

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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Blagica Kirov (legal adviser) and Beti Peeva (president) work at Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Educational Humanitarian Organization (ECHO). ECHO provides free legal aid, psychosocial support and enables economic empowerment for women who are survivors of violence. In 2019, ECHO had more than 60 ongoing cases at the local municipality in Štip, North Macedonia.

Photo: Maja Janevska Ilieva

**The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation** is one of the world's leading women's rights organisations, working directly in areas affected by war and conflict to strengthen women's influence and power.

We work closely together with 149 local partner organisations across 20 countries to end violence against women, reach lasting peace and close the gender gap once and for all. How? By supporting our partners' programmes, fostering studies and research, and raising public awareness. All without attaching importance to religious, political, national or ethnic affiliation.

The future is equal. And together, we are change.

**History**

We have defended women's rights since 1993, when reports of mass rapes in the wars in former Yugoslavia reached Sweden. The Swedish peace and women's movements then organised a series of joint fundraising initiatives to support women in the Balkans.

**Vision**

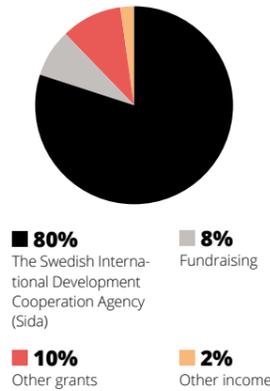
Kvinna till Kvinna's vision is a world of sustainable and just peace, built around gender equality, human rights and democracy. Our aim is to reach conflict resolution through civil, non-military means, whereby women have power over decisions and are included in all parts of society. In a peaceful and just society, women live free from threats, fear and exploitation, their human rights are respected, and they enjoy the same social, economic and political opportunities as men.

**Focus areas**

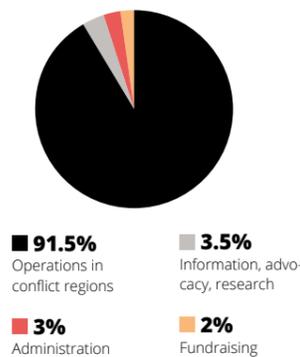
- Ending violence against women**  
We work to prevent and end gender-based violence. Until women can live their lives free from the threat of violence, equality and lasting peace remain out of reach for all of us.
- Strengthening women's participation in peace processes**  
When women take part in peace talks, peace agreements are more likely to be sustainable and address inequality. We call for equal participation of women in peace processes, and for security policies to be based on the concept of human security.
- Promoting women's equal participation in society**  
Across the world, women are underrepresented in decision-making, peace processes and the public debate. We advocate for women's full, effective and equal participation in all parts of society.
- Empowering women economically**  
Women's lack of economic empowerment is a major barrier to equality. That is why we strengthen women's opportunities to get an education, enter the labour market, access financial resources and become financially independent.

**Did you know that for 320 SEK, a Lebanese woman can take courses in crafts and economics and become financially independent? Your donation makes a difference!**

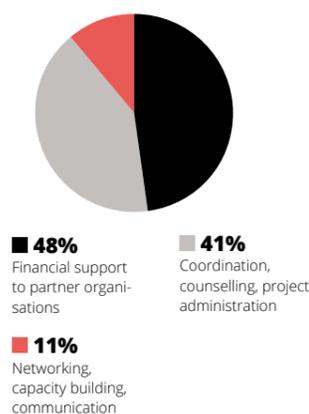
HOW WE GET FUNDING | 201 MSEK



HOW WE USE THE MONEY | 200 MSEK



OPERATIONS IN CONFLICT REGIONS | 183 MSEK



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here is a list of frequently asked questions about Kvinna till Kvinna, with brief answers and references to the pages where you can find more details about our organisation, work and results.

**What does Kvinna till Kvinna want to achieve?**  
Information about our vision and focus areas can be found on page 4. On page 8, we describe our broader goals and explain what we want to do for women. Our goals are also detailed on pages 16–31, where we give an account of our work around the world.

**Why was Kvinna till Kvinna founded?**  
The history of our organisation can be found on page 4.

**Where does Kvinna till Kvinna work?**  
We work in regions affected by war and conflict. On pages 6–7, a map shows which countries we operate in.

**What does Kvinna till Kvinna do?**  
Our methodology and collaboration with women's rights organisations are described on pages 8–9. Our partner organisations are presented by region on pages 16–31.

**What capacity and knowledge do you have to achieve your goals?**  
An overview of our organisation is provided on page 8, where you'll also find information about our offices and employees. You can read more about our capacity throughout the report, including our Board (page 36) and our development work (pages 10–13).

**What strategies do you employ to achieve your goals?**  
Our strategies depend on location and goal, and are described throughout the report. Our overarching strategy for the coming years and our principal method of change are explained on pages 8–9.

**How is your work funded?**  
Kvinna till Kvinna is able to support women in conflict-affected regions through private donations and grants (see page 8). Our private and corporate fundraising activities are described on pages 32–35.

**How do you inform the general public about your work?**  
We spread information about women's rights and our work through various communication channels, especially in print and on social media. Our volunteers are also invaluable to our communication and fundraising work (see pages 32–35). In addition to this, we engage in advocacy work, which you can read about on pages 32–35, and research (pages 14–15).

**How do you know whether your organisation is making progress?**  
The way we plan and follow up on our work is described in the model on page 9 and you can find examples on a more overall level on pages 10–13.

**What have you achieved so far?**  
The model on page 9 shows how our work leads to both societal and personal change for women. Our results for each region are described in the regional sections: the MENA region on pages 16–19; Africa on pages 20–23; Europe on pages 24–27; and the South Caucasus on pages 28–31. The results of our advocacy and communication efforts are described on pages 32–35.

**Can I volunteer for Kvinna till Kvinna?**  
Yes, you can! Read about our fantastic volunteering activities on page 32–33.

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is a member of the Swedish Fundraising Association (Giva Sverige), which works to ensure Sweden's fundraising sector is transparent, accountable, ethical and professional. As a member, we're required to submit an annual report on our operations to demonstrate their usefulness. Here, we present questions Giva Sverige requires us to answer and indicate where in the report answers can be found.

# OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD

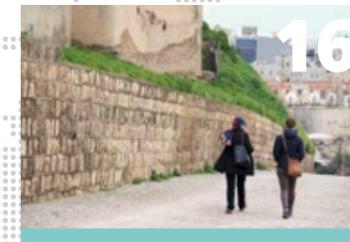
Kvinna till Kvinna operates in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa), Africa, Europe and the South Caucasus.



- Europe**
- Albania
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Kosovo
  - North Macedonia
  - Montenegro
  - Serbia
  - Sweden
  - Ukraine



- Africa**
- Liberia
  - Rwanda
  - The Democratic Republic of the Congo



- The MENA region**
- Iraq
  - Israel
  - Jordan
  - Lebanon
  - Palestine
  - Syria
  - Tunisia



- The South Caucasus**
- Armenia
  - Azerbaijan
  - Georgian and Abkhaz contexts



For security reasons, we cannot mention all the countries we operate in or provide a complete list of partner organisations we support.

## INDESTRUCTIBLE FEMINIST SPIRIT

**Many trends in the world are not going in the right direction when it comes to building peaceful and just societies in which women's rights are respected. Globally, 2019 brought us increased nationalism, which aggravated conditions for women human rights defenders who are targeted with threats and hate speech.**

At the same time, we also saw women taking to the streets and demanding their rights in decision-making forums, all the way from local councils to international peace negotiations. Women were at the forefront of demonstrations in Lebanon. Young Azerbaijani feminists organised street marches against sexual abuse. Our partners in Liberia stood up to violence through

sit-in actions. The photo on page 19, of a woman at dawn looking out over protests in Baghdad's Al-Tahrir square, perfectly symbolises that indestructible feminist spirit.

One of the pillars of Kvinna till Kvinna's work is to increase knowledge on women, peace and security. This year, that led to publications like the report *"The Fierce and the Furious"* on the recent growth of the anti-gender movement and the strategies of women's organisations to counter that, and *"Listen to Her"*, about local solutions as an effective first step towards women's peacebuilding in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

We also published a major analysis of how international financial institutions and development banks are failing to include a gender perspective in their policies and practices. There's definitely room for the women's movement to push for greater civic space in that field.

After 27 years of working for women's rights in extreme contexts of violent conflict and war, we know one of the most nota-

ble steps on the road to gender equality is women being aware of their own rights. This applies to Sweden too, which is why we've intensified our work with girls and young women who are new to Sweden. Gender equality should never be taken for granted: the struggle for women and girls' rights is continuous.

As we move on into 2020, I look forward to the conversations we'll be having about current and future challenges, the effects of climate change on women and how the invaluable experience of women peacebuilders can contribute to long-term peace and stability.

I want to thank our partner organisations, donors, colleagues, volunteers and – not least – readers like you for your support of what we do. **Together, we are change.**

**Petra Tötterman Andorff** | Secretary-General



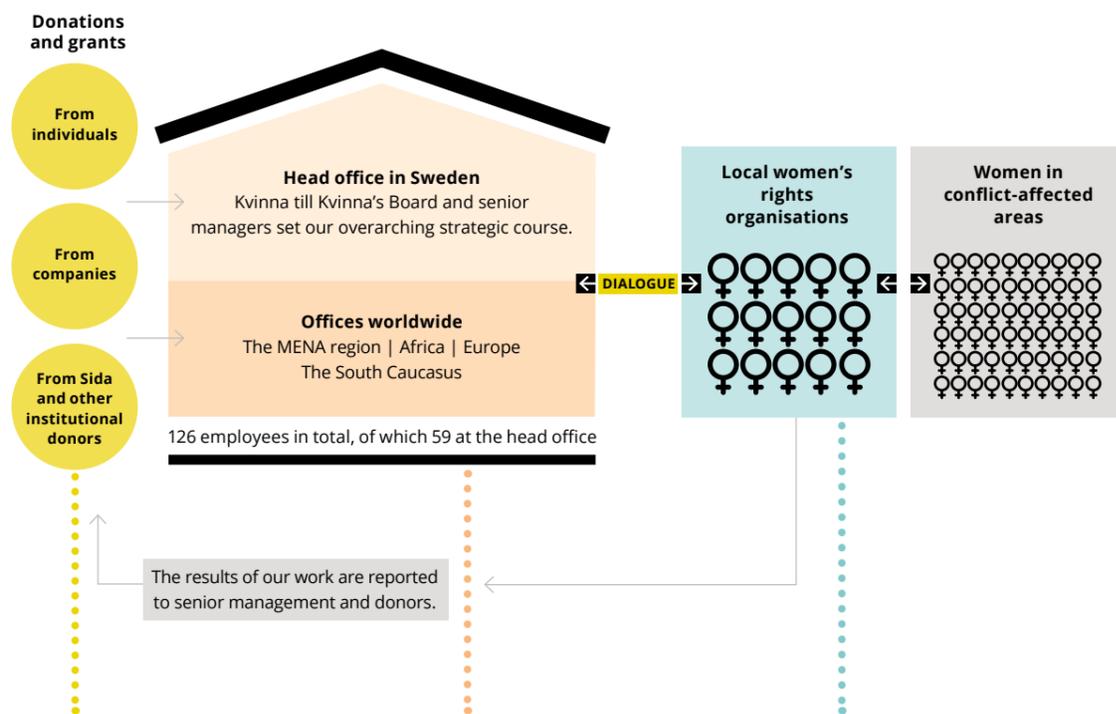
Photo: Viktor Galdar



# HOW KVINNA TILL KVINNA WORKS

A peaceful and equal world for everyone. That is what Kvinna till Kvinna has set out to achieve. We do this by supporting 149 partner organisations, fostering studies and research and raising awareness.

For us, our partner organisations come first. We get to know them, listen to them and support their priorities. We help them grow by providing financial support, training and networking opportunities.



## Our funding

We are able to support women's rights thanks to donations and grants:

- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is our main source of funding. We also receive grants from the Swedish Inheritance Fund, the EU, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Canada, Norway, the UK and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
- Our work also heavily relies on donations from private individuals and companies. Our main private donor is the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

## Our methods

- **Communication:** We raise awareness through digital communication, media appearances, the events we organise and the activities of our volunteers.
- **Advocacy:** We influence decision-makers and call for legislative change to improve women's rights.
- **Research:** We produce studies and reports, both internally and together with researchers and research institutions.
- **Training:** We offer capacity-building training on women, peace and security.

## Our partner organisations

In 2019, Kvinna till Kvinna partnered with 149 women's rights organisations in four conflict-affected regions:

- The MENA region
- Europe
- Africa
- The South Caucasus

## Strategic focus

Our focus for 2016–2021 is to:

1. Reduce violence against women.
2. Increase women's political participation.
3. Contribute to changes in security policy that give a prominent role to women's rights.

# HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## Example | Eliminating gender-based violence

1. We support many women's rights organisations, including the Anti-Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG). AVNG works to prevent gender-based violence and offers shelter to survivors. They lobby for legislative change and stronger response services and encourage women's economic empowerment.

## How we measure results

We analyse how much of our budget directly supports partner organisations, whether financially or through training and networking opportunities.

2. AVNG receives funding from us to raise awareness of gender-based violence among the police, judges and public servants. This improves the quality of response services and gives women greater access to protection.

We regularly meet representatives of our partners and maintain a close dialogue with them about their operations.

3. We build AVNG's capacity and help them become a more sustainable organisation. We also arrange networking events so they can share their experiences with other actors. All this strengthens AVNG as an organisation that addresses gender-based violence.

We follow up on our partners' ability to:

- plan and evaluate their projects
- run projects transparently and efficiently
- network with relevant actors.

4. As a strong women's rights actor, AVNG gains more power and influence to change institutions and strengthen the position of women – both in Georgia and the region.

We work with our partner organisations to analyse their results and their impact on society, so we can learn and develop together.

Photo: Maja Brand



**Irma Basilashvili**  
Tbilisi | Georgia

5. Irma was a university student when she was kidnapped as a bride and forced to marry the man who held her hostage. She gave birth to two children and was abused in the violent relationship. With the help of AVNG, she managed to flee to their safe house, where she got protection and medical and psychological support. Her rehabilitation through AVNG strengthened her self-confidence and made her more aware of her rights. Today, Irma is safe, divorced and earns her own income, which allows her children to go to school.



**Dialogue and trust-building are vital to work together.**

## TRAINING THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY AND POLICE

**We launched a brand-new training programme in Colombia: for one year, twenty-three participants from the security forces, armed forces and the police will work with us on Resolution 1325.**

We started in November with a two-week session in Villa de Leyva, in the mountains outside of Bogotá. International and Colombian NGOs held talks, including on how to strengthen the gender perspective in peace agreements.

Participants then took off to implement their own change projects: drafting equality guidelines for the Ministry of Defence, introducing Women, Peace and Security issues into military schools' curricula, and increasing dialogue with civil society in Colombian provinces.

Next up: meeting each other in Sweden to explore the topic of masculinity and swap notes with Swedish and European counterparts!

**Image** Training participants met with local women and youth organisations to discuss the concept of "security" and listen to their experiences of war and domestic violence.

### RENEWED AGREEMENT WITH SIDA

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is one of our biggest donors. In 2019, they renewed our CIVSAM funding agreement for another five years. As we worked on this process for months, this is a significant decision. The CIVSAM agreement (which only a handful of Swedish NGOs receive) gives us the freedom to develop our operations across all regions. Most of all, however, it's a sign of Sida's continued trust in Kvinna till Kvinna – a trust we're very proud of.



### UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT ZONES

"Conflict sensitivity" refers to our efforts to fully understand how our programmes, activities and behaviour interact with the conflict contexts we operate in. This helps us understand how we can maximise the positive impact of what we do while minimising any negative impact.

This year, we took specific steps to mainstream conflict sensitivity in our operations. We strengthened our partners' capacity to apply conflict sensitivity to their own work, wove the concept into all sections of our new Programme Handbook and introduced it to new staff during their onboarding.



## CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL GOALS

In 2019, world leaders adopted Agenda 2030 and its 17 Global Goals (also known as the Sustainable Development Goals) to eradicate poverty. A lot of what we do at Kvinna till Kvinna is connected to the Global Goals, because women's rights, peace and security are key pieces of the puzzle.

Here are a few Global Goals we contribute to:



### GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

Poverty and gender inequality go hand in hand. Around the world, women struggle to access formal education, income, health care, property and decision-making positions. This puts them at greater risk of poverty – which in turn aggravates inequality. With our partners, we enable women's economic empowerment. This can help lift entire families, villages and nations out of poverty.

### GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

All human beings have a right to health. Gender-based violence (GBV) like rape, early marriage and domestic violence all negatively affect women's mental and physical health. We work to prevent GBV by addressing its root causes, including harmful gender norms. We also advocate for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services and information.

### GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Ensuring women can fully participate in society is a direct road to sustainable development. That's why we address structural obstacles to equality (like discriminatory laws), GBV and destructive norms. We encourage women's participation in decision-making and strengthen their ability to organise themselves. We also monitor backlash against equality and raise awareness of the consequences that can have.

### GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Conflict, the use of arms and wartime ideas of masculinity and power all negatively affect women's rights and increase abuse like sexual violence and trafficking. With our partners, we advocate for peace and women's participation in peace processes – the best way to sustainable development and democracy.

With women's rights organisations in more than twenty countries, we also speak up about the Global Goals and hold states and international actors accountable for implementing them.



**Hello – or Hej, as we say in Sweden! I'm Johanna Arkåsen.**

I've been with Kvinna till Kvinna since 2012, working with the Western Balkans and Georgia. This year, I became Advisor for Programme and Partnership.

### What do you do at Kvinna till Kvinna?

My role is completely new. I'm responsible for implementing our Programme Handbook and keeping it up-to-date. I also help colleagues with programme development and daily interactions with our partner organisations.

### Why this new role?

Kvinna till Kvinna is expanding, but the backbone of our work remains our partnership with women's rights organisations. This role assembles our knowledge about that. I think it's good to have someone who can consolidate and assure the quality of what we do.

### What's the best part of your job?

I like how I get to be in touch with colleagues everywhere to talk about how we work, why we do things the way we do, and how that can be improved. I actually really appreciate when colleagues turn to me with their issues.

### What's your biggest challenge?

As a decentralised organisation, it's not easy for all of us to have the same standards and methods. I want us to feel comfortable with the Programme Handbook, to feel we're able to apply it no matter where we're based.

### Any plans for your role in 2020?

I want to properly roll out the Programme Handbook, make it more user-friendly and clarify its connection to our Partnership Policy. And I look forward to continuing our discussion about different kinds of partnerships.

Participants got to share their impressions in a anonymous survey afterwards:

**I left with a very nice feeling, overwhelmed with info and very happy that I am part of Kvinna till Kvinna.**



**A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET COLLEAGUES**

As a decentralised organisation, finding opportunities to bring Kvinna till Kvinna staff together can be a challenge. But at our Programme Days in October, we did just that!

Almost seventy colleagues from our country offices and the head office gathered for a two-day staff exchange outside of Stockholm. Different teams had lively cross-regional discussions about everything from partnerships to working in harsh environments. Despite the physical distance, it turns out many of us face surprisingly similar challenges.

Goodwill Ambassador Fanna Ndow Norrby also stopped by for a much-appreciated presentation on intersectionality, and there was a panel debate on shrinking space.

"I especially enjoyed the group work," said one participant. "It was a chance to discuss and learn from each other."

After the Programme Days, the regional teams stayed on for an extra day of operational planning.

**Did you know that 1,500 SEK allows a woman who's survived abuse to take her case to court in Bosnia and Herzegovina? Your donation makes a difference!**

## OUR LIFE HAS CHANGED

Women's economic empowerment is an integral part of the work we do on peacebuilding, gender-based violence and women's political participation. Our partners encourage economic empowerment by focusing on three pathways to change:

- **Institutional change** – like addressing conservative laws that prevent women from inheriting land or entering the workforce.
- **Economic change** – like strengthening women's employability and providing access to financial resources.
- **Change in power and agency** – like dismantling harmful norms that prevent women from making independent economic choices.

Here's one example of how change in power and agency can bring about economic empowerment:

Our Rwandan partner Réseau des Femmes raises awareness of why both women and men should do their share of chores at home. The organisation regularly works with men in rural areas, discussing social norms and masculinity and explaining that unpaid care work can perpetuate inequality: girls may be forced to drop out of school to help out at home, and women are unable to accept paid work when the household rests on their shoulders.



Photo: Nyirarugwa Grace

Ngendahimana from Rwamagana district took part in Réseau des Femmes' activities:

In the past, I believed there was work reserved for men and work reserved for women. My main role was to work on the farm, cultivating crops and feeding the cows. At the end of the day, I would listen to the radio or talk with other men in the village. I never helped my wife fetch water, feed the children, cook or carry firewood. I saw those tasks as negligible – until I realised my wife was always so tired. Today, I've changed my mind and behaviour. After farming, I stay at home to help my wife with the household. Our life has changed for the better: now, there is harmony, peace and love in our family.



Photo: Theo Alexopoulos

**Hi! My name is Joana Acosta. I'm the new Regional Safety and Security Advisor for the MENA region.**

Before I joined Kvinna till Kvinna, I worked in various post-conflict and humanitarian-related jobs: I was a UN electoral officer and security advisor to the president of East Timor. Over the past eight years, I've worked exclusively with security in the MENA region, in Cairo, Jerusalem and Amman.

**What do you do at Kvinna till Kvinna?**  
As Regional Safety and Security Advisor, I help colleagues conduct their work in a safe way. Every day, I monitor the security situation in the MENA region. I make risk assessments and give our country offices advice on how to prepare for emergencies. But security is a joint effort: engaging with colleagues is very important to me. Together, we find solutions that improve our safety, our wellbeing and the quality of our work.

**What's the best part of your job?**  
I really enjoy the way I get to engage with a diverse representation of women across different contexts. Working in conflict zones comes with a lot of challenges. But it exposes me to the human condition. It impacts me as a person and helps me develop professionally.

**What's your biggest challenge?**  
These days, I think the MENA region has to be the most politically and militarily unpredictable region in the world. This volatility affects human security – and my ability to analyse and forecast dynamics, and prepare for emergencies.

**Any plans for your role in 2020?**  
My main goal is to give relevant, tailored support to our country offices. I want to go beyond technical support like updating security plans: I want to make sure those plans are fully understood and incorporated into our office routines. Only then do they serve their purpose.

## CAPACITY BUILDING ON THEORY OF CHANGE

A key part of what we offer our partners is capacity-building support. This year, we supported our partners in focusing more on change processes when they plan and identify results. We've started using "Theory of Change" for this: a tool that helps us pinpoint why and how change will happen in a certain context.

In 2019, we worked with Theory of Change on different occasions. We participated in Sida's Resultlab where we discussed the tool with six other major Swedish civil society organisations. Using what we learned there, we piloted Theory of Change in a new regional advocacy programme in the Western Balkans. In Liberia, we held a four-day capacity-building training for seven partners, to show them how to use Theory of Change.



Photo: RIMDS

In September, we invited a youth group from Hebron and Bethlehem for a Theory of Change workshop.

## ITP PARTICIPANTS NETWORK

Another 50 representatives from civil society and authorities in the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine joined our International Training Programme (ITP) on gender-based violence (GBV), ready to implement change projects in their own organisations.

Many participants have successfully trained stakeholders back home to respond to GBV: the Resonance Centre in Transnistria helped the police establish standard operating procedures on GBV, and the Women's Rights Centre in Montenegro trained the country's social services, who now refer victims to WRC's shelter more often.

What struck us this year was the way participants made use of the contacts they'd gained through ITP. One of our Ukrainian participants, for example, collaborated with the Swedish organisation Fryshuset on a conference on discrimination and violence in schools.



Photo: Elin Ragnarsson

The ITP is implemented in partnership with the Swedish Police Authority, with funding from Sida.



An important part of Kvinna till Kvinna's mandate is to support research about the issues we work with. Both by producing our own reports and by supporting our partner organisations' research on women, peace and security. Here are some of the latest publications to roll off the presses ...



Gender representative at a major development bank, commenting on why IFIs have been slow to integrate a gender perspective:

## They're bankers, what do you expect?

### TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK

In the Western Balkans' EU accession process, the EU claims it is committed to supporting women's rights. Each year, it writes Country Reports to capture the progress (or setbacks) the six countries have made on their path to EU integration. But the reports themselves often fail to include a gender perspective.

Together with our partners, we've been monitoring this process for several years. In 2019, we launched our second gender analysis of the Country Reports.

To make our case very clear, we've developed what we like to call "the emoji scale"... :-)



## FIERCE AND FURIOUS

Together with EuroMed Rights, we published the report: *"The Fierce and the Furious - Feminist Insights into the Anti-Gender Narratives and Movements"*.

The report, which compiled the results of interviews, a survey and a desk study, is our joint response to the growing global backlash against gender equality and women's rights. "The Fierce and the Furious" was launched on November 27th and highlighted by an op-ed article in Göteborgs-Posten, a major daily newspaper in Sweden.



