



WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
INTERNATIONAL COALITION

Annual Report **2025**

Reinvigoration and Collective Action
in Times of Polycrisis





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About WHRDIC

The Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC) is a transnational, intersectional feminist coalition of women human rights defenders, feminists, trans and non-binary activists and organisations, and their allies.

Currently, the WHRDIC is composed of over 30 organisations from the global South and North. Our members work locally, nationally, regionally and transnationally, on a range of different rights and justice issues, as part of different movements.

The mission of WHRDIC is to deepen and sustain the collective power and resistance of WHRDs, feminists, trans and non-binary defenders, and their collective organising, across the intersections of movements, issues and regions.

The WHRDIC has made impressive progress directly with Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), in the broader human rights movement, and at the United Nations level. We have been instrumental in creating an identity category – Women Human Rights Defender, or WHRD – that activists find legitimizing and empowering. We have been at the forefront of giving life to the UN Declaration on human rights defenders; their research and advocacy have changed the landscape of how human rights defenders, and specifically WHRDs, are seen and understood.

Some of the most significant victories achieved by the WHRDIC, in collaboration with HRDs and organisations around the world, are the adoption of the historic 2013 UN General Assembly resolution ‘Protecting Women Human Rights Defenders’ and the commemoration of the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day on 29 November.



Introduction

The reinvigoration of the WHRDIC came at a critical moment of intersecting global crises - marked by escalating wars and militarization, the rise of authoritarianism and fundamentalisms, deepening climate and economic injustices, shrinking civic space, and heightened threats to resistance and organizing, including the growth of well-funded and coordinated anti-rights movements.

We witness how the world veers into fascism and rights erasure. WHRDs, feminist activists, trans and non-binary defenders are at the forefront of combatting anti-right and anti-gender actors; therefore, supporting WHRDs and those supporting them is crucial as ever before.



At the same time, despite proliferating fascism and increasing reprisals, we also see heartbreaking funding cuts in the field which leave many organisations, groups and initiatives in despair and hopelessness. The funding cuts have affected most of our members, and everyone is concerned about their sustainability.



As to the WHRDIC, we were already in a fragile situation as we started our fundraising efforts after a dormant period. However, there could not have been a worse time for resource mobilization, given the situation, which places the WHRDIC's healthy future under real risk.

This Annual Report documents how the WHRDIC navigated this context through a year of revitalization, governance renewal, coalition-building, public campaigning, and internal strengthening - while remaining grounded in feminist, decolonial values and the lived realities of WHRDs, feminists, trans and non-binary defenders.

A Reflective and Adaptive Revitalization Process

The revitalization of the WHRDIC has been a deeply reflective and adaptive process. As part of our Strategic Planning journey, we conducted a thorough internal and external context analysis, which grounded both our external strategies and institutional strengthening priorities.

This learning process reaffirmed a core lesson: for transformative change to occur, our structure and processes must center feminist, decolonial values and the lived realities of WHRDs, feminists, trans and non-binary defenders, especially those from the Global South.



In line with Outcome 5 of our Framework, we committed to resourcing and prioritizing coalition-building, collaborative leadership, and collective care. We learned that sustainable, meaningful impact is only possible when the Coalition itself is rooted in shared purpose, accountable governance, and care-centered practices.

This commitment shaped how we approached 2025: not as a return to “business as usual,” but as a political and organizational reinvigoration grounded in feminist movement realities, urgency, and responsibility.

Strengthening Collective Vision

At the beginning of the year, we publicly launched our new [Strategic Framework](#) on our social media pages. This was not simply a communication milestone: it signaled a renewed public presence, political clarity, and a collective commitment to strengthening the Coalition's role and capacity in a time of escalating risk and shrinking resources.

In 2025, the WHRDIC underwent a transformative Governance and Membership renewal, following the collective development of its Strategic Framework 2025–2030. These reaffirm a feminist and decolonial vision centered on WHRDs in the Global South.

As part of the Governance and Membership renewal the Coalition established programmatic and institutional strengthening Working Groups to advance collective priorities.

At the end of 2025, new Executive Committee members were elected, and the WHRDIC developed its new membership application form, finally opening up for new regional and national networks, coalitions, and organisations.

These developments contribute to the fifth Outcome of our Strategic Framework: ensuring the WHRDIC is led by the WHRDs it exists for and has the capacity to fulfill its purpose through collaborative processes where members and staff can thrive.

This governance renewal must be understood within the broader movement context: it is a deliberate step to build a Coalition that can respond to crisis while maintaining care-centered practices, feminist accountability, and leadership grounded in the experiences of those most impacted by repression.

A Year of Deep Action

2025 was a year of deep action. Alongside structural renewal, the WHRDIC advanced public campaigning, movement convening, coalition visibility, and coordinated advocacy.

The WHRDIC launched the global #SpreadingTheEcho campaign to free 30 imprisoned WHRDs, which evolved into “Letter to a Sister” activity in New York City in the frames of CSW69 and in Geneva in the frames of WHRD Advocacy Week, where participants wrote postcards to imprisoned defenders, delivered through WHRDIC members.



