

WFA ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Gardens of Silihdar

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Grant calls

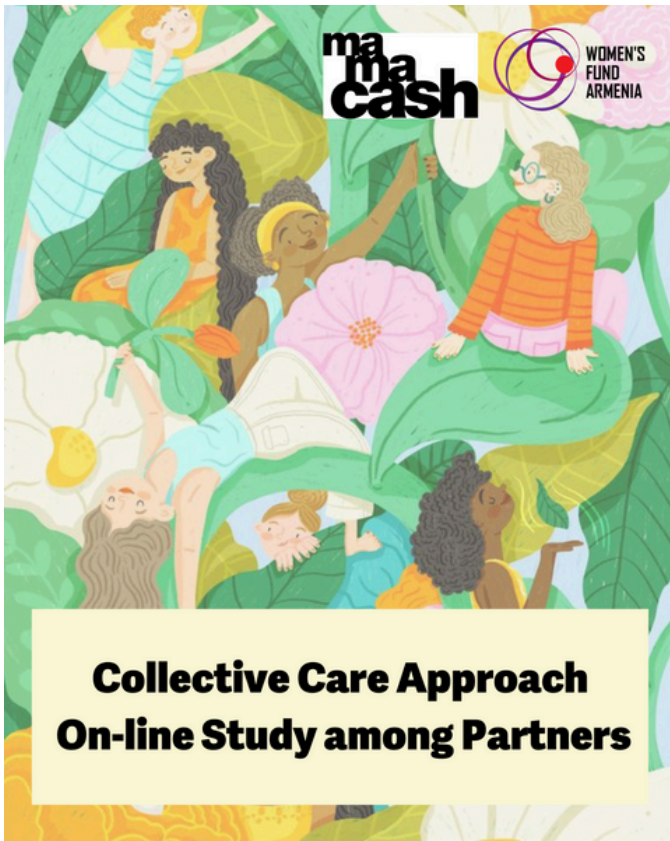
In 2024, we have announced seven grant opportunities, nearly doubling the number offered last year. These opportunities cover both our traditional focus areas and new topics, expanding the scope of our work. Detailed information about each call is provided below.



1. **Call for Inter-Regional Cooperation Projects:** The purpose of this call was to bring together 2-3 regional women and feminist groups and/or organizations that together can bring changes in the lives of women in their communities. As a result of the grant, 6 initiatives were selected.
2. The goal of the "[Women's Rights Day Every Day](#)" grant call was to support the implementation of feminist events on March 8, providing an opportunity to implement ideas and plans related to that day. As a result, 8 initiatives were implemented.

3. **Strengthening Women, Peace, and Security Initiatives:** This call aimed at strengthening efforts by local women organizations, feminist non-formal groups, activists, journalists, researchers and artists working on advancing peace, conflict transformation and security from an intersectional and gender sensitive lens.
4. The **'Impact of Climate and Environmental Changes on Women'** grant call was designed to explore the intersection of environmental issues and their effects on women, with a focus on addressing these topics from a feminist perspective.
5. **Feminist Events dedicated to the National Day for Combating Domestic Violence in Armenia:** The goal of this call was to raise awareness on domestic violence, address its gender dimensions, amplify the voices of systematically marginalized groups, and challenge patriarchal structures to prevent and combat this issue.
6. **Call for Adolescent Girls' Ideas** gives teens the opportunity to realize their ideas and make their goals a reality. The grant was for teenage girls, intended to address their issues.
7. **Feminist Events dedicated to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** involved feminist gatherings and a variety of events and activities dedicated to various feminist goals, community empowerment, and motivating change.