Did you know that 970 SEK can provide a survivor of gender-based violence in Liberia with social and psychological support for an entire year? Your donation makes a difference!



Eva Zillén at the "Listen to Her" launch in Tbilisi, where our partners dramatised women's stories in a local theatre.

## LISTEN TO HER

Our report *"Listen to Her"* zooms in on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which has divided Armenia and Azerbaijan since the 1990s.

Many call the conflict "frozen," but there's nothing frozen about the way it affects the daily lives of women in the region. This report analyses women's needs and their different experiences of the conflict.

It also investigates possibilities to strengthen women's influence over the peace process: just like in many of the places we work in, women are mostly left out of peace talks over Nagorno-Karabakh. "Listen to Her" provides recommendations to all stakeholders involved in the conflict – so both they and women themselves can start seeing women as the powerful agents for peace they can be.



# SUPPORTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

International financial institutions (IFIs), like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and development banks play a central role in reconstructing countries after conflict and supporting fragile states. Because they invest large sums of money, they have a lot of influence over countries' development.

### But are IFIs aware of the gendered implications of their loans and programmes?

To answer this, we mapped IFIs' work in Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt. We interviewed 56 key stakeholders and analysed a wide range of IFI documents. We looked at thematic areas in which IFI policies, gender and civic space intersect, and analysed how women's rights organisations could engage with development banks.

This led to our new report: *"Maintaining a Role for Women's Organisations in International Development Finance: A Guide on How to Effectively Engage with International Financial Institutions in the MENA region on Gender Equality and Civic Space"*

### The report shows there is room for improvement:

- IFI gender policies rarely use a rights-based language.
- While IFI gender strategies have become stronger, gender mainstreaming remains limited in practice

because IFI country officers lack the capacity to work with this.

- There is a lack of research and disaggregated data on gender issues, and the existing data is not transparent enough.
- Gender and women's rights are usually not explicitly included in IFI country frameworks; when they are, there are no explicit gender targets.
- IFI engage with and consult civil society in a limited, selective and ineffective way.
- Knowledge of IFI policies is limited among civil society organisations.

### So what's next?

Few actors seem to work on this issue – so we've identified a clear line of advocacy we're eager to pursue. Together with our partners, we'll be discussing ways for them to promote a stronger gender perspective among IFIs and influence IFIs' policies and programmes. We've already mapped out possible advocacy avenues and relevant stakeholders to talk to. This is a new arena for us, though, so this will be a long-term process.

**Image** Our report was launched in mid-September in Amman, as well as at the Stockholm Development Forum.

# HARSH CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA



## GOALS

### Long-term goal

A strong and sustainable women's movement that strengthens women's rights and their opportunities to participate in decision-making, at all levels.

### Short-term goals

- Reduce violence against women.
- Prevent and combat discrimination.
- Increase women's participation in peacebuilding and society.
- Support the development of women's rights organisations.
- Strengthen the protection of activists.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is one of the most volatile regions we work in. In several countries, conflict and insecurity are part of everyday life.

**Syria remains an** outright war zone and Iraq is plagued by frequent militia attacks. This takes a heavy toll on the local women's movement: activists do what they can despite threats, instability and forced disappearances.

Economic troubles are affecting the region too. Since a few years back, Tunisia's economy has fallen into a slump and youth unemployment has risen. The same goes for Jordan, where austerity measures result in sporadic protests (closely monitored by the government).

In Iraq, there is public discontent with the way everyday services fail to function. Things came to a head in November in Lebanon, when a massive uprising against the ongoing economic crisis and corruption forced the prime minister to resign. We were proud to witness women actively (and loudly!) participating in the protests to claim their rights.

Another worrying trend across the MENA region is shrinking space for civil society. In many places, things are actually getting worse. Sometimes our partners are intimidated in subtle, insidious ways. In other contexts, we witness outright repression: from travel bans and frozen funding to arrests and intimidation by the security apparatus. All of this forces activists to find different, innovative ways of working to stay safe. The MENA region is a complex context, to say the least.

Despite these challenges, our partner organisations relentlessly work to improve women's lives. Just a few examples of priorities we're supporting: in Tunisia, our partners are advocating for proper implementation of a new law against gender-based violence. In Syria, strengthening the country's fledgling feminist movement is on the agenda. In Lebanon, our partners are tackling persistent legal discrimination against women. Across the region as a whole, they strive to increase women's participation in decision-making and prevent gender-based violence.

A staggering agenda? Perhaps. But we're not about to give up any time soon!



## #METOO GOES VIRAL IN TUNISIA

Sexual violence is rife in Tunisia. In a recent study, up to 90% of women reported having been sexually harassed in public transport, and 75% had been harassed at work. While there's a law to prevent such misconduct, the subject remains taboo: women who speak up about sexual violence risk facing fierce backlash.

Enter **#EnaZeda** – Tunisia's very own MeToo movement. After a young woman caught a politician on camera who appeared to be masturbating outside a school, she shared the video on social media. Thousands of women across the country reacted, sharing their own experiences of sexual harassment and violence. Our partner Aswat Nissa offered a safe space for the discussions by starting the #EnaZeda Facebook group. In just a few weeks, 25,000 people joined, posting stories directly or anonymously through Aswat Nissa's moderators.

While the offending politician was charged with sexual harassment, he managed to be sworn into office – and receive immunity from prosecution – before the court case could be finalised. Aswat Nissa protested outside parliament on the day new MPs were sworn in, with the slogan "Harassers should not be legislators".

Image Taken in central Erbil, Iraq.

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

Our partners focus on:

- Gender-based violence 47%
- Participation & Advocacy 31%
- Economic empowerment 8%
- Peacebuilding 8%
- Other 4%
- Security 2%



**IRAQ**

We have been working in the country since 2005, with an office in Erbil.

**Partner organisations:** *Hawa Organisation for Relief and Development, Iraqi Organization for Women and Future, Iraqi Women's League, Pana Center, Rasan Organization for Women's Rights.*

**JORDAN**

We have been working in the country since 2005, with an office in Amman.

**Partner organisations:** *Ahel, Arab Women Organization, Jordanian Women's Union, Sadaqa, Sisterhood is Global Institute.*

**ISRAEL**

We have been working in the country since 2001, with an office in Jerusalem.

**Partner organisations:** *Achoti for Women in Israel, Al Tufula Centre & Alternative Coalition 1325, Al Zahraa Organization for the Advancement of Women, Assiwar, Isha L'Isha, Kayan Palestinian Feminist Organisation.*

**SYRIA**

We have been working in the country since 2009.

**Partner organisations:** *Women Now for Development, Musawa/Women's Study Center, Kesh Malek, Dawlaty, Syrian Female Journalist Network, Start Point, Badael.*

**LEBANON**

We have been working in the country since 2005, with an office in Beirut.

**Partner organisations:** *Association Najdeh, FeMale, Kafa (Enough) Violence & Exploitation, Knowledge Workshop, Lebanese Council to resist Violence Against Women, Lebanese Democratic Women Gathering, Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization, RDFL, The A Project, The Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action.*

**PALESTINE**

We have been working in the country since 2001, with an office in Jerusalem.

**Partner organisations:** *AISHA Association Woman and Child Protection, Al Qaws, Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor (EMHRM), Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy, Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development (PWWSD), Rural Women's Development Society, Sawa – All the Women Together Today and Tomorrow, Women's Affairs Center (WAC) Gaza, Women's Studies Center.*

**TUNISIA**

We have been working in the country since 2016, with an office in Tunis.

**Partner organisations:** *Association femme et citoyenneté, Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates, Aswat Nissa, Joussour de citoyenneté, Ligue des Electriciennes Tunisiennes.*

*Across the region, we work with the WHRD-MENA coalition.*



### CAMPAINING FOR MIGRANT WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ISRAEL

Our partner organisation Achoti champions the rights of marginalised women in Israel – including migrant workers from Philippines, Sri Lanka, India and Africa.

When migrant workers give birth in Israel, they automatically lose their work visa. Their children are stateless and they themselves can only work illegally, without insurance or rights. This summer, the Israeli government arrested 17 migrant women.

Achoti reacted together with United Children of Israel (an organisation founded by a migrant-worker mother). The two organised a massive campaign to prevent the deportation of the 17 women. They provided hiding places for families, held nearly 100 demonstrations outside of prisons and courts, petitioned local businesses and arranged both a court appeal as well as two meetings between MPs and migrant women.

After extensive media reporting on the campaign (and an official debate in parliament), 15 of the 17 women were released! Now, Achoti will continue campaigning for citizenship for the women's children.

Small-scale grassroots organisations in particular appreciated the exchange:

**It was nice to be involved in this: usually we are not invited to such events because we're new. I finally feel I am part of the movement that I love with all my heart.**

#### REGIONAL EXCHANGE ON CYPRUS

In October, a four-day exchange in Cyprus brought together small feminist organisations and independent activists from across the MENA region. The goal was to strengthen feminist organising, as shrinking space makes this ever more difficult. We organised several sessions to determine the type of support most needed from our side. There was ample opportunity for participants to network and discuss their particular challenges. Half a day was dedicated to fundraising skills: international donors like the Global Fund, Open Society Foundations and Norwegian People's Aid stopped by to share their best tips.

#### BERLIN CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND PEACE IN SYRIA

In early May, Kvinna till Kvinna organised the conference "Rethinking women's participation in the political architecture and civil society in Syria" in Berlin, with support from the German development agency GIZ. The conference provided a safe space for women's rights actors from different backgrounds and areas to meet. Discussions centred on peacebuilding and strategic ways to support local initiatives at grassroots level.

Bridging the gap between Syrian refugees and women inside Syria was also on the agenda: for practical reasons, it's hard for them to cooperate across borders. (Syrian participants struggled to obtain visas to attend the conference. Video-link participation helped solve this problem!) Our partner organisation Badael will publish a follow-up report in mid-2020.

In Idlib in northwestern Syria, Women Now's Center offers a safe haven in the conflict. In 2019, more than 820 women and girls visited the centre to meet each other, take classes and freely discuss topics that matter to them, like reproductive health, early marriage and breast cancer. Some even joined a self-defence workshop! Our support has helped build a strong local ownership of the centre: whatever's next, the women of Idlib are ready to keep supporting each other.



### END CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage is a major problem in Palestine, including in the Gaza Strip: 37% of Palestinian girls marry before they turn 18. In most cases, the groom is over the age of 19. Up to 63% of young married women suffer from domestic violence in their marriage.

For half a decade, women's rights organisations in Palestine have been advocating against child marriage. Our partner Women's Affairs Center, for example, raised awareness among students, parents and young people in the Gaza Strip and met with politicians and religious leaders – reminding them of Palestine's commitment to end child, early and forced marriage by 2030 (in the context of the Global Goals).

At the end of November, these efforts finally paid off: the Palestinian Authority government passed a new law, setting the minimum age for marriage at 18! The law still allows for some exceptions, though: the next step for our partners is to convince the government to remove these.

#### SRHR SUPPORT TO REFUGEE WOMEN

Lebanon has a large population of Palestinians and Syrians living inside and outside of refugee camps. Many face grave discrimination because of their refugee status. Often, the government is unable to accommodate their needs: they cannot access health care services, get an education or even legal redress as victims of sexual violence. In the Borj el Barajneh refugee camp, our partner Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization offers women free gynecological care and info sessions on menstruation and sexual and reproductive health. Social workers are available to offer women and girls psychosocial support.

#### Sharia courts starting to favour women

In Tulkarem city in the West Bank, our partner PWWSD's Tulkarem Community Center offers much-needed legal support to women facing a difficult court case. So-called "personal-status cases" (on marriage, divorce, child support or gender-based violence) are dealt with by the centuries-old sharia court system. Often, these courts rule in favour of men, leaving women with little recourse.

But PWWSD lobbies hard to influence sharia judges: they regularly meet with the courts, advocating for them to respect women's rights and take inclusive decisions. With Kvinna till Kvinna's support, PWWSD filed up to 98 cases in sharia courts this year. The success rate? An astonishing 96%! Slowly, it seems, things are changing.