The Coalition renewed its public presence with a new website featuring the [WHRD Knowledge Hub](#), the first global multilingual archive dedicated to WHRD and feminist knowledge. Knowledge products created by members and allies were shared weekly on social media, broadening reach and visibility. The WHRDIC also opened new social media channels on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [BlueSky](#).

In 2025, the WHRDIC marked its 20th anniversary of resistance and transnational solidarity, celebrated through events in New York, Geneva, and online, in partnership with IM-Defensoras and the WHRD MENA Coalition, marking their 15th and 10th anniversaries. In-person gatherings during CSW and HRC reached about 300 allies, partners, and defenders, complemented by anniversary articles and online posts.

Strengthening Movement Space and Global Engagement

The WHRDIC played an active role during CSW69, serving as a trusted space for WHRD organizing and advocacy with state delegates and ambassadors. We were also able to hold a Membership meeting with 20 members who were in New York City.

The Coalition co-organized WHRD Advocacy Weeks in Geneva in September 2025, where ISHR and other members of the Coalition convened 10 WHRDs from various countries for capacity building and advocacy.

We joined global consultations on WHRD issues and collaborated with UN Special Rapporteurs on specific cases and research, including a study on HRDs and social media.

Together with our members, we co-authored Guidelines for WHRDs attending the Special Session of the ASP with members and the Coalition for the ICC.

We also joined the Global Community of Practice on Protection to strengthen collective protection work.

We contributed to advocacy for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, mapped the effects of funding cuts, and joined the “Funding Freedom, Composting Aid” conference co-organized by allies.

The WHRDIC strengthened its external communications and campaigning, co-organizing protection campaigns with members and allies, issuing statements on crises and discrimination by state and non-state actors, and amplifying urgent appeals for WHRD cases by our members.





Campaigns included International Safe Abortion Day (May 28), solidarity statements with Sudan and Palestine, a joint statement with the Consortium of East African Women Human Rights Defenders Protection Networks to support WHRDs in East Africa, advocacy for the release of WHRDs unjustly detained for their work, and referral of WHRDs under threats and attacks.

These actions and processes contribute so that WHRDs have the necessary spaces and means to discuss different strategies, tools and practices to counter threats and sustain organizing.

We have advocated for greater efforts on common agendas informed by intersectional feminist politics to strengthen the intersections of WHRD organizing across regions, issues and movements - but we need much more work on this.

We contributed to increasing visibility of WHRDs at risk, including detained and imprisoned WHRDs, and advocated for their freedom and justice. We have also shared solidarity resources and implemented transnational solidarity actions to respond to their situations and amplify their voices. Our efforts also brought more targeted coordination in global policy frameworks, despite all the multi-level crises we are witnessing now.



Internal Strengthening

Internal strengthening was a central priority in 2025.

A shared understanding and collective agreement was established on the financial, administrative, technical, and logistical support needs of the Coalition in 2025 and throughout the implementation of the 2025–2030 Strategic Framework.

As part of this process, the roles and responsibilities of the WHRDIC fiscal host were clearly defined through a participatory process aimed at addressing the Coalition’s financial, administrative, technical, and logistical support needs.

Necessary adjustments were made, such as hiring finance and administrative personnel — to enable the fiscal host to fulfill its expanded roles and responsibilities.

The Membership and Feminist Politics group was able to collectively develop the new membership application form. The Resource Mobilization group came up with a prospect list for new partners and organised two membership calls on joint resource mobilization strategies, recognizing that in the times of global fundraising crisis, it is important as ever to join hands. The Knowledge co-creation group started an intensive application and selection process of a researcher (group) to develop the Global Report on the Situation of Women Human Rights Defenders. The Advocacy group started ongoing conversations on what advocacy means for WHRDIC while some traditional advocacy methods are failing, laying important groundwork for Advocacy Strategy development.

Read
more
about
WHDIC
process
and
actions
in
2025



Twenty Years of Solidarity, Resistance, and Courage: WHRDIC Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

A Movement Rooted in Feminist Solidarity

2025 marked a powerful milestone for the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC) — 20 years of collective action, unwavering solidarity, and feminist resistance across the globe. The WHRDIC was born out of a shared recognition that women human rights defenders (WHRDs) face gender-specific risks that too often go unseen and unaddressed. In 2004, feminist activists, working closely with Hina Jilani — the first UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders — launched the first global WHRD initiative. Just one year later, in 2005, WHRDIC founders organized the first-ever global gathering of WHRDs in Sri Lanka, laying the foundation for what would become a transformative global movement.

Since then, the Coalition and its members have been instrumental in shaping how WHRDs are seen, heard, and protected.



Our work has helped ensure that human rights advocacy can no longer be treated as “genderless,” and that the experiences, perspectives, and leadership of women human rights defenders are acknowledged in international and regional human rights systems. From introducing the very term “WHRDs”, to influencing the adoption of the UN Resolution on WHRDs, to helping secure global recognition of November 29th as International WHRDs Day, the WHRDIC has changed the landscape of human rights advocacy.