Publications



Collective Care Approach On-line Study among Partners

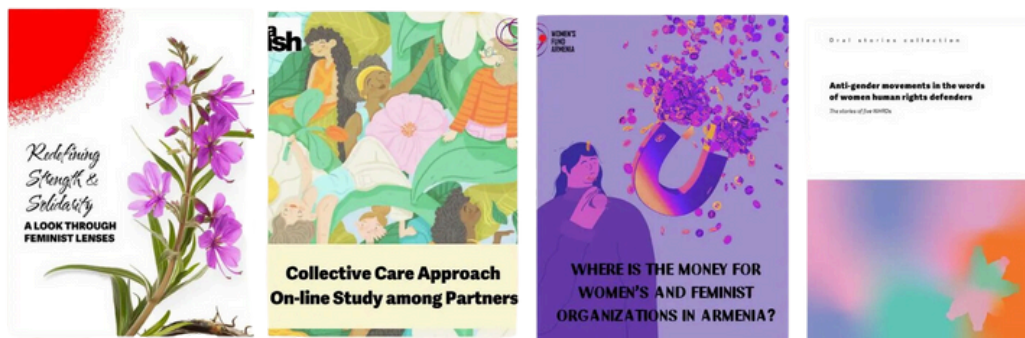
In June, we published a study on the Collective Care Approach, which aims to understand the importance of collective care in partnership relationships, identify the most common practices among partners, challenges, and opportunities for further integration of collective care approaches.

Redefining Power and Solidarity: A Look Through a Feminist Lens

This recently published collection of articles highlights stories of feminist solidarity from around the world—from Armenia to Sudan, Georgia, Ukraine, Palestine, and beyond. It showcases feminist strength and resilience during times of crisis, emphasizing rapid response, mutual support, shared struggles, and unwavering determination.



WFA publications in 2018-2024



2018-2024 WFA publications



Over the five years of our existence as a fund, we have conducted nearly a dozen studies and published collections that address topics crucial to the progress of the feminist movement and the development of new narratives.

Capacity building of women's organizations

In November and December, we implemented a series of workshops aimed at developing the capacities of 15 non-governmental organizations, within the framework of which we managed to organize 8 online courses on the following topics:

- Strategic Planning for NGOs
- Social Inclusion
- Gender Analysis and Gender-Sensitive Budgeting
- Strategic Communication
- Feminist Advocacy
- Digital Security
- Financial Modeling and Sustainability

As a result of the project, 4 selected NGOs working with the most vulnerable communities received financial support to develop their institutional resilience and capacity to work with marginalized groups in crisis situations.



Videos

During the year, we addressed the concept of collective care through two videos.

Our model of collective care

We believe that collective care, connection and support between women's groups is an important part of individual well-being. Collective healing and well-being-oriented work is one of the important directions of the Women's Fund Armenia. In this [video](#), we talk about our model of collective care.



The Gardens of Silihdar: Our Co-Healing Center

The renovation of our collective care center, The Gardens of Silihdar, is actively underway. While we await the opportunity host our self-care and collective care meetings there, we invite you to learn more about the center's concept and features through this [video](#).

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Events

Mapping Women's Rights

On March 7, the event "Mapping Women's Rights" took place, during which three themed maps were presented about the works of female architects in Yerevan, the stories of female street artists, women and coffee in public and private spaces. The maps were created through the collection of oral histories with the support of the Women's Fund Armenia.



The impact of climate change on women

On April 18, we had an online discussion dedicated to the impact of climate change on women and girls in Armenia. The invited speaker was environmental activist Ani Khachatryan, who shared her activist experience as a woman and the challenges she faced. The meeting was for WFA partners to discuss together the environmental issues we face, especially their multidimensional impact on women. We will have other meetings and discussions on this topic in the future.

Food and Feminism: Webinar

On May 7th, we organized a webinar on Food and Feminism, presenting its different and multifaceted aspects, especially from the perspective of women's rights and environmental justice. We had 4 speakers from different countries and backgrounds, who addressed the topic from the perspective of their own experience and knowledge. Food and feminism highlights the complex ways in which gender norms, power dynamics, and social inequalities shape our relationship with food and food systems. By addressing these issues, feminists strive to create a more just and equitable world where everyone has access to nutritious food, opportunities for economic empowerment, and the freedom to make choices about their bodies and lives. Watch the recording of the webinar [here](#).



Meetings with partners

May

On May 2, the WFA organized a meeting with representatives of partner organizations and individual partners at its office. The goal of the meeting was to highlight and discuss the challenges facing women's organizations and activists.

July

During the month of July, we held several meetings with partners from various groups. One of these meetings was our annual gathering with partners who run programs for women over 40. This year, we aimed to expand the participant circle, including not only partners from different marzes [regions] but also women from various communities who participate in these programs.

Meeting with a group of women over 40



Meeting with teenagers

During the meeting with teenagers on June 15, we discussed the programs being implemented, talked about the manifestations of the feminist movement and topics of concern to girls, visited the FemLibrary, got acquainted with its activities, and continued our discussion about setting boundaries and protecting ourselves.

