sectors and state institutions that include the executive and legislative branches, need to:

Practice accountability for their commitments to gender equality, justice, peace, and human rights.	Provide, and increase financial, legal and policy support for feminist movements and organisations.
Commit to practicing feminist principles and feminist leadership, shifting and sharing power with historically marginalized groups and people; and promoting gender parity in all decision-making spaces.	Deepen solidarity within feminist movements and across social, racial and eco justice movements, integrate intersectionality as a central approach, and to act on the demands of young feminists, for youth-friendly and youth-led decision-making spaces.

What is Feminist Leadership?

Feminist Leadership is a style of leadership with characteristics commonly associated with social constructs of femininity and centres around ideas of justice, rights, inclusion, representation, and equality.

Values and Principles of Feminist Leadership

Recognise that 'women and girls' is not a homogeneous category and that varying circumstances and conditions mean that diverse women and girls are varyingly located along axes of power, privilege, and oppression and also differ in their status before the law.	Apply the principles of intersectionality and commit to the inclusion of historically marginalised people and groups, as both agents and beneficiaries of the envisioned change.
Are committed to a transformative agenda for gender equality which goes beyond the gender binary and includes nonbinary, trans and intersex people, including those who do not identify as women.	Are committed to the inclusion of people and groups who have historically encountered stigma, racism, discrimination and stereotyping within society as well as within feminist movements.
Recognise the invaluable contributions of all those who have participated in feminist change making, and especially those made by young feminists, and young feminist-led and girl-led movements around the world.	Recognise that in order to challenge longstanding stereotypes regarding who is entitled to hold power, gender parity in positions of power is an important objective to be pursued and also prioritise the co-leadership and co-ownership of young feminists and girls in all change processes.



A GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN FOR FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

Action 1

Fund and Support Diverse Feminist Activists, Organisations and Movements

By 2026, at least double the global annual growth rate of funding from all sectors committed to women-led, girl-led and feminist-led movements, organisations, and funds in all their diversity, especially to those led by historically marginalised women and people, including trans, intersex and non-binary people.

What Can you Do?

Financing 	Increase funding to feminist activists, organisations, and movements working in partnership with women's funds and other existing funding mechanisms, with a particular focus on funding feminist activists, organizations, and movements representing historically marginalised and criminalised groups.
Law and Policy 	Ensure that more and better funding is accessible to feminist organisations, movements and activists and adopt and uphold feminist funding principles in all types of funding and resource mobilization.
Data and Accountability 	Improve transparency around funding meant for feminist-led, women-led, and girl-led organisations; collect and disaggregate data to assess what resources are going to feminist-led, young feminist-led and girl-led movements, especially those which are under resourced; prioritize accountability to these groups; and support them to monitor funders' investments.

Action 2

Promote, Expand, Strengthen and Protect Civic Space for Women's Human Rights Defenders, Feminist Action, Organizing and Mobilisation, in all its Diversity

Promote, expand, strengthen and protect civic space across all domains, including online, and support the efforts of feminist activists in all their diversity, including women's human rights defenders, women peacebuilders, trans, intersex and non-binary people, girls and other members of historically marginalised groups, to defend civic space and eliminate barriers to feminist action, organising and mobilisation in all its diversity. All data and accountability measures must follow the principles of do no harm.

What Can you Do?

Law and Policy 	Advance protection measures, policies, and enforceable legislation to protect the human rights and security of women's human rights defenders, women leaders and feminist activists, organisations, and movements, in all their diversity.
--	--



<p>Data and Accountability</p> 	<p>Ethically monitor, document and report, using disaggregated data all human rights violations against feminist activists, organisations, and movements in all their diversity, as well as women and girl leaders, and ensure accountability for these violations.</p>
<p>Norms</p> 	<p>Deepen solidarity within feminist movement and between all social justice movements, working to eliminate harmful norms, stereotypes and practices that reinforce discrimination and inequality within structures and among individuals, entrench inequality, and stigmatize feminist activists, organizations, and movements in all their diversity.</p>

Action 3

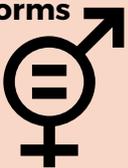
Advance Substantive Representation and Increase Meaningful Participation, Leadership and Decision-Making Power of Women, Girls, Trans, Intersex and Nonbinary People, in all their Diversity, through Gender Parity and Transformative Feminist Approaches to Policy-Making

By 2026, advance substantive representation and increase the meaningful participation, leadership, and decision-making power of girls and youth leaders, and of women, and feminist leaders in all their diversity, including those who are trans, intersex, and non-binary, through efforts to:

- 1) Advance gender parity and the inclusion of those historically marginalized in all aspects, sectors, and levels of public and economic decision-making, including the private sector, civil society, international organisations, political and government institutions, and executive and legislative positions
- 2) Promote and expand feminist, gender transformative, intersectional approaches to decision-making and leadership, which acknowledge, analyse and challenge existing power relations and advance inclusive, gender transformative and rights-affirming laws and policies.