A Feminist Model of Accountability and Action

Over two decades, the Coalition has built a unique, member-led feminist structure — one that remains agile, principled, and deeply rooted in solidarity.

*“For me, the Coalition’s biggest achievements are three things,” shared **Alix Vuillemin, Executive Director of Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice, member of the WHRDIC.** “First, sustaining two decades of solidarity in such a unique, feminist membership model is in itself remarkable. Second, the ability to respond quickly and clearly to global crises, like Gaza or East Africa, while always staying rooted in feminist values. And third, what I personally value most: the way the Coalition holds us accountable to our principles with both professionalism and kindness. That combination of rigor and authenticity is rare, and it’s what makes this space so meaningful to me.”*

Through joint advocacy, rapid response, and knowledge production, WHRDIC has supported many WHRDs — influencing UN bodies, regional systems in Africa and the Americas, and national human rights policies. Our publications, including [Claiming Rights](#), [Gendering Documentation](#), [Global Report on the Situation of WHRDs](#), and [Our Right to Safety](#), have educated, agitated, and sparked lasting change.

Honoring the Past, Building the Future: March Reception in NYC

To mark this milestone, WHRDIC partnered with the Coalition of Women Human Rights Defenders in the SWANA region (WHRD MENA) for a joint anniversary celebration in New York City on March 10, 2025.

The reception entitled “Louder, angrier and stronger”, held at the Blue Gallery, was not a celebration - it was a trip down memory lane to explore where we come from and what our experience in the past decades has looked like. It was an act of political affirmation and deep solidarity in times of polycrisis, hopelessness and despair.

Together, we honored 20 years of WHRDIC and 10 years of WHRD MENA, creating a vibrant space for reflection, mourning, resistance, and vision-building. The evening included music, poetry, art, letter writing to WHRDs in prison, moments of collective grief and commemoration of defenders no longer with us.

“The Coalition’s anniversary was a very emotional moment,” said Alice Bordaçarre, head of the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality office at FIDH, member of the WHRDIC. “Meeting the founders of this incredible coalition, the newcomers with all their ideas and aspirations, and the amazing activist artists made it an exceptional event. I remember the songs and dances of the women human rights defenders in the audience, whose beautiful energy showed that the movement was alive and had a bright future ahead of it in the fight for greater gender and social justice.”

At a time when the world faces increasing polarization, hate, exclusionary policies, genocides and wars, the reception served as a reminder of the urgency and power of feminist solidarity. WHRDs across regions reaffirmed their commitment to each other, to justice, and to building the world we want — one grounded in care, community, and courage.

As we celebrate 20 years, WHRDIC recommits to our founding principles: feminist solidarity, shared leadership, and the relentless pursuit of gender and social justice. We honor every member, past and present, who has made this journey possible.

“Louder, Angrier and Stronger Together”: #WHRDIC20 #IMD15 #WHRDMENA10

In 2025, the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC) and two of our members - the Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders (IM-Defensoras) and the Coalition of Women Human Rights Defenders in the SWANA region (WHRD MENA) - celebrated their 20th, 15th, and 10th anniversaries.

Amid rising attacks on WHRDs and a world marked by violent policies, exclusion, war crimes, genocide, hate, and intentional fragmentation, we believe now more than ever in the power of coalitions. As WHRDs and as movements built by and for WHRDs, we remind each other - and our members, allies, and partners - of the urgency of standing together, especially in these times.

On September 26th, our three coalitions hosted a joint reception in Geneva entitled “Louder, Angrier and Stronger Together.” The gathering honored our shared herstories and amplified the voices of WHRDs across the globe. Guests engaged with stories of WHRDs unjustly imprisoned for their activism, writing letters of solidarity to them. Stories from Gaza and Sudan were featured in the room, alongside moments of remembrance where participants lit candles for defenders who are no longer with us. Together, in the context of a campaign and invitation launched by IM-Defensoras, we also imagined “[Radical care in a Burning World](#)” through collective drawings.

The event marked the conclusion of the “Women Human Rights Defenders WHRD Advocacy Week” co-organised by ISHR, WHRDIC, WHRD MENA, IM-Defensoras, Amnesty International, Front Line Defenders, Peace Brigades International, AWID, JASS, and Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism. For 20 years, WHRDIC has been in solidarity with WHRDs around the world. During this period, coalitions of women human rights defenders have emerged, focusing on care, recognition, and protection. For 15 years, IM-Defensoras has promoted Feminist Holistic Protection for women human rights defenders in Mesoamerica. For 10 years, WHRD MENA has been supporting WHRDs across the SWANA region.

These anniversaries are not just markers of survival—they are testaments of resistance. They call us to weave our solidarities even more tightly, to strengthen our communities, and to fuel our collective resistance and hope in the face of relentless crises.