Meeting with teenagers



International visits

Advocacy meetings in the European Parliament

As a member of the Prospera International Network of Women's Funds, we had meetings with our partner organizations in Belgrade and Brussels, and participated in a number of advocacy strategy meetings of the European part of the network with representatives of various departments of the European Commission.



Meetings dedicated to the development of participatory grant making principle

WFA is a part of collaborative initiative on Participatory Grantmaking together with several sister funds from Prospera Network. During 2024 we had two meetings: in Tbilisi, Georgia and in Bangkok, Thailand. During the meetings we discussed feminist lessons on Participatory Grant making and brainstormed about philanthropy, power, partnerships and movement-building.

The sessions mainly examined power dynamics in grant-making processes, relationships with various stakeholders, and within grant-making panels. We discussed whether feminist philanthropy can exist without participatory grant making and envisioned the future of feminist philanthropy and grant making. At the meeting in Bangkok in December, partners of Women's Fund Armenia, the representatives of Coalition to Stop Violence against Women and Resource Center for Women's Empowerment, participated as well.



Meetings within the framework of the "On the Right Track" initiative

The Women's Fund Armenia is part of the "On the Right Track" project since 2020, which aims to strengthen the cooperation of feminist, LGBTIQ+ movements among women's funds to protect the values of freedom, democracy and diversity from fundamentalism and attacks by ultra-right groups.

This year, within the framework of the initiative, we had meetings in Belgrade in April and in Madrid in September to discuss the vision and goals of the initiative and develop a joint strategy for 2025-2029.



Journey to Warsaw: Exploring Resilience, Healing, and New Partnerships

From November 12-15, members of the Women's Fund team and partners, along with colleagues from Georgia, Ukraine, and Germany, took part in the Resilience Meeting in Warsaw hosted by the filia Women's Fund.

The concept of resilience has gained significant traction not only among feminist organizations but also across various groups and initiatives. However, its widespread use has brought diverse interpretations and practices that can sometimes be overwhelming.



Participation in the 15th AWID International Conference

WFA Co-Founders participated in the 15th AWID International conference in Bangkok that took place on December 2-5. The conference brought up to 4000 activists, feminists and funders together. In addition, on December 1st Co-Founder of WFA Gohar Shahnazaryan participated at the “Moving Money, Building Movements” convening that was organized by Alliance for Feminist Movements, AWID, Count Me In! Consortium, Gender Funders CoLab and Prospera International Network of Women’s Funds. During the meeting, the most significant challenges and opportunities for movements and corresponding funding strategies, mechanisms and approaches were discussed. A diverse range of funders, including trusts and foundations, bilateral and multilateral institutions, and feminist funds, alongside activists were present at this closed event.



Participation in the Human Rights Funder Network conference

At the conference of Human Rights Funder Network that took place in April, 2024 in Tbilisi, Georgia, one of the Co-Founders of WFA, Lara Aharonian spoke at the opening panel. Gohar Shahnazaryan, another Co-Founder was a speaker at the session organized by Urgent Action Fund "Beyond Survival: Resourcing Feminist Collective Care and Safety Infrastructure in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus." She shared practices and journey toward collective care practices that WFA had amid war and displacement of ethnic Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh in 2023.

In October an annual meeting of the European Chapter of Prospera took place in Hamburg and was hosted by filia fund.



Interviews and articles

Over the year, we have conducted a number of interviews with our partners and published articles on a variety of topics, from science to feminist philanthropy, from war to LGBTQ+ issues. We share them to below, with active links:

- [Science as a fight against gender inequality: Anush Margaryan's experience](#)
- ["Women's safe spaces will contribute to the integration of forcibly displaced women into society:" Nare Hayrapetyan](#)
- [Being a teenager in this messed-up world](#)
- [From Working from Small Cafes to Feminist Philanthropy: A Transformative Approach based on Solidarity and Care](#)
- [Funding for 2024 Adolescent Girls Program](#)
- [The Cost of War: Challenges in Armenia](#)
- ["As long as there is some chance to fight, we should continue our struggle:" Diana Ghzroyan](#)



Training courses for partners

In an effort to raise awareness among our partners, we organized training courses on various topics.

On February 20, the WFA held an online meeting with the Fund's accountant. The goal was to enhance the skills of accountants from our partner organizations and familiarize them with recent changes in the legislative field of the Republic of Armenia.