What Can you Do?	
<p>Law and Policy</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement laws and policies to advance gender parity and ensure meaningful participation of women, girls, trans, intersex, and non-binary people in all their diversity, in decision-making and agenda-setting. • Develop and implement laws and policies that enable a feminist approach to decision-making, which promote principles of participation, democracy, equality, human rights, and justice, including in domestic and foreign policy.
<p>Education</p> 	<p>Build cross-sector alliances and support pairing, co-learning, experience and capacity sharing for and with feminist activists, organizations, movements in all their diversity, and leaders and encourage and support intersectional, intercultural and multi-generational dialogue.</p>



<p>Data and Accountability</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and disseminate data on the participation of women, girls, trans, intersex, and non-binary people in all their diversity in decision-making, including data disaggregated by age, ethnicity, and disability, among other factors. • Collect disaggregated data and conduct and communicate intersectional feminist analysis in the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of policies, budgets, and laws.
<p>Norms</p> 	<p>Address harmful stereotypes and gender norms to ensure decision-making power and leadership for feminist activists, organizations, and movements in all their diversity.</p>
<p>Financing</p> 	<p>Invest in gender transformative, intercultural and intersectional approaches, and gender budgeting mechanisms in all levels of government, private sector, international organizations, civil society organisations, and sectors of the economy.</p>

Action 4

Strengthen Young Feminist-led and Girl-led Movements, and Organizations, in all their Diversity

By 2026, allocate, monitor and evaluate specific, flexible financial, technical, and other resources for adolescent girls and young feminist leaders and their movements and organisations to strengthen them, and create safe and inclusive spaces to lead, share ownership and substantively participate in and co-create decision-making processes.

What Can you Do?	
<p>Financing</p> 	<p>Transform and adapt donor practices, including through dedicated, core, and flexible funding streams, availability of grants, and participatory decision-making processes, to be accountable to and better meet the funding and partnership needs and priorities of young feminist-led and girl-led movements and organisations, including those who have been historically marginalised, as well as feminist activists, movements and organisations that specifically target their work, engagement with and support to girls.</p>
<p>Law and Policy</p> 	<p>Institutionalize and ensure the safe, inclusive, and meaningful participation, leadership, and co-ownership of adolescent girls, their groups, and young feminist movements within international advocacy spaces, multilateral and formal policy, and decision-making processes.</p>



<p>Data and Accountability</p> 	<p>Increase disaggregated data and research on the nature of young feminist and girl organising, participation and funding, promote accountability to the issues and solutions they advocate for, including documenting the impact of girl-led and young feminist advocacy on policy decisions.</p>
<p>Education</p> 	<p>Invest in creative initiatives that strengthen co-learning and critical thinking skills and tools for girls and young feminists, including those who have been historically marginalised, and support them in claiming their rights and exercising their independence and agency (individual and collective) both in socio-political processes and their lives.</p>

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

Civil Society Organisations, Women's Rights Organisations, and Feminist Movements can join a collective commitment by visiting <https://commitments.generationequality.org/>

What can you do to make a Change?

1. **Make a financial commitment** that will support the realisation of an action to advance gender equality results.
2. **Initiate or join Advocacy campaigns** to amplify and mobilise support for transformative change to achieve the goals of the Action Coalition.
3. **Make Policy commitments** that can be translated into concrete policy change.
4. **Ensure that programmatic commitments** are able to deliver programs, services, research, or other actions, with a focus on scale.

The Leaders of the Feminist Movement and Leadership Action Coalition include:



URGENT ACTION FUND + AFRICA

FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

CONTACT DETAILS



The Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI)

P.O. Box 24965, Kampala, Uganda

Plot 3565, Kulambiro – Kisaasi, Opp. Ntinda View College

Telephone: +256 (0)393 266 451

Email: eassi@eassi.org

Website: <https://eassi.org>



When using the material, kindly acknowledge EASSI for the abridged version.

Publication Release: March 2022



#GenerationEquality | @eassigender | #EASSIregional