Writing letters to Women Human Rights Defenders in prison is an act of love, solidarity, and a call to action

“Dear Alexa,

Your story of activism inspires thousands of women human rights defenders around the world. Thank you for your sacrifice in search for truth and justice. You matter - your story is being told!”
This is one of hundreds of letters written to Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) who have been imprisoned for their activism.

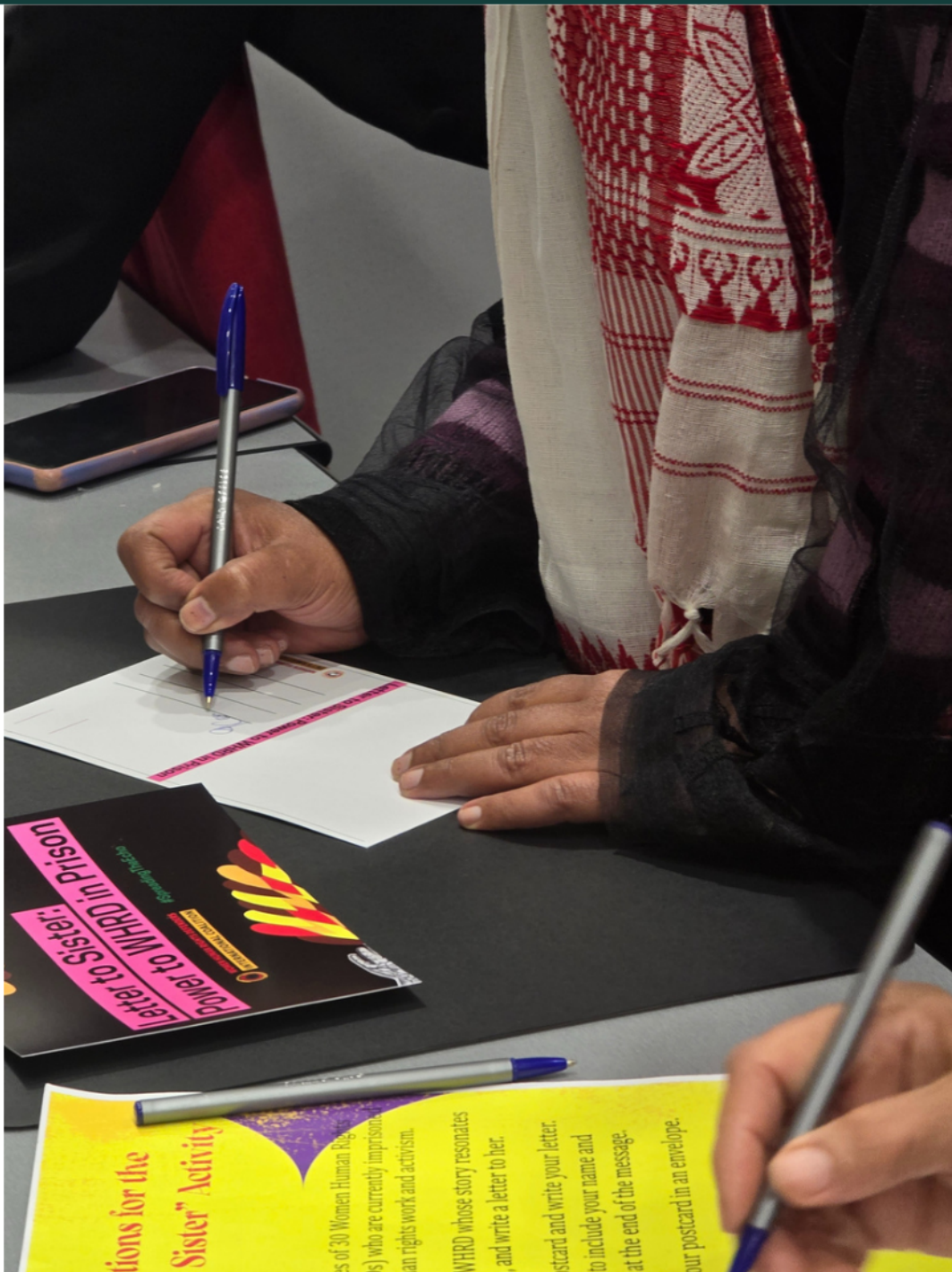
During the WHRD Advocacy Week 2025, the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC) organized a public participatory installation to share the stories of 30 WHRDs from around the world who are currently imprisoned for their human rights work and activism. These stories, collected by WHRDIC members and partners, gave visibility to the courage and resilience of defenders who continue to resist oppression from behind bars.



“Dear Intisar,

Thank you for fighting for all women, for being brave and risking your own life. Today we are thinking of you and we stand in solidarity. We will fight together with you to make a world where women can choose their life and career. We will not give up until this becomes a reality. Power to you!” This letter was addressed to a WHRD imprisoned in Yemen.

Writing letters to Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) in prison is an act of love, solidarity, and a call to action. As part of the installation, participants were invited to write letters of support to 30 imprisoned defenders - messages of care, solidarity, and encouragement. Where security conditions permitted, these letters were delivered to the defenders’ families, serving as a lifeline of hope and connection.