In June, we hosted an informational seminar for our partner organizations and individuals. During the workshop, discussions covered progress in the field of HIV in Armenia and worldwide, as well as the situation of drug users and harm reduction programs in Armenia. The seminar was conducted by Zhenya Mailyan from the "Real World, Real People" NGO.

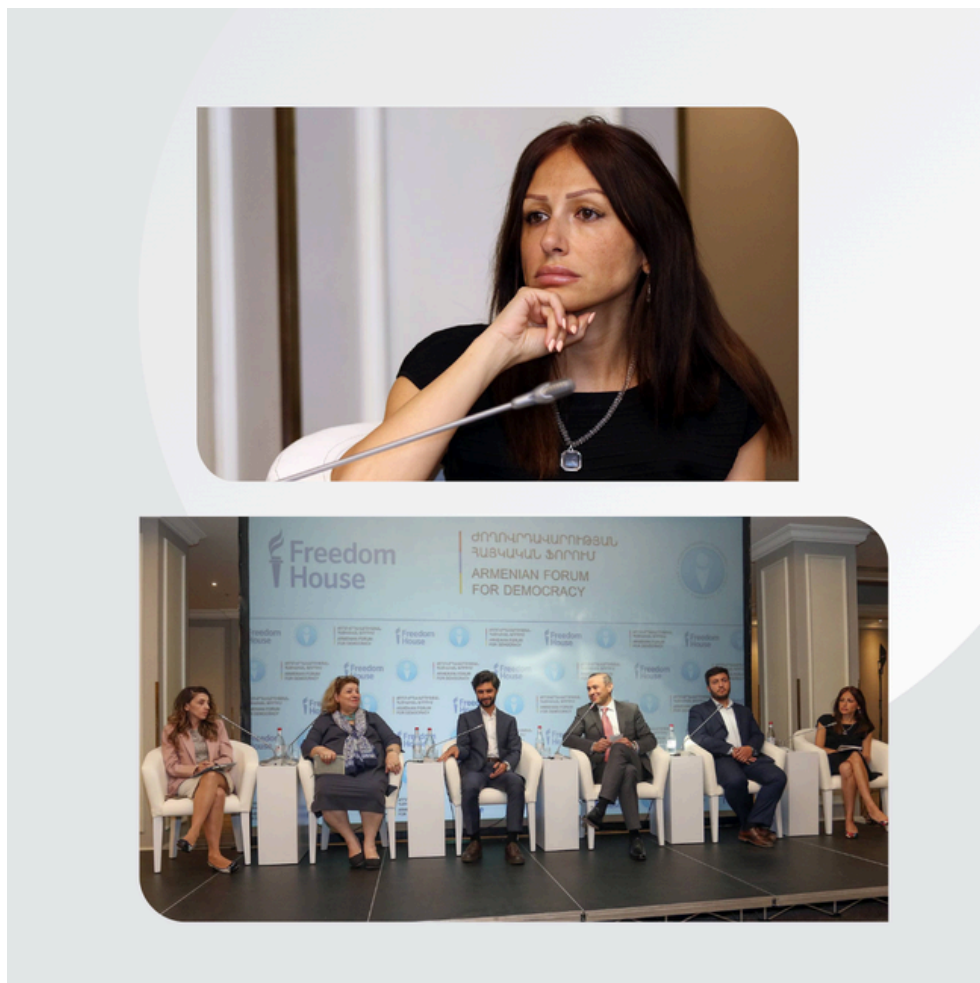
Femstory program

As part of the "Femstory: Archive of Feminist Stories" project, interviewers continue to collect new stories. In the near future, we also plan to organize group readings, involving not only the program participants, but also interested individuals.

Participation in the New Democracy Fund forum

On July 1, the Third Armenian Democracy Forum was held, organized by Freedom House Armenia and the Union of Informed Citizens NGO. The theme of the forum was "The Resilience of Democracy and the Protection of Human Rights in Times of Crisis."

One of the panel discussions, "Democracy vs. Security: Challenging the False Dichotomy," was also attended by Gohar Shahnazaryan, co-founder of the Women's Fund Armenia. [Her speech](#) was dedicated to the manipulation of women's issues in the narratives of democracy and security and the gender aspect of the topics.





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