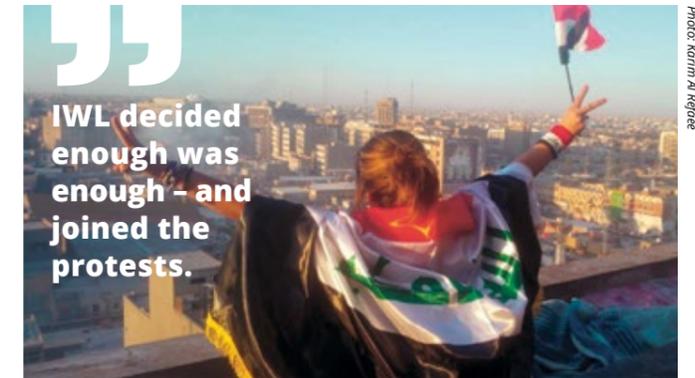
#### NEW GLOBAL GOAL NETWORK FOR IRAQ

Our partner organisation Hawa established a unique advocacy network of 30 local NGOs to promote the Global Goals in Iraq – a first for the country! The network focuses on Goals 5, 16 and 17 and cooperates with the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and UN agencies. In 2019, Hawa coordinated several network meetings and two workshops in Baghdad. Sixty percent of participants said they were "only vaguely aware of the Global Goals" at the start of the workshop: afterwards, all participants had become enthusiastic supporters of the Goals.

While it's still early days, the future looks promising: for example, the network was the only civil society actor specifically mentioned in the Iraqi government's annual Voluntary National Report on civil society. A significant achievement!



Grassroots activists meet decision-makers in Parliament for round-table talks.



IWL decided enough was enough – and joined the protests.

### AT THE HEART OF PROTESTS

In September, large-scale demonstrations broke out in Baghdad, where citizens protested against rising poverty, economic problems and unemployment. Quickly, the unrest spread to other parts of the country. Usually, protests in the MENA region are male-dominated, with few women participating. This time in Iraq, however, things were different. The Iraqi Women's League (IWL, our partner since 2015) decided enough was enough – and joined the protests. They pitched a tent right in the middle of Al-Tahrir Square, the heart of the demonstrations, to advocate loudly for women's rights and offer first aid. A single tent may not change the world, but it illustrates the sheer confidence women's rights organisations can gain from long-term support. IWL has said our capacity-building and advocacy training helped make them the outspoken organisation they are today.

#### YOUTH CLUBS TACKLE GENDER STEREOTYPES

Our partner organisation Joussour works to dismantle gender stereotypes and inequality in Tunisia. In the northwest of the country, they trained staff at municipal youth houses to address gender through art. Here, youth houses are one of the few public spaces where children can gather to have fun – but recently, the youth houses had seen a drop in popularity. Joussour helped revive the youth houses, making them a place for boys and girls to attend activities together in public, as equals – uncommon in Tunisia! At the Zwarine youth house, Joussour organised theatre and music workshops about equality and bodily rights. Instead of always staying home, young girls can now join activities alongside boys and proudly invite their families to their theatre shows. The workshops are so popular, other youth houses have contacted Joussour to ask for similar help.



#### Empowering rural women to run for office in Jordan

Political participation of women remains low in Jordan, UNDP reports. Only 15% of seats in parliament are occupied by women. Our partner organisation Arab Women Organization (AWO) has worked for more than a decade to change this. One of its successes (after tireless advocacy) was the introduction of a gender quota for municipal elections. Now, AWO has also established the "Musawa network", to empower Jordanian women to run for office. A unique aspect of the network is the way it supports women from marginalised areas: international efforts often focus on Amman, ignoring the rest of the country. Back in 2017, AWO helped get 41 women elected to municipal councils, after having trained 878 women prior to the elections. This year, the network continued working with those elected, offering them advanced training on gender-responsive budgeting, dealing with tender committees and social accountability.



## STRONG RESULTS DESPITE CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES

Good things first: on the whole, women's rights continue to be strengthened in the three African countries we work in. The region hasn't witnessed the kind of backlash we've seen elsewhere and our operations here are relatively stable.



**Liberia is one of the world's ten poorest countries.**

**We're excited to** have secured funding to stay in the DRC for another five years, and continue our exploration of whether to set up operations in Somalia.

But critical challenges remain. Liberia is one of the world's ten poorest countries. Less than 20% of its population has access to clean water and electricity. The DRC is still a humanitarian catastrophe: up to 140 militia groups roam the country, while 77% of people live below the poverty line.

Violence against women is widespread in all three countries. In Rwanda, gender stereotypes are strong and almost half of all women have experienced violence at home. Rape is the second most common crime in Liberia, but only 4% of sexual violence cases lead to convictions. Harmful social norms and armed conflict in the DRC make gender-based violence a daily occurrence.

To some extent, space for civil society is also shrinking. The DRC ranks 154 out of 180 on Reporters Without Borders' press freedom index and the oppo-

sition is routinely repressed. Fortunately, the country's new president has taken active steps to change this. In Liberia as well as the DRC, corruption remains rife.

But our partners do not give up and enthusiastically continue to address these challenges. And it shows: in Rwanda, Save Generation Organisation has worked on SRHR with more than 200 school children, who have now set up clubs to keep these efforts going by themselves. In Liberia, the women's movement achieved a massive victory when the Domestic Violence Bill was approved – a success that was years in the making!

Regional cooperation is also getting stronger. In October, we invited our partners to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights' NGO Forum for the second time. Together, we were one of just four actors who managed to submit a resolution to the Commission.

**Image** Music and drama are tools in Sevota's work to re-build communities where relations were destroyed during the genocide. Sevota, one of Kvinna till Kvinna's partners in Rwanda, was founded by Godelieve Mukasarasi (dressed in red).

### OUR WORK IN BRIEF

#### Our partners focus on:

- Gender-based violence 53%
- Participation & Advocacy 22%
- Peacebuilding 13%
- Economic empowerment 10%
- Other 2%



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**  
We have been working in the country since 2009, with an office in Bukavu.

**Partner organisations:** *Association des Femmes des Médias du Sud-Kivu (AFEM), Cercle d'Échange pour le Développement des Jeunes dans la région des Grands Lacs (CEDEJ-GL), Solidarité des femmes activistes pour la défense des droits humains (SOFAD).*

#### LIBERIA

We have been working in the country since 2007, with an office in Monrovia.

**Partner organisations:** *Liberia Female Law Enforcement Association (LIFLEA), Liberian Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN), Rural Women Right Structure (RWRS), Southeastern Women Development Association (SEWODA), The West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP), West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPWHDO), Women for Self-Employment (WE4SELF), Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL), Women Rights Watch (WORIWA).*

#### RWANDA

We have been working in the country since 2017, with an office in Kigali.

**Partner organisations:** *Association of Kigali Women in Sport (AKWOS), Haguruka, Réseau des Femmes, Rwanda Women's Network (RWN), Save Generation Organisation (SGO), Sevota, UNABU.*

#### DRC PROGRAMME WILL CONTINUE

Kvinna till Kvinna is very proud we were able to maintain our presence in the DRC throughout 2019 – despite financial constraints the year before. We secured funding for the next five years, and reinstated a full team in a new office in Bukavu, South Kivu. This year, we continued supporting our long-term partner organisations AFEM, CEDEJ and SOFAD, who work to prevent gender-based violence and support women's political participation.



Photo: Joseph-Ryan Mkey

**DRC PRESIDENT SPEAKS UP ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

Kvinna till Kvinna is an active supporter of Rien sans les Femmes (RSLF), a movement of 160 civil society organisations and activists aiming for equal representation in the DRC's decision-making bodies. This year, RSLF geared up its advocacy efforts – with promising results.

When the country's new president, Felix-Anatoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, held his inauguration speech on January 24th, he specifically mentioned women's rights and encouraged women to run for office. A few weeks later, on International Women's Day, he welcomed a delegation of 24 women – including RSLF representatives, women entrepreneurs, scientists, pilots and politicians. The president then vowed he would monitor the implementation of parity at the presidency level.

This spring, RSLF also met with the National Assembly's president, Jeanine Mabunda – whose candidacy they had openly supported during the elections. When Ms Mabunda received a delegation of women's organisations, RSLF presented its demands; she promised to remain in touch.



**In Liberia**, women's political participation increased in the communities we work in. In Tubo district in River Gee county, for example, Caroline Dixon was appointed Township Commissioner. Our partner LIWEN helped her along the way, she says: *"I used to be shy, but LIWEN'S Women's Forum taught me to speak in public and know my rights."*

In another district, Esther Donyen was elected Town Chief of Pronoken – the first time a woman holds this position! According to Esther, our partner SEWODA's work for women's political participation played a big part in her victory.

In the Liberian countryside, where men still routinely hold more power than women, appointments like these are a major success.

# GIRLS' SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

**In Rwanda, sexual health is a taboo. Sex education is mandatory, but many schools are run by churches and cherry-pick what to teach.**

This has created a major problem: half of all pregnancies in Rwanda are unwanted and teen pregnancies are on the rise. Abortion is illegal except for rape cases; many doctors also refuse to offer the service because of their beliefs.

Our partner Save Generation Organisation (SGO) confronts the taboo head-on. In 2019, they provided information on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to 200 adolescents in schools. They broke down barriers that prevent dialogue: children, parents, teachers and community and religious leaders came together to dispel misunderstandings about SRHR. Through debate, music, art and theatre, SGO encouraged young girls to claim their rights. The organisation also ran leadership and self-confidence trainings, all to help girls make informed decisions over their bodies and their life goals.

SGO worked with 40 male students on positive masculinity too, encouraging them to promote girls' SRHR to other boys and men. The boys got to reflect on equality, everyone's equal potential and the importance of taking on their share of chores at home.

Today, students have established SRHR clubs in the schools SGO worked with: they hold both their classmates and adults accountable for making SRHR services and information available to all.



**FINALLY: LIBERIAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL BECOMES REALITY**

**Liberia saw a massive** victory when president George M. Weah passed the Domestic Violence Bill into law on August 14th. It took five long years to get there.

The bill was first introduced in 2014 but failed to garner sufficient support at the time because it initially contained a clause criminalising female genital mutilation (FGM). FGM is highly controversial in Liberia, as it tends to be performed by the Sande – an influential secret women's society. Statistics put prevalence at 49.8% among all Liberian women aged 15–49.

For years, our partners and other Liberian women's organisations campaigned for the bill. After countless sit-ins, marches and advocacy meetings, it finally passed! The bill stipulates harsher punishments for perpetrators of domestic violence and offers greater protection to survivors. It could act as a deterrent and allow more cases to be taken to court. Now, our partners will focus on ensuring the bill is implemented and enforced.



Rwandan partner organisation summarises the efforts at the end of the year:

**We feel an improved spirit of self-organising and sustainability.**



**MORE SUSTAINABLE PARTNERS**

Throughout the year, we ran a series of trainings to help our Rwandan partners with organisational development, leadership and financial management. We provided one-on-one support in financial systems, for example, which dramatically improved accounting and financial reporting. At the end of the year, all of our partners reported that the improved accountability, credibility and transparency gave them a sense of potential for resource mobilisation. In fact, several of them had already attracted new donors thanks to the changes!

**Sit-in against intimidation of women candidates**

In August, a female candidate of the opposition in Liberia's by-elections was violently attacked by supporters of a rival candidate. Telia Urey and several of her supporters were injured, some critically.

Allegedly, members of the police saw the events unfold and failed to act. Days later, Liberian women gathered for a sit-in on the sidewalk outside the president's office. Several of our partners (WONGOSOL, WANEP/WIPNET) helped organise the demonstration, to demand an end to intimidation and violence against women – especially in politics. As a result of the demonstration, an investigation was launched into the attack against Telia Urey, and the head of the police was called in for questioning about the role of the police during the incident.



**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT CAN REDUCE GBV**

Our work on economic empowerment is yielding results in Liberia. Our partner organisations RWRS and WE4SELF work in 37 communities in Sinoe and Bong county: they empower hundreds of women through income-generating activities and so-called Village Saving and Loan Associations. Their support allows women to earn an income of their own. This in turn enables them to establish small business or expand existing ones, send their children to school and get better health care for their families.

But the consequences extend even further. Our partners report that because of their new-found economic freedom, the women are less dependent on their male partners, have started taking charge over decision-making at home and even left abusive relationships.



**Dorothy Tarpeh**, Chairwoman of VSLA group supported by WE4SELF, Titiyen community

**My husband used to beat me. But since I started bringing money home, he respects me. Today, I can pay my children's school fees and buy food for the family.**

**Award for Gégé Katana Bukuru**

Gégé Katana Bukuru – founder of our partner SOFAD and staunch defender of women's rights and peace in South Kivu, DRC – was given the Defender of Democracy Award in November. Each year, the international Parliamentarians for Global Action network extends this award to individuals who've demonstrated an exceptional commitment to peace, democracy, the rule of law, human rights or gender equality. We couldn't be prouder of Gégé!

At a press conference this year, the EU ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed his support for our work:

## There can be no EU integration without women's participation!

### GOALS

**Long-term goal**  
Ensure peacebuilding work in the region continues and put gender equality, women's participation and women's rights on the agenda for the EU accession process.