“Dearest Amanda,

I know mothers are the strongest and so full of love. I know this love is power. Your essays, poems, writings, musings are power. I send you lots of love. I send your child so much love and blessings. I pray for your safety and well-being. You are a light. Thank you.” This message was sent to the Philippines to empower a young mother kept in prison for her activism.

Anna Nikoghosyan, the executive coordinator of WHRDIC, stressed the urgency of keeping imprisoned defenders at the forefront of global conversations:

“Everyone should talk about the imprisoned activists. This should be the number one agenda item of all conferences, convenings, and gatherings. We need a global action to help set them free. No one should be persecuted, threatened, or jailed because of their activism, and it is the responsibility of everyone who resists oppressive systems to fight for their release.”

AMANDA ECHANIS WAS ACQUITTED ON JANUARY 14, 2026

The installation formed part of WHRDIC’s annual campaign, "Spreading the Echo", which amplifies the voices of imprisoned WHRDs, calls for their release, demands justice, and nurtures international solidarity. Each year, the campaign unfolds across social media, using the hashtag #SpreadingTheEcho to connect supporters worldwide. While a few defenders featured in the campaign have been released, the majority remain unjustly imprisoned. WHRDIC will therefore continue #SpreadingTheEcho.



"Spreading The Echo" campaign 2025

On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, WHRDIC relaunched the "SPREADING THE ECHO" campaign for the third year. For 16 days, we featured the profiles of 30 women human rights defenders imprisoned for their human rights work and activism. Our demand is to set all WHRDs free. [#SpreadingTheEcho](#) [#freeWHRDs](#)

The 2025's campaign was co-sponsored by our members and allies - International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), Gulf Center for Human Rights (GCHR), Coalition of Women Human Rights Defenders in the SWANA region (WHRD MENA), FORUM-ASIA, Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM), Femena, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders (IM-Defensoras), Front Line Defenders, World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI) - who provided information on the cases.

WHRDIC first launched the [#SpreadingTheEcho](#) campaign in 2023. Since then, several WHRDs featured in our campaigns have been released! Some reached out to WHRDIC to share their gratitude for standing with them in the collective fight for their freedom. The stories of these defenders and the injustices they continue to face can found [here](#).



Strengthening Feminist Solidarity and Collective Power:

WHRD-IC's Renewed Governance and Membership Policy



In 2025, the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC) undertook a significant renewal of its governance structure and membership policy. This shift forms part of a broader transformative process aligned with the Coalition's new Strategic Framework for 2025–2030. At its core, this renewal reflects the Coalition's commitment to building a feminist and decolonial future which centres WHRDs, feminists, trans and non-binary defenders in the Global South.

Our renewed governance and membership policies are living, collective agreements among our members, rooted in our shared purpose as a transnational feminist Coalition. They guide us on how we make decisions, hold power, care for one another, remain accountable to each other, to our communities, and to the movements of which we are part, in the face of intersecting global crises and escalating repressions.

Why This Renewal Matters

The revised governance model is designed to build on the Coalition's herstory and mission of bringing together feminist, women's rights, and human rights organisations to foster dialogue between feminist and human rights groups. It centers care, accountability, solidarity, and collective resilience.

Our new governance structure responds to the reality of the current situation of the WHRDIC, which includes both significant steps forward to revive and rejuvenate our collective work as a Coalition since 2022, and challenges in terms of resources and capacity. It links clearly to the WHRDIC's commitment to expand its membership, and in particular to increase the presence of national and regional organisations of WHRDs in/from the Global South.

We take a step-by-step approach to the transformation of the WHRDIC's governance structure so as to 'test' the effectiveness of the structure, learn from the experience, and make collective decisions on the next steps, as needed.

The WHRDIC operates through a participatory model that reinforces transparency, trust-building, and collective leadership.

The Coalition has now two types of membership:

Members:

Organizations working with and for WHRDs, feminists, trans and non-binary defenders which actively participate in coalition activities and decision-making.

Affiliated Members:

Individuals and feminist funders working with and for WHRDs, which actively participate in coalition activities but do not participate in decision-making.

Only members of WHRDIC have voting rights. Affiliated members do not have voting rights but may participate in discussions in the General Assembly that lead to decision-making.

Individuals applying to become affiliated members is not encouraged and is considered only from: WHRDs from countries and constituencies where there is very limited or no civic space for activism; individuals who have actively contributed to the Coalition's work in their capacity as staff of a member of the Coalition upon leaving the member organisation. Affiliated members may not make up more than 20% of the Coalition's membership. For the period, 2026 - 2028, there is a moratorium on new affiliated members until this quota is achieved.

