

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls.

Webinar: date Wednesday, 6 April 2022

Feminist and Women's Movements in the context of ending violence against women and girls.

Working paper

Gemma Wood, Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Manager at the UN Trust Fund, opened the webinar by introducing the key findings of "Feminist and Women's Movements in the Context of Ending Violence against Women and Girls- Implications for Funders and Grant Makers", a working paper commissioned by the UN Trust Fund and authored by independent expert Dr Nidal Karim.

The paper provides an overview of different theories about social movements and movement-building and their characteristics, as well as organizational types and roles within movements. It focuses on feminist movements and offers recommendations to funders and grant-makers on how to best support feminist movement building.

Under its new **Strategic Plan (2021-2025)**, the UN Trust Fund is committed to enabling civil society and women's rights organizations as part of its efforts to support inclusive feminist movements in their work to end violence against women.

Empowering feminist movements

Lara Fergus, Co-Director of the Accelerator for Gender-Based Violence Prevention, highlighted the increased interest in funding efforts to end gender-based violence, but stressed that the crucial value of women's movements, women's rights organisations and feminist activists was often under-appreciated.

Iheoma Obibi, Executive Director of Alliances for Africa, a UN Trust Fund grantee in Nigeria, described the "key ingredients" of social mobilization for policy change, one of which is establishing strategic alliances.

Mindful funding

Dr Nidal Karim said that flexible funding must support local feminist movements' strategic adaptations to the lived experiences of women and girls. She stressed that:

- Movement building work is non-linear and can be unpredictable
- Funding coalition work beyond the scope of a single organization or project is important and
- Constituent-led mobilization is critical to building momentum

Representatives of UN Trust Fund- supported civil society and women's rights organizations shared their recommendations for funders and grant-makers: need to strengthen women-led organizations' capacity to get a seat at the table in order to access funding; increased communication between grassroots grantees and donors; provisions for emergency funding during protracted crises; donors need to be more flexible about the requirements to apply for funding because indigenous communities sometimes lack access to and familiarity with technology.

Multi-issues struggles

Concluding the panel discussion, Dr. Nidal Karim said she recognized that some donors choose to fund only a specific area of work on ending violence against women without recognizing continuum of violence. However, she added, quoting the feminist, civil rights activist, and author Audre Lorde:

“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we don’t live single-issue lives”

Source: untf.unwomen.org

Martine Gayon

UN Representative, NY