- Short-term goals**
- Ensure women are involved in ongoing peacebuilding and conflict-resolution processes.
  - Improve protection for women subjected to violence.
  - Support partner organisations' advocacy efforts.

Photo: Maja Jovanovska Ilieva

# NATIONALISM AND SIMMERING TENSION UNDERMINE EFFORTS

In Europe, we work with partners in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) and in Ukraine to promote peace, increase women's participation in decision-making and prevent violence against women. In Sweden, we run the Gemaket project and support the activities of our volunteers.

**At first sight**, the Western Balkans seem relatively stable: there's been peace since the wars in former Yugoslavia ended twenty years ago and several countries are being considered for EU membership. Below the surface, however, problems simmer. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, ethnic tension and the political system paralyse decision-making. Kosovo and Serbia are stuck in a long-standing dispute. Recently, the EU blocked Albania and North Macedonia from starting membership talks.

There is still no peace for Ukraine, where conflict has raged in the east since 2015. Ceasefire violations continue and women are shut out from peace negotiations. For activists isolated by the conflict, the focus is on surviving: our partners work hard to include women from these areas in their activities.

Rising nationalism is a worrying trend that hinders our work in both the Western Balkans and Ukraine. Our partners face frequent threats by right-wing and religious groups.

2019 saw the highest number of attacks recently recorded against women's rights activists in the Western Balkans. On March 8th, women's demonstrations in Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities needed heavy police protection.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a widespread problem across the region, but rates of reporting remain low. When victims do speak up, they are often stigmatised. For marginalised groups in particular, figures are troubling: by estimation, 90% of Roma women have experienced sexual violence. While Ukraine recently introduced new legislation to combat GBV, awareness of the problem remains sketchy and the availability of protection services varies greatly.

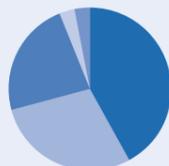
A final issue our partners in Europe work with is political representation of women. Both in the Western Balkans and in Ukraine, representation ranges from low (nationally) to extremely low (locally). With a paltry 15%, Albania has the highest share of female mayors. In Kosovo, the number is zero.

**Image** Jovana Jovanovska Kanurkova with megaphone at demonstration on International Women's Day in Skopje, North Macedonia.

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

Our partners focus on:

- Participation & Advocacy 42%
- Gender-based violence 29%
- Peacebuilding 23%
- Economic empowerment 3%
- Security 3%



**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

We have been working in the country since 1994, with an office in Sarajevo.

**Partner organisations:** Association of Citizens Budućnost, Modriča, Center of Women's Rights (CWR), Zenica, CURE Foundation, Forum Žena, Bratunac, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, Banja Luka, HO Horizonti, Lara Foundation, Rights for All, Roma women association Bolja Budućnost, Tuzla, TRIAL International, United Women, Banja Luka, Ženski Centar, Trebinje.

**MONTENEGRO**

We have been working in the country since 1999.

**Partner organisation:** The Women's Rights Center.

**KOSOVO**

We have been working in the country since 1994, with an office in Pristina.

**Partner organisations:** Artpolis, Kosova Womens Network (KWN), Mitrovica Women Association for Human Rights (MWAHR), The Kosovo Gender Studies Center, The Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Organizations of Kosovo (NRAEWOK), Women Center Open Door (Dera e Hapur) & Ruka Ruci, Women's Association Medica Kosova.

**ALBANIA**

We have been working in the country since 1999.

**Partner organisation:** The Albanian Women Empowerment Network (AWEN).

**NORTH MACEDONIA**

We have been working in the country since 1999, with an office in Skopje.

**Partner organisations:** Active Citizens – AKTIVO Veles, Akcija Združenska, Association of persons with cerebral palsy – Veles, Coalition Margins, Citizen's Initiative of Women Sveti Nikole, Echo Štip, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of Republic of Macedonia, HERA, KHAM Delchevo, Loud textile workers, National network to end violence against women and domestic violence, Organisation of Women from Sveti Nikole, PeachPreach, REACTOR, Women Action.

**SERBIA**

We have been working in the country since 1994, with an office in Belgrade.

**Partner organisations:** Alternative Girls' Center, ASTRA – Anti-Trafficking Action, Autonomous Womens Center (AWC), Catalysta, Centre for Women's Studies, Roma Center for Women and Children DAJE, Network Women Against Violence Serbia, Reconstruction Women's Fund (RWF), The Association of Women Pescanik (Sandglass), Women in Black, Women's Centre Uzice.

**SWEDEN**

From our head office in Stockholm, we raise funds for our work around the world, cooperate with volunteers and run the Gemaket project.

**UKRAINE**

We have been working in the country since 2018, with an office in Kyiv.

**Partner organisations:** Centre for Cultural-Anthropological Studies, Slavic Heart, Smile of a Child, Women's Perspective.

Photo: Women's Perspectives



## GBV TRAINING FOR DOCTORS

**Gender-based violence is a serious problem in Ukraine: each year, more than 1.1 million women are subjected to violence within the family. But only 1 in 10 seek help.**

Protection services remain inadequate; close to the demarcation line, help is all but inaccessible. Perpetrators seldom face any consequences. As a result, 600 Ukrainian women die from gender-based violence every year.

Our partner organisation Women's Perspective works to turn things around. This year, they trained government officials, doctors and hospital lawyers to respond to gender-based violence. The training is now even an official part of the curriculum at Lviv Medical University!

They also campaigned intensively to get the Lviv city administration to open a shelter for survivors. But despite countless requests, the city failed to act. Luckily, Kvinna till Kvinna could offer a grant: Women's Perspective now runs their own shelter in a private apartment instead. It remains the only designated place for survivors of gender-based violence in a city of more than 800,000 inhabitants.

**]]** **Marta Chumalo,**  
Vice-Head of Women's Perspective

**The grant from Kvinna till Kvinna helped us enormously. Still, we continue to demand that the local authorities assume some responsibility for the violence against women.**

Photo: United Women Borja Luka



### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FULLY CRIMINALISED

Until recently, courts in Republika Srpska (an entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina) could choose to classify domestic violence as either a misdemeanor or a criminal offense. For more than two decades, local women's rights activists worked for this to change. Our partner organisation United Women produced scores of reports on the issue, gave input to CEDAW shadow reports and advocated at the EU level. In 2019, they finally achieved victory: the Republika Srpska parliament amended its Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and fully criminalised domestic violence!



### More consistent sentencing of rape in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Our partner TRIAL International analysed about a hundred verdicts from court cases on conflict-related sexual violence. Their conclusion? Sentencing for this type of crimes is both low and inconsistent, with different courts handing down very different verdicts. This creates a sense of arbitrariness and injustice for those affected, and undermines public faith in the justice system.

TRIAL wrote two publications on the issue and invited judges, prosecutors, NGOs and international organisations to discuss the results and talk about measures to address inconsistent sentencing.

The organisation also successfully took up the issue with training centres for judges and prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 2020 onwards, the centres will include trainings on consistent sentencing for conflict-related sexual violence in their curriculum.

**Our partners led a large-scale study on gender-based discrimination in the labour market in the Western Balkans (Kvinna till Kvinna contributed with the report for Serbia). Did you know 38% of women in the region felt they were treated differently by their colleagues or manager after taking maternity leave? The study also showed women were 2.5 times more likely than men to experience workplace sexual harassment.**

**38%**  
**OF NEW MOTHERS TREATED DIFFERENTLY AT WORK**

### Promoting an alternative discourse in Ukraine

With our support, the Center for Cultural-Anthropological Studies creates a space for feminist, anti-militaristic debate in Ukraine. This autumn, it published the second issue of its peer-reviewed, online journal "Feminist Critique", with original texts and translations in Ukrainian, English and Russian. The issue reached 20,000 views on the journal's website and sparked a lively discussion on social media. One of the most popular articles was a piece by Anna Nikoghosyan, who examined how Resolution 1325 can be misused for militaristic purposes.

The Center also organised a feminist summer school and completed the project "From anonymity to publicity: A feminist voice during war" – a series of 15 interviews with women's rights activists and artists.



One of the participants from Kosovo at the women's peace meetings.

**I realised women from Serbia are no different from us; I never imagined we could sit, chat and laugh together.**

Photo: Sandra Mandić



### WOMEN FROM KOSOVO AND SERBIA TAKE PEACE INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

Serbia and Kosovo are stuck in a long-standing conflict, with significant mistrust on both sides. While there are official EU-level peace negotiations, women's rights organisations have never been consulted or invited to these talks.

That is why our partner organisations MWAHR (Kosovo) and Sandglass (Serbia) have started their own dialogue. The two have held several peace-building meetings – including with local-level women politicians – where they met and discussed their priorities. The women are still fighting to get their voices heard at the highest level, but one crucial result has already been achieved: they dismantled prejudices and built mutual trust.



### HELPING MUNICIPALITIES PRIORITISE GENDER MAINSTREAMING

In North Macedonia, our partners are assisting local municipalities with gender mainstreaming. Representatives from women's organisations act as official mentors to five municipalities (Sveti Nikole, Veles, Kavadarci, Negotino and Demir Kapija). For half a year, they regularly visited and talked with local authorities: helping them review documents, making these more transparent and gender-sensitive, and advising them on how to consult women in rural areas and collect and use relevant data on gender. Add to that a study visit to Stockholm and the municipalities now both understand how to prioritise women's needs and why this is important. And it's showing: in several places, women's requests – like more local bus stops or new playgrounds for children – have been directly incorporated into next year's budget.

**Image** Consult the locals! Our partners ask women in the streets to voice their needs in the municipality.

### MEETING EU OFFICIALS

Each year, our Balkan partner organisations join us for an intensive advocacy week in Brussels. Our partners then meet with EU politicians, civil servants and like-minded organisations to highlight their concerns about women's rights in the Balkan region. But Roma women – one of the most marginalised groups in Europe – rarely get a seat at the table for forums like this.

During this year's trip to Brussels in November, however, three Roma representatives joined our delegation! They met with key European MPs and the EU Commission's Coordinator for Roma Policy. As our partners usually work at the local and national level, addressing their concerns at the EU level was an important development. Meeting each other also strengthened their cooperation across the region.

**Did you know that our partner organisations support women in Serbia who are affected by violence and trafficking? Since 2016, they've helped more than 21,000 women through local hotlines and consultations to take power over their own lives.**

# FACING CONSERVATISM AND STATE REPRESSION



Photo: Hana Brand

## GOALS

### Long-term goal

A sustainable women's movement that influences and advances women's rights.

### Short-term goals

- Prevent gender-based violence and improve protection of survivors.
- Increase women's participation in peacebuilding, governance and decision-making.
- Combat and prevent discrimination against women.
- Support the development of women's rights organisations, feminist individuals and women's initiative groups.

While there have been some improvements for women's rights in the South Caucasus over the past decade, women in the region continue to have their rights curtailed. They struggle to access resources like health care or education and are all but excluded from peace negotiations on the region's conflicts.

**A major issue** is sexual and reproductive health and rights. The topic is a complete taboo, especially in rural and conflict-affected areas, where SRHR services are difficult to access. Across the South Caucasus, sex-selective abortion is common, since many prefer sons over daughters. In Abkhazia, abortion is entirely illegal. Because of religious opposition, schools do not offer sex education. This leads to low awareness of SRHR among young people, resulting in teen pregnancies and the spread of STDs. On a positive note, more and more (young) men are participating in our partners' SRHR activities, especially in Georgian and Abkhaz contexts.

Gender-based violence, femicide and early/forced marriages are worrying problems too. As long as stereotypical perceptions about the role of women persist in the region, this is unlikely to change. But there are promising evolutions: Georgia recently adopted a law criminalising sexual harassment at work, and public awareness of gender-based violence is increasing in Azerbaijan. Both in Armenia and Azerbaijan, there is an ongoing push to ratify the Istanbul Convention. This year, young Azerbaijani feminists organised street marches against sexual violence, chanting slogans like "We don't want love that kills!"

Frustratingly, many of the above issues are aggravated by an inadequate response from the state. In Armenia, the police routinely fail to protect survivors of gender-based violence – often with deadly results. Perpetrators commonly walk away scot-free in Azerbaijan.

This is linked to the region's problem of shrinking space. In Azerbaijan in particular, critics are silenced and NGOs all but outlawed by the authorities. When activists do speak up, they face police violence. The same happens in Armenia, where law enforcement agencies regularly fail to protect activists who are being harassed. Far-right nationalist groups also limit the space to advance women's rights. In Georgia, freedom of press is under threat and recent anti-government protests were brutally quashed.

Admirably, our partner organisations and individual women's rights activists refuse to back down despite these difficult conditions. Increasingly, they're joining forces across borders, strengthening their advocacy on shared issues.