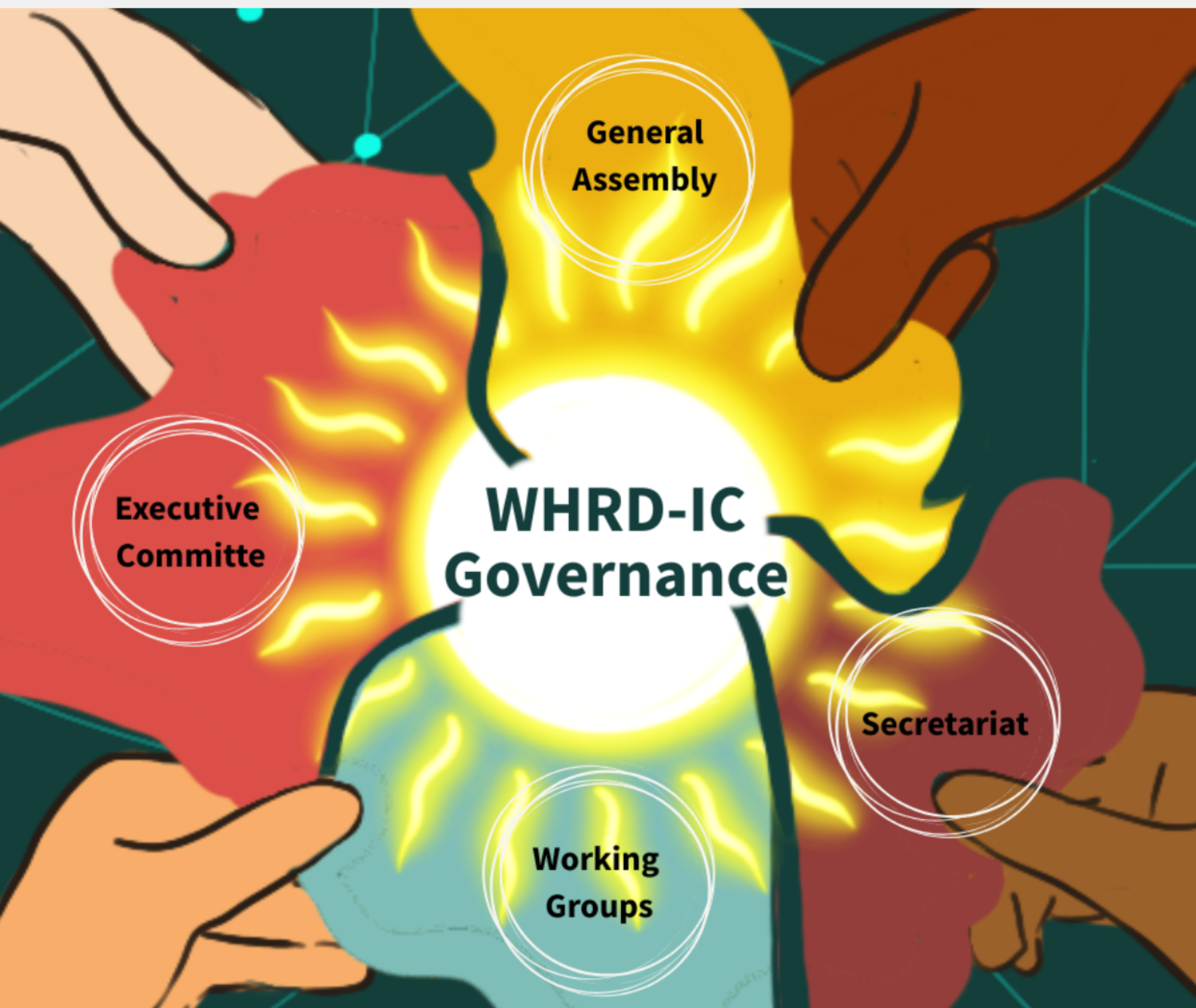
We have collectively set priorities for growing our membership through to the end of 2027. We will soon open up our membership and welcome membership applications from regional and national organisations from the Global South, particularly working on the rights of WHRDs, trans and non-binary defenders. Please check our website and social media channels to learn more about the application process and membership criteria.

We aim to address the regional, issue and movement-related gaps in our current membership. For this, we will not accept membership applications from international NGOs and will not have new affiliated members in 2026-2027.



New Governance Structure:

**Collaborative,
Accountable,
and Rooted in Care**



According to the new structure, the Coalition’s governance is composed of four main bodies:

General Assembly (GA)

The General Assembly is the Coalition’s highest decision-making body. It includes all members and affiliated members, though only members hold voting rights. The General Assembly sets strategic direction and political positions of the Coalition, oversees governance bodies and working groups, reviews the annual work plan, approves policies, makes membership decisions and elects the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee (ExCom)

The ExCom holds fiduciary responsibility, ensures legal and ethical compliance, oversees financial and risk management, supervises the Secretariat and elects the Executive Coordinator. It is composed of two global and three South-led members of the Coalition and the fiscal host of the Coalition. The Executive Coordinator is a non-voting member of the ExCom.

Members of the ExCom are elected by the GA for a term of three years, with the possibility of re-election for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Secretariat

Led by the Executive Coordinator, the Secretariat ensures day-to-day operations align with the Coalition’s strategic goals. It coordinates working groups, manages resources, facilitates internal and external communication and fundraising efforts.