**Image** Nuné Alaverdyan (project coordinator), Ashkhen Babayan (president) and Arevik Petrosyan (lawyer) work at Spitak Helsinki Group Human Rights NGO, one of Kvinna till Kvinna's partners in Armenia.



Photo: Moja Brand

Thanks to our capacity-development support, Spitak Helsinki Group was given a major EU grant for its work in 2020.

### ARMENIAN WOMEN STARTING THEIR OWN ENTERPRISE

In 1988, the small city of Spitak in northern Armenia was all but wiped out by a devastating earthquake. Local industry was destroyed, and the region is still recovering. But our partner Spitak Helsinki Group Human Rights NGO refuses to be dragged down by the past: positivity is in its DNA! Since 2017, we've been helping to develop Spitak Helsinki Group's capacities through structural support, advice on grant management and fundraising tips.

The organisation has used its new skills to empower local women economically – including survivors of gender-based violence, who often struggle to find employment, and young, unmarried women, who are often confined to the home. Our partner offers them various courses (including in computer literacy and English) and together the women have started their very own social enterprise, producing herbal oils.

### A NEW SYLLABUS ON GENDER

In Armenia, the concept of gender is very controversial. The word is rarely mentioned in laws or government policies, and there is almost no educational material on gender available in local languages. That is why Society Without Violence (SWV) is designing a course on gender together with experts from Yerevan State University and the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Canterbury. The course will highlight the link between gender and stereotypes, the media, domestic violence and peacebuilding, among other themes.

When finished, the syllabus will be used to increase gender awareness among Armenian researchers and university lecturers. In the long run, SWV hopes the Ministry of Education will accredit the course and make it part of the country's professional development programme for teachers.



Photo: Lara Aharonian

### COOPERATING WITH ARMENIA'S NEW GOVERNMENT

### SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF GBV

Anti-Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG) runs two shelters in Tbilisi, with staff on call 24/7. Women and their children can stay here for free and receive medical, psychological and legal support. Volunteers come by to help the children with their homework. To help survivors regain their independence, AVNG has started a social catering firm. The participating women – who grow their own produce in the garden – are taught by professional cooks how to plan and prepare meals, so they can learn the trade.



Irma Basilashvili and her children live in one of the safe houses.

Photo: Moja Brand



Photo: Lara Aharonian

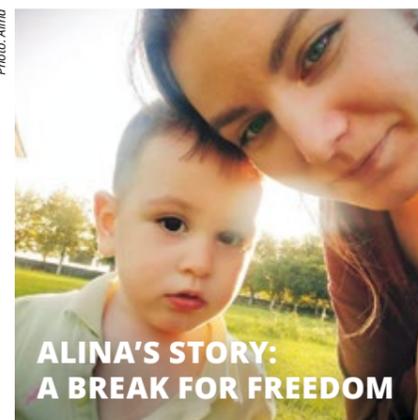
After the Velvet Revolution toppled Armenia's regime in the spring of 2018, hopes were high the new government would prioritise women's rights. So far, things are promising: our partner organisation Women's Resource Center Armenia (WRCA) has established a healthy relationship with the authorities. This year, WRCA was officially invited to join several public councils, including one that works to prevent domestic violence. In their new role as "in-house expert", WRCA makes policy recommendations and lobbies from the inside for legislative change. One issue the organisation has been vocal about, for example, is a new anti-discrimination law. Fingers crossed the government will listen!



Alina\* walking outside for the first time in almost three years, with her son in Tbilisi. \*Alina is not her real name

I'm so grateful for AVNG's help and support! I feel like I was born again.

Photo: Alina



### ALINA'S STORY: A BREAK FOR FREEDOM

When she got married, Alina from Ukraine looked forward to a happy life. Only nothing turned out as planned: straight after their wedding, her husband locked Alina up at home in a provincial city in Georgia. She neither owned a key nor knew her own address. Even the birth of her son did not change things, and her husband regularly beat her.

Eventually, the police found out about Alina's situation and helped free her one night when her husband was out. A few days later, Alina was brought to a safe house run by our partner Anti-Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG) in Tbilisi, together with her two-year-old son.

Alina stayed there for several weeks, while AVNG got her a lawyer and helped her contact the Ukrainian embassy to return home. When Alina's husband got a court order to keep her son in Georgia, AVNG helped reverse the decision.

Today, Alina is back in Ukraine, living with her mother. She is looking for work and has taken up volunteering – a way to give back to the community and show her gratitude.



Photo: Women's Fund for Development

## VIRAL CAMPAIGN

When our partner Women's Fund for Development organised a 16 Days of Activism campaign, their original plan was to focus solely on Gali, in the east of Abkhazia. As they launched a photo contest on Facebook, however, their idea went viral: young women and men from all over the region joined in to raise awareness of gender-based violence!

This is part of a promising trend in Abkhazia. Harmful gender norms remain strong in this region, but more and more people are starting to decry violence against women – especially after several high-profile cases of honour killings in 2019. Women's Fund for Development was particularly pleased to see many young men supporting the campaign this year: this helps society see gender-based violence as a serious problem that affects us all, rather than a "women's issue".

### WOMEN'S MOVEMENT TACKLES SCHOOL BULLYING

Azerbaijan was jolted awake this year by the tragic case of a teenage girl committing suicide after being bullied at school. Public debate zoomed in on the role of parents, schools and school psychologists – but women's rights organisations were the ones to come up with a solution.

They approached the government bodies in charge of education and proposed a comprehensive, gender-responsive anti-bullying strategy. The focus should be on early prevention, they suggested, and the needs of young girls in particular should be taken into account.

Based on this input, the government implemented a mandatory anti-bullying programme in all Azerbaijani schools. Teachers, school directors and psychologists will all receive training, and gender awareness will be a big part of the efforts.

### OUR WORK IN BRIEF

- Our partners focus on:**
- Gender-based violence 31%
  - Participation & Advocacy 21%
  - Peacebuilding 18%
  - Other, including SRHR 14%
  - Human security 10%
  - Economic empowerment 6%



### ARMENIA

We have been working in the country since 2004.

#### Partner organisations:

Coalition to Stop Violence against Women, Democracy Today, Nalbandyan Women's Club, Society Without Violence, Spitak Helsinki Group Human Rights NGO, Women's Resource Center, Shushi, Women's Rights Centre.

### AZERBAIJAN

We have supported women's rights in the country since 2004.

### GEORGIAN AND ABKHAZ CONTEXTS

We have been working in the country since 2004, with an office in Tbilisi.

#### Partner organisations:

Anti-Violence Network of Georgia, Association "Imedi" IDP women's movement for peace, Association of Women of Abkhazia, Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi" FS, Democrat Women's Organization of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Development Center Gagra, StudioMobile – Accent on Action, Union of Wives of Invalids and Lost Warriors, Women's Fund for Development, Women's Initiatives Supporting Group.



## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Following the launch of our new report "The Fierce and the Furious", Kvinna till Kvinna participated in "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" for the first time. The global campaign, which has run every autumn since 1991, brings activists across the world together to call for an end to violence against women and girls.

During the campaign, we communicated in Arabic, Bosnian, English and French across our channels under the hashtag #WeSay. We're particularly grateful to our volunteers in Sweden, who united as one to make #WeSay a success. Online, they enthusiastically shared digital content and encouraged Facebook and Instagram users to donate. At the same time, they arranged seminars and lectures on gender-based violence and participated in street manifestations.

**Image** from the campaign #WeSay which gave counter arguments to anti-feminist narratives. About gender equality having gone "too far", we say: check your facts again. When it comes to women in parliaments, only 24% of all national parliamentarians were women in February 2019. 11 women worldwide are serving as head of state and 12 are serving as head of government. Photo from G20 Buenos Aires.

Illustration: Martin Schrammel



In the weeks before the European Parliament election in May, we ran a campaign to help voters understand what was at stake. In recent years, extreme-right and nationalist ideas have grown stronger in Europe. As a result, democracy and hard-won women's rights like abortion are under threat. Whoever voters would give a seat in the EU Parliament would be able to wield influence over these matters – for better or worse. By sharing facts and highlighting key issues in our digital channels, we urged voters to cast their vote pro-women and anti-nationalism. In the end, nationalist parties did gain seats in the EU elections, but luckily not to the extent we had feared.

The Swedish Postcode Lottery is one of Sweden's largest lotteries and we are proud to be one of their trusted beneficiaries. Over the years, we have received more than 100 MSEK!



Did you know that for 100 SEK, a woman trying to leave an abusive partner can spend the night at a safe house in the South Caucasus? Your donation makes a difference!



Photo: Julia Östgren

### ENTERPRISING YOUNG WOMEN

As part of our Gemaket project, each year we award several young women a small grant to develop a dream they have. This year, 10 Gemaket participants got the honour. Here's what happened ...

- At Gemaket's summer camp, Sewra tried feminist self-defence – and loved it. Today, she uses our grant to train jiu-jitsu several days a week in Gothenburg.
- Amena from Afghanistan moved to Boden when she first arrived in Sweden. After she'd joined Gemaket, she wanted more newly-arrived young women to learn about feminism too. Today, she regularly holds talks on women's rights – including for other Afghan girls in Boden.
- Nasrin's life-long dream is to become a florist: thanks to Kvinna till Kvinna, she got to take a florist course to get started.

4,000

That's the number of hours of their time volunteers donated to Kvinna till Kvinna in 2019!

Our Gemaket volunteers organised more than 60 meetings for young girls across the country. Roughly 50 Gemaket participants got to take part in one of our two weekend camps.

Our regular volunteers in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö, Linköping, Umeå and Uppsala arranged and participated in 21 events – including quizzes, panel debates, activities at the Gothenburg book fair and lectures at schools.

Interested in volunteering?  
Contact us: [volontar@kvinnatillkvinna.se](mailto:volontar@kvinnatillkvinna.se)



Are Sweden's media and corporate sector truly gender equal? And how can feminism be a strategy for change? We discussed these questions with our corporate partners and their network at our Equality Talks event on May 9th. The panel debate was chaired by Kvinna till Kvinna's secretary-general, with media personality Amie Bramme Sey, member of the European Parliament Alice Bah Kuhnke and entrepreneur Ishtar Touailat as panellists.



Photo: UN Women

### PANEL DEBATE IN TUNIS: WOMEN FOR PEACE

Between April 24th and 26th, the Tunisian Government hosted the Tunis Forum on Gender Equality, together with UNDP, UN Women and Sweden. The conference brought together 500 women's rights actors from across the world for panel debates, discussions and side events on equality and women's rights. Twenty-five of our partner organisations attended.

Kvinna till Kvinna organised two panel debates: one on how gender equality helps sustain peace and one on empowering women candidates in local politics. We also supported our Tunisian partner Chouf to organise a well-attended cultural side event, where an interactive game let participants challenge their notions of gender norms.

Both before and after the conference, we gathered our attending partners for preparation and debriefing meetings – an excellent chance for them to network and synchronise their advocacy work.

**55 new volunteers joined us – an increase of 93% compared to last year!**



## MUSIKHJÄLPEN

We partnered with Radiohjälpen – the fundraising wing of Sweden's public service radio and TV. Each December, they organise the nation-wide Musikhjälpen campaign, in which three hosts stay in a glass house for several days to broadcast music non-stop while raising money. This year, Musikhjälpen focused on raising awareness of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Kvinna till Kvinna's very own Stina Magnuson Buur was invited as an expert to take part in one of the broadcasts.





Photo: Linda Anderson

## FUNDRAISING AWARD

We were awarded the prize of "Fundraiser of the Year" by the Swedish Fundraising Association (Giva Sverige, former FRII) for our 2018 Christmas campaign.

As we chose to continue with the same "Men's violence against women takes no Christmas break" campaign concept in 2019, the prize was a lovely endorsement of that decision.

The jury praised the way Kvinna till Kvinna "made expert use of digital channels to attract donors." It said the campaign's message was simple but clear, and "managed to make people understand what life is really like for women who face abuse."

The jury members were particularly impressed by the campaign's success despite its limited resources and despite the difficulty of standing out as an NGO during the hectic holiday season.



## HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY IN AFRICA

In mid-October, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) gathered in Banjul, Gambia.

For the second year in a row, we invited our African partner organisations to attend the NGO Forum ahead of the Commission's meeting. Réseau des Femmes and Rwanda Women's Network attended from Rwanda, LIFLEA and WORIVA from Liberia and SOFAD and AFEM from the DRC. At the Forum, Kvinna till Kvinna organised a side event as well as a panel debate on the African human rights' system and Women, Peace and Security. With input from our partners, we drafted a resolution: the NGO Forum decided to adopt it, after which the resolution became one of just four thematic resolutions that later influenced the ACHPR's discussions.