Working Groups

The Coalition’s collective work is carried forward through various Working Groups, each composed of the Executive Coordinator and at least three members or affiliated members of the Coalition.



Conflict as a Path to Collective Resilience

The WHRD-IC's renewed governance and membership policies are not just procedural updates - they are political commitments. They reflect who we are in this feminist space grounded in care, solidarity, accountability, and resistance. They strengthen our ability to act collectively across borders, identities, and movements to sustain our collective power. We hope that our new structure and framework will be also useful for our peers.

Acknowledging that conflict is an inevitable and natural dynamic in our movements and in the contexts where we work, the WHRDIC has introduced a new Conflict Resolution Policy. This Conflict Resolution Policy is designed to promote a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all members of the WHRDIC. It provides a framework to prevent, mitigate, manage, and resolve conflicts constructively, aligned with the coalition's feminist values, and principles of care and solidarity.

In our strategic framework 2025-2030, we committed to working together differently as part of co-creating a feminist and decolonial future for the Coalition including:

making cornerstones of the Coalition's work love as a political act and collective care; prioritising trust building and belonging; tapping into our collective power; collectively finding best practices for dismantling power and privilege in the Coalition; embracing disagreement and dissent as signs of genuine involvement and care; and building consent at each stage of our collective work. Linked to these commitments, we believe that when we address conflict with intention and care, it can become a tool for our collective resilience as a Coalition.

The policy emphasizes:

- Prevention through clear roles, rotating leadership, and consent-based decision-making;
- Encouragement of informal resolution, where appropriate and safe;
- Formal processes including submission of concerns (with the option of anonymity), facilitated dialogue, mediation, or restorative practices;
- Commitment to confidentiality and protection against retaliation.

The conflicts are addressed by the Membership and Feminist Politics Working Group at the WHRDIC. Where needed, unresolved cases may be escalated to the General Assembly. Conflict is not seen as failure, but as a vital process for deepening accountability and collective strength.

Termination of membership is a last resort, reserved for serious breaches of Coalition values, and follows a fair process. Former members may apply for restoration if they meet conditions for accountability and healing.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing members of WHRDIC’s Interim Executive Committee and Advisory Committee, including those who stepped down earlier in the process due to changing roles, for their time, energy, leadership, and wisdom. These incredible individuals held WHRDIC through multiple, layered phases of transition with exceptional care, commitment, and dedication.

The Interim Executive Committee was composed of organisations from the outgoing Executive Committee, alongside organisational members who opted into the responsibility of carrying the Coalition into its next phase of governance. Their overarching role was to accompany WHRDIC through a complex transition period and to help lay the groundwork for new governance policies and structures. Alongside them, the Advisory Committee brought together members who chose to take on a more hands-on role, offering guidance and insight on the Coalition’s work through deep political engagement and care.

Together, these committees stewarded WHRDIC through a time marked by limited resources and profound global challenges, while still holding space for vision, learning, and solidarity.

Reflecting on her motivation for joining the Advisory Committee, Cynthia Rothschild spoke to the importance of showing up during a difficult moment in the Coalition’s life:

“I wanted to lean in to supporting the WHRDIC during a hard phase... We had almost no funds, our people were exhausted—but we still had great camaraderie, love and belief in the IC and our work.”

Her words capture the spirit that carried WHRDIC forward: commitment rooted in shared history, political clarity, and a belief in a feminist future still being shaped.

For Nathalie Margi, the Committee was a space of both political courage and human connection:

“We have had profound conversations about power and have had the collective courage to not just name challenges but actually roll up our sleeves and take action to shift governance and membership structures to build a coalition where all members feel a sense of belonging.”

Honouring Our Outgoing Interim Executive and Advisory Committee Members

At a time of escalating threats against WHRDs globally, this willingness to act together was a powerful reminder that care, accountability, and transformation are inseparable.

Jenny Radloff reflected on the joy and purpose found in collective work, particularly in advancing feminist engagements with technology:

“There was a deep belief in the mission and vision of WHRDIC and a caring for the membership. I loved that people started seeing how vital engaging with technology with a feminist lens is and how critical it is to bring this to advocacy work.”

Her contribution highlights how WHRDIC continues to evolve, expanding its analysis and practice to meet new realities while remaining grounded in feminist principles.

For Susana Fried, who has been part of WHRDIC since its inception, the transition process itself was a testament to the Coalition’s strength:

“We have had to grapple with a number of pretty tricky questions - about membership, governance, etc. And the process of coming to consensus has been a testament to the depth of everyone’s commitment.”

That commitment - to process, to politics, and to one another - has been a defining feature of this chapter.

We wish to acknowledge and deeply thank all members of the Interim Executive Committee and Advisory Committee whose collective leadership made this work possible.