Fanna Ndow Norrby, Goodwill Ambassador

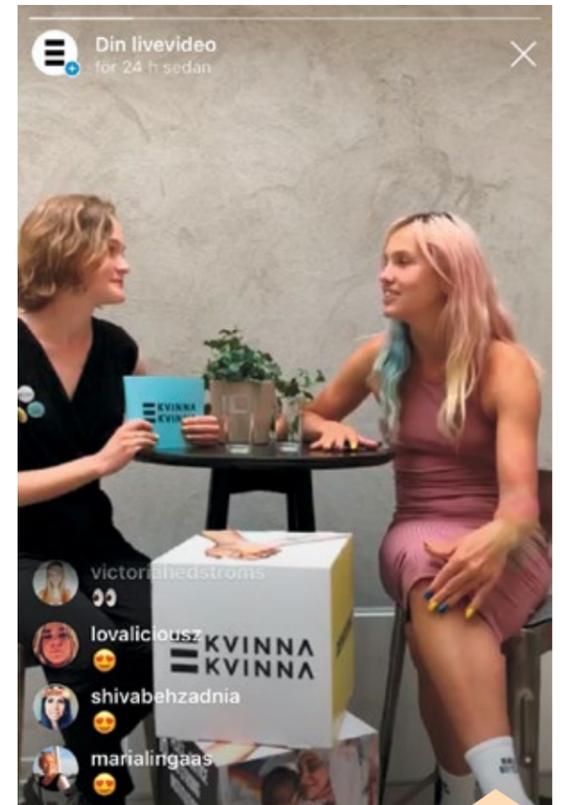
It was amazing to witness our partners' work!



Photo: Maja Janevicka Ilieva

Our goodwill ambassador Fanna Ndow Norrby travelled with us to North Macedonia in March, where she met our local partner organisations and got to see the work they do for women's rights. Fanna describes what it was like: "The visit exceeded all my expectations. It showed me what that immeasurable fighting spirit we all carry inside us as feminists can lead to!

One thing I'll carry with me forever is Irena Cvetkovik's words before we parted ways. When I asked her about her plans, she said: 'Tonight, we celebrate. Tomorrow, we're fighting the anti-abortion law! The very next day, they did just that – and won. Victory!'

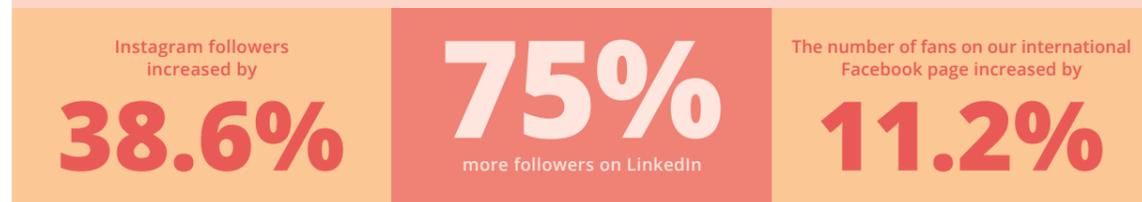


Did you know we've started doing livestreams? This year, we live-interviewed our goodwill ambassadors Linnéa Claeson and Fanna Ndow Norrby on Instagram!

@kvinnatillkvinna



FOLLOWERS AND FANS ACROSS OUR CHANNELS - AN INCREASE OF 22.5%



### ALMEDALEN DEBATE ON (UN)EQUAL INTEGRATION

During Almedalen (an annual political gathering in July on the Swedish island of Gotland), we organised a well-attended panel debate. Based on the lessons we've learned from our Gemaket project for girls who are new to Sweden, we looked into why Sweden still struggles to integrate foreign-born women and girls into its labour market and society – despite good intentions by politicians.

Panellists included Inger Ashing (director of DELMOS), Rosaline Marbinah (chairperson of LSU, the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations), Camilla Divander (counsellor at a centre for refugees and asylum seekers) and Isadora Spoerer (project manager for Gemaket). The debate was moderated by lawyer and public speaker Dona Hariri.

## IN 2019, WE RAISED A TOTAL OF 16.2 MSEK AND SOLD PRODUCTS FOR 415,000 SEK.

The funds we raise come from: • Private donations = 25% (half of this comes from monthly donors) • Corporate donations = 75% The number of private monthly donors increased by 40% during 2019. | The number of corporate donations increased by 64% during 2019.



Photo: David Thunander

Photo: Viktor Lenper

Our corporate fundraising continues to grow – here are just a few examples!

Pharmaceutical company Gedeon Richter hired us to provide expert information on SRHR to the midwives and gynaecologists the company works with.

The Body Shop partnered with us for a major sponsored campaign, "Empower You – Empower Her". Between March and September, The Body Shop raised awareness of women's economic rights in all its Swedish stores, resulting in 335,000 SEK in donations for our work for women's rights globally.

Silversmith Viktor Lenper created a bracelet in memory of Tova Moberg – murdered by her boyfriend in 2017. Thirty percent of all sales profits will go to Kvinna till Kvinna.



**Kvinna till Kvinna's Board** is appointed by the Swedish section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society. While our secretary-general runs Kvinna till Kvinna's daily operations, the Board sets Kvinna till Kvinna's long-term strategic course. Board members are elected for a period of four years.

#### CHAIRPERSON

##### 1. DEVRIM MAVI

Editor-in-chief and op-ed writer. Has been involved in the feminist and anti-racist movement for more than 15 years. Board member since 2014.

#### DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

##### 2. VIOLA FURUBJELKE

Former member of the Swedish parliament, ambassador to Syria/Lebanon and secretary-general of the Olof Palme International Centre. Board member since 2011.

#### SECRETARY

##### 3. KAJSA WEJRYD

Former teacher, high-school director and bookkeeping consultant. President of Women in the Church of Sweden (1995–2003). Board member since 2014.

#### MEMBERS

##### 4. JOHANNA MANNERGREN

Peace researcher at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs. Former journalist, peace observer (South Africa) and election observer (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

##### 5. LARS JALMERT

Emeritus professor of education at Stockholm University and board member of the Fredrika Bremer Association. Has participated in eight government reviews on gender-based violence.

##### 6. MALIN ALMROTH

Coordinator at Victim Support Sweden. Former trainer at the Expo foundation. Studied Political Science and Human Rights.

##### 7. MARIA APPELBLOM

Police chief superintendent. Former chief of the UN Standing Police Capacity and chairperson of Stockholm's UN association.

#### DEPUTY MEMBERS

##### 8. LENA BACKHAUSEN

Licensed psychologist, former HR manager and leadership and organisational consultant. Has been involved in WILPF for many years, including as Board member.

##### 9. TSEHAINESH TEKLEAB

Environmental strategist at the Public Employment Service. Former employment coordinator, Red Cross volunteer and board member of Save the Children's local association.

##### 10. CARINA ANDERSSON

Manager for east and southern Africa at the Red Cross. Significant experience of development cooperation, including at We Effect.

##### 11. LISEN BERGQUIST

Managing director of the World Anti-Bullying Forum at Friends. Formerly worked at Kvinna till Kvinna, Albright Stonebridge Group and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs.



#### Thank you

In 2019, a new Board was elected – meaning we said goodbye to Birgit Hansson, Jesper Hansén, Marie Sundberg, Banafshe Hejazi and Karin Karlsbro. A warm thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm as Board members!

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT FOR 2019

THE KVINNA TILL KVINNA FOUNDATION  
REGISTRATION NUMBER 802401-6134

#### Content

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Unless otherwise specified, all amounts are reported in thousand SEK. Figures between brackets are from the previous year.

#### About our operations

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation has defended women's rights since 1993. For every woman's right to be safe and to be heard.

With over 100 partner organisations in 20 countries, we are now one of the world's leading women's rights organisations. We work in areas affected by war and conflict to strengthen women's influence and power, end violence against women and highlight women's struggle for peace and human rights. Together, we make a difference – together, we are change.

#### Kvinna till Kvinna's mandate

- To conduct projects in war- and conflict-affected regions that promote women's self-reliance, self-esteem and psychosocial and/or physical health, or contribute to promoting women's participation in building a democratic civil society.
- To foster studies and research on the effects of war and armed conflict on women.
- To publicise facts and information about the effects of war and to build public support for peaceful conflict resolution through the use of civil methods.

#### Broad-based support in Swedish society

When it was founded, Kvinna till Kvinna brought together Sweden's peace and women's movements. To this day, we are supported by a large number of other organisations:

The 1.6 Million Club, Centerkvinnorna (The Centre Party Women's Organisation), Farmaciförbundet (Swedish Association of Pharmacies, since 2014 part of the Unionen trade union), Feminist Initiative, The Fredrika Bremer Association, The Swedish Disability Federation (HSO), The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, The Christian Democratic Party Women's Association, The Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation, Kvinnor för Fred (Women for Peace), The Church of Sweden women's organisation, The Swedish Federation of Liberal Women, The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), The Swedish Green Party, Moderate Women, Riksförbundet Hem och Samhälle (Society for Home and Community), The Swedish Federation of Immigrant Women's Associations (RIFFI), The National Organisation for Women's Shelters and Young Women's Shelters in Sweden, Save the Children Sweden, Social Democratic Women in Sweden, Socialist Party Women, Soroptimist International of Sweden, The United Nations Association of Sweden, The Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, The Swedish Women's Left-Wing Association, The Swedish Ecumenical Women's Council, The Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO), Bang Magazine, UN Women Sweden, Verdandi (Swedish Workers' Association for Fellowship and Solidarity), The Women's Policy Committee of Sweden's Left Party

### Significant events during the year

2019 continuously confirmed that Kvinna till Kvinna's support for women's rights activists in conflict-affected areas is sorely needed. In our report "The Fierce and the Furious", women's rights activists reveal how they face increasing physical and virtual threats and hate. Along with growing bureaucratic demands and anti-organisation legislation, civic space is shrinking – and not just outside Europe. In spite of this, our partner organisations persisted with their systematic work for change; in 2019, we were able to see many positive results for women's rights on all levels, from the individual and local to the national and international level.

In Liberia, after years of advocacy and demonstrations, violence against women is now officially illegal. Women in abusive relationships also gained a stronger voice and were even able to leave their partners thanks to the small-enterprise support they received from our partner organisations. In the DRC, the country's new president openly backed the message of women's rights activists and encouraged women's political participation in the general election. In Rwanda, over 200 teenagers received sexual education from our partner *Save Generation Organisation*, who addressed this sensitive subject through, amongst other, media, dance and art.

In Syrian Idlib, one of the world's most war-torn areas, our partner *Women Now* provided over 800 women with a meeting space in which they could talk freely, attend courses and obtain practical help. The organisation also teamed up with *Dawlaty* to draw up recommendations for the UN's Human Rights Council. Palestinian organisations contributed to successes like a new law that prohibits underage marriage, and 94 verdicts in favour of women in 98 family-law cases dealt with by local sharia courts. In Israel, where migrant women lose their work visas when giving birth, our partner *Achoti* managed to have 15 of 17 women released after they had been arrested on such grounds. Major demonstrations occurred last year, principally in Lebanon and Iraq: in these, women's rights activists were more active and visible than ever. According to our partners, the long-term, flexible support provided by Kvinna till Kvinna enabled them to speak out in public and become dynamic players in the ongoing social transformation. In Jordan, our partner *Arab Women Organisation* helped hundreds of female politicians to exert genuine influence, after having successfully campaigned ahead of previous elections. Following a high-profile case of sexual harassment in Tunisia, our partner *Aswat Nissa* started a Facebook group that within the space of just a few weeks collected 25,000 personal stories.

In Armenia, our partner *WRCA* managed to become established as an expert contact for the new government; it now participates in consultations on legislation around violence against women and anti-discrimination. In Azerbaijan, women's organisations managed to push through a national anti-bullying programme in the country's schools. In Georgia, our partner *AVNG* presented a

case of a woman they helped leave an abusive relationship by assisting the police and offering sheltered accommodation and legal support. In the breakaway region of Abkhazia, the taboo subject of gender-based violence went viral when our partners arranged a photograph competition on the issue, attracting young men as well as young women. In Ukraine, women from both sides of the conflict founded a new network for peace and arranged a symbolic meeting on a bridge to show that a substantial percentage of the population want peace.

In Kosovo and Serbia, our partners arranged peace meetings to reduce prejudice and increase concrete cooperation on a local level. Following twenty years of campaigning, a major victory was achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina when violence against women became incontrovertibly illegal also in Republika Srpska. In North Macedonia, a number of partner organisations helped five municipalities adapt their budget work to issues of gender, which led to tangible improvements such as more accessible bus stops and playgrounds. Our partners in the Western Balkans also conducted a regional study on women's rights in the labour market.