Interim Executive Committee members:

Guadalupe Marengo, Lisa Maracani - Amnesty International

Misun Woo, Sadia Afrin Khan - Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Anissa Daboussi - Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

Pooja Patel, Tess McEvoy - International Society for Human Rights (ISHR)

Bing Parcon, Debanjana Choudhuri - Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)

Advisory Committee members:

Cynthia Rothschild (Individual member)

Susana Fried (Individual member)

Jenny Radloff - Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Nathalie Margi - Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism (UAF)

As WHRDIC moves into its next phase of governance, we do so standing on the foundation built by these members - one shaped by care, feminist leadership, political imagination, and deep solidarity. We are profoundly grateful for all that our outgoing Executive Committee and Advisory Committee members have given, and for the paths they have helped open forward.

Financials

INCOME \$228,500

EXPENDITURE \$200,757

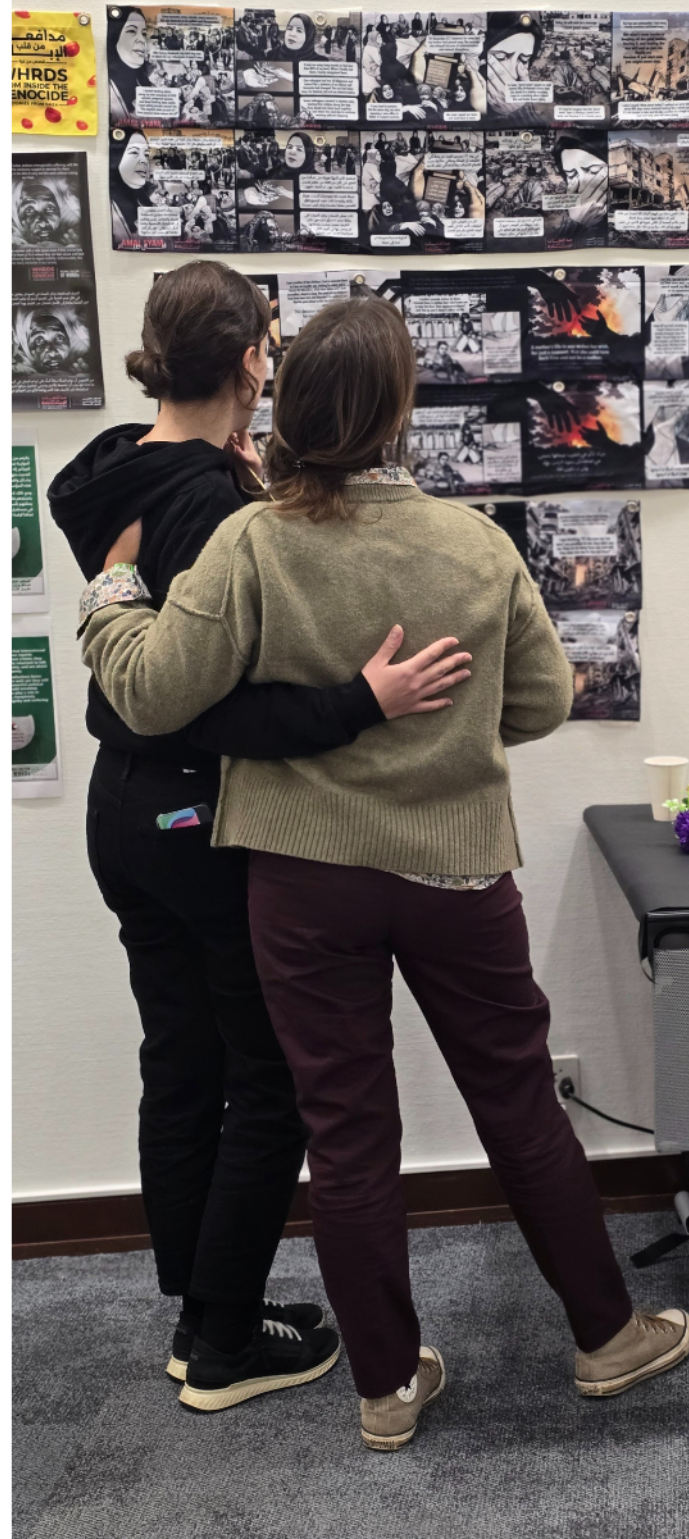
Supporters

Ford Foundation

Channel Foundation

Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism

Linksbridge Foundation



We thank our donors and partners for their generous support.
Our work would not be possible without sustainable funding.

Our members

- Amnesty International
- Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
- Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
- BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights (BAOBAB)
- FRIDA The Young Feminist Fund (FRIDA)
- Front Line Defenders (FLD)
- Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR)
- Human Rights First (HRF)
- Human Rights Watch (HRW)
- IM-Defensoras
- INFORM Documentation Centre (INFORM)
- International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
- International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
- International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
- International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW)
- Just Associates (JASS)
- MADRE
- Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI)
- Peace Brigades International (PBI)
- Regional Coalition of WHRDs in the Middle East and North Africa (WHRDMENA COALITION)
- The Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM)
- Urgent Action Fund Africa (UAF Africa)
- Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism (UAF)
- Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML)
- Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC)
- Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
- Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ)
- Women's International Peace Centre (Peace Center)
- World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

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