### Communication, fundraising and non-profit activities

This year, interest in both Kvinna till Kvinna's work and women's rights in general continued to grow, as can be noted in our fundraising activities, in the number of followers on our various channels and in our volunteering activities. Over the past 1.5 year, we doubled our monthly donors; in 2019, the number and average size of corporate donations increased. Our Gemaket project (which is financed by Arvsfonden, the National-Inheritance Fund) for young women who have recently arrived in Sweden, had a record number of groups and participants in its final year. During the year, our volunteers put in 4,000 hours of work. We also entered a partnership with *Radiohjälpen* (the fundraising wing of Sweden's public service radio and TV) and took part in the campaign *Musikhjälpen*, which highlighted the issue of sexual violence in war and conflict.

In the weeks running up to the EU election, we conducted a campaign to show voters how the rise of nationalism in Europe is threatening rights women have long fought for. We presented facts, posts and videos about our partner organisations to urge voters to vote for a Europe in which women can live lives based on their own decisions. Ahead of Christmas, we also took part in the global "16 Days of Activism" campaign and produced the report "The Fierce and the Furious" in collaboration with EuroMed Rights, which puts forward feminist views on the anti-gender movement. The report was launched with a panel debate on November 27th, Femdefenders Day, and in social media in different languages, while we also tested a new way of engaging our volunteers in digital activism on Instagram.

At the Stockholm Development Forum in October, we launched a report on efforts by the World Bank and other development banks to integrate a gender

perspective into their financing packages and projects. The study mapped three MENA countries and prepared the ground for further examination of how the banks can include and finance women's rights organisations.

### Method, development and quality assurance

In 2019, Kvinna till Kvinna strengthened its internal operations by following up on guidelines and templates for programme implementation and partner support. In effect this meant hiring an advisor to take charge of how we support our partners and consistently clarify our demands to them throughout our decentralised organisation. This quality assurance is also part of our improvement efforts following an external effectiveness audit in 2018 to enhance our systems and guidelines. During the year, we began a new five-year interregional programme on women, peace and security, with operations in all our regions. A new training programme was also begun in Colombia, and our training programme for civil society and public administration in the Western Balkans on gender-based violence continued. Every year, our alumni community grows in several countries, which helps to strengthen interactions between different actors in the field and enhance their sustainability. This training programme is a collaboration with the Swedish police authority.

In April, Kvinna till Kvinna staff gathered at the head office in Stockholm to share and learn from the result analysis for 2018. Advisors on gender-based violence, security for women's rights activities, peacework and women's economic autonomy presented results from different countries for all participants to consider and work on. Many of the questions revolved around how Kvinna till Kvinna can support partners in an environment where both the political action space and financing for women's rights organisations are shrinking. The seminar also generated supporting data for a mid-year report to the Board on our strategy.

*Quality assurance work:* Since 2009, Kvinna till Kvinna has issued a separate report in compliance with the guidelines of the Quality Code adopted by the member organisations of the Swedish Fundraising Association (*Giva Sverige*, formerly *FRIL*). The purpose of this report is to improve transparency and to support management and control within the Association's member organisations. The Quality Code is the consolidation of all that is deemed good practice within the Swedish Fundraising Association's member organisations.

*Follow-up and evaluation:* Kvinna till Kvinna's vision and threefold mandate chart our organisation's course. We also have a six-year strategy for 2016–2021, comprising four strategic themes with corresponding goals. Since 2018, the strategy has been followed up with the help of a global framework that includes 10 focus areas, which are presented to the Kvinna till Kvinna Board every other year.

In addition to Kvinna till Kvinna's six-year strategy, the organisation monitors and evaluates goals and indi-

cators specific to each programme. The indicators are both quantitative and qualitative and help to evaluate a programme's progress. A number of different methods are used to gather information, including reports from partner organisations, field visits, workshops and dialogue. Kvinna till Kvinna uses these indicators to conduct follow-ups to help us learn from experiences and update our working methods to ensure we stay relevant.

The goals set by the programmes have different time horizons. Some are linked to specific activities (such as courses on sexual and reproductive health and rights); this allows results to be measured directly in the form of an increase in participants' knowledge of the issue in question. Others are linked to long-term social change (such as greater respect for women's rights). These outcomes are measured over a longer period of time.

### Profit/loss and financial position

Kvinna till Kvinna's activities have been implemented in compliance with our Articles of Association. This applies to the support of women's organisations in conflict-affected regions and our advocacy work. Since mid-1993, Kvinna till Kvinna has disbursed 1,921.5 million SEK in monetary support. Of this amount, 189.7 million SEK was disbursed in 2019.

### Fundraising and donations

In 2019, money from fundraising and donations amounted to 16.2 million SEK; including free advertising and pro bono work the amount is 17.4 million SEK. Kvinna till Kvinna has been a beneficiary of the Swedish Postcode Lottery since 2010 and received 10.8 million SEK in 2019.

### Allocations and grants

In 2019, Kvinna till Kvinna supported 149 women's rights organisations in Central and West Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the South Caucasus, the Western Balkans and Ukraine. Allocations amounted to 181.2 million SEK in 2019.

### Profit/loss for the year

In 2019, we made a net profit of thousand 668 SEK (in 2018, the corresponding figure was thousand 3,990 SEK). For detailed financial accounting, see the following income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes.

### Sustainability

After many years of working for change, we finally concluded the process of decentralising our organisation during the year, even if some minor changes and adaptations will continue. In 2019, we focused on implementing previously adopted procedures and guidelines, with the exception of a few larger development projects. For example, we produced and tested new procedures for incident and crisis management suited to a relatively large, decentralised organisation. We also carried out a major review of conditions for different staff groups

(head office staff, programme office staff and internationally deployed staff). In 2018, we started an investigation into pensions and payroll fees for Swedish staff deployed to our international offices; last year, the Swedish tax office decided to reimburse the payroll fees we paid from 2012 to 2018, which it duly did in 2019. In accordance with prevailing collective agreements, we retroactively paid in a compensation pension for internationally deployed staff for the same period. Implementation of the procedures and recommendations for conditions will continue in 2020–21, a process that will build upon previous evaluations, including the 2018 Sida-commissioned efficiency audit we mentioned earlier.

At the end of 2019, we had a total of 137 employees. Adjusted for those on leave of absence, substitute employees and employees on short-term contracts, our average number of employees was 126. Of the 70 employees in Stockholm, 59 worked at the head office while the remainder were deployed in our programme countries. In total, an average number of 67 employees worked in our programme countries: in the MENA region, they are stationed in Erbil, Beirut, Jerusalem, Tunis and Amman; in the South Caucasus, they are stationed in Tbilisi (Georgia); in Africa, they are stationed in Monrovia (Liberia), Bukavu (DRC) and Kigali (Rwanda); in Europe (that is, the Western Balkans and Ukraine), they are stationed in Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje and Kyiv. At our programme offices, an average of 56 staff members were locally or nationally employed.

Kvinna till Kvinna hired two new management group members during the year. Ida Udović, former manager at Stockholm City Library and Kvinna till Kvinna, took up office as our new head of HR in August; in September, Anniken Elisson Tydén, former manager at Save the Children, became the new head of our Programme department.

#### Future developments

Kvinna till Kvinna's strategy, which sets the course for the organisation until 2021, focuses on three thematic areas in which we push for progress together with our partner organisations.

##### The strategy's three thematic areas:

- A future in which women are no longer subjected to gender-based violence.
- A future in which women participate fully and effectively in the development of an equal and democratic society.
- A future in which global security is based on human security and in which women's human rights are respected.

##### The strategy also has a fourth theme that guides the organisation's internal development:

- Kvinna till Kvinna is a sustainable organisation that is well-known both in Sweden and internationally for its work to support women in conflict-affected regions.

Over the coming two-year period, we plan to produce a new strategy for 2022–27 and continue our efforts to establish operations in Somalia. We will close our programme office in Ukraine in 2020 and decide on operations in Sweden following a lengthy pilot programme. We will actively take part in international celebrations of the 20th and 25th anniversaries of various conventions and declarations on women's rights. We will also invest in diversifying our financing (primarily by increasing private fundraising) to become financially more independent and to be able to make beneficiary contributions to major institutional grants. We will continue our digital growth by developing our intranet, the SharePoint platform and data security. We will also be developing our procedures regarding the Xledger financial system and our new HR and salary system, Hogia. Following the expansion we've seen in recent years, we will be paying extra attention to work environment issues, including staff conditions and competence development. To coincide with the drafting of our new strategy, we will also be strengthening our monitoring and learning cycle.

#### Administration

Kvinna till Kvinna was initially formed in 1993 as a network of women's organisations. The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation was founded in 1995 by the Swedish section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). The organisation is headed by a secretary-general. Kvinna till Kvinna has four departments (Programme, Communications, Finance and Resource), each of which is managed by a departmental head.

The Resource Department comprises units for methodology, security and human resources. The management group comprises the secretary-general, the departmental heads and the head of HR. The secretary-general and the deputy secretary-general were co-opted to the Board during the year. A Board secretary and a staff representative, with a personal deputy, were also co-opted to the Board. The secretary-general is appointed and dismissed by the Board. The Board is elected every fourth year by WILPF Sweden (6 members) and the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (1 member). The current Board took up office in May 2019.

The Board's rules of procedure and annual plan are revisited annually. The purpose of the rules of procedure is to specify procedures for the Board's work, allocate responsibilities among Board members and clarify the division of responsibilities between the Board and the secretariat. The rules establish responsibility for the organisation's long-term strategy, guidelines and evaluations, its management and control systems, as well as systems for managing and administering funds. They also regulate matters pertaining to the accounts and budget decisions, and require Kvinna till Kvinna's auditors to attend at least one Board meeting each year, which they duly did in 2019.

#### Board members

2019

7 Board meetings were held in 2019	Attendance	
	January 1st– May 7th	May 8th– December 31st
Birgit Hansson	2	
Viola Furubjelke	2	5
Jesper Hansén	2	
Maria Appelblom	1	5
Lars Jalmert	2	5
Devrim Mavi	2	4
Marie Sundberg	2	
Kajsa Wejryd	2	5
Banafshe Hejazi	1	
Karin Karlsbro	1	
Lena Backhausen	2	5
Johanna Mannergren		4
Malin Almroth		5
Tsehainesh Tekleab		5
Carina Andersson		4
Lisen Bergquist		5

#### Multi-year overview

2019 2018 2017 2016 2015

General conditions	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Number of partner organisations	149	131	111	108	104
Average number of employees	126	114	98	93	98
<b>Income and cost-benefit analysis (thousand SEK)</b>					
Operating income	200 989	169 716	147 055	138 099	136 224
Operating expenses	-199 786	-165 740	-147 327	-137 016	-132 492
Profit/loss from financial items	-471	17	-219	-182	-135
Tax on economic activities	-63	-3	0	0	-63
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>3 990</b>	<b>-491</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>3 534</b>
<b>Financial position</b>					
Equity (thousand SEK)	8 617	7 949	3 958	4 449	3 548

#### Changes in equity

	Project-specific donations	Retained capital	Profit/loss for the year	Total capital
Equity 2019-01-01	652	3 630	3 667	7 949
Allocation of previous year's profit/loss	–	3 667	-3 667	0
Profit for the year	–	–	841	841
Donor-designated purpose 2019	361	–	–	361
Utilised funds 2019	-534	–	–	-534
Transfer to/from restricted equity				
<b>Equity 2019-12-31</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>7 297</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>8 617</b>

#### Specification of project-specific funds

The following funds are included: Syrian refugees thousand 131 SEK and Israel thousand 348 SEK.

The Foundation's profit/loss and financial position are shown by the following income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement plus notes.

Income statement	Note	2019	2018
<b>The Foundation's income</b>	2		
Donations		16 242	17 270
Grants	3	181 199	149 869
Other operating income		3 548	2 577
<b>Total income for the Foundation</b>		<b>200 989</b>	<b>169 716</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	4, 5		
Programme expenses		-189 668	-156 973
Fundraising expenses		-4 485	-3 767
Administrative expenses		-5 633	-5 000
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>-199 786</b>	<b>-165 740</b>
<b>Profit/loss from operations</b>		<b>1 203</b>	<b>3 976</b>
<b>Profit/loss from financial items</b>			
Profit/loss from financial investments		677	294
Interest expenses and similar profit/loss items		-1 148	-277
<b>Total profit/loss from financial investments</b>		<b>-471</b>	<b>17</b>
Gross profit/loss		732	3 993
Tax	6	-63	-3
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>		<b>668</b>	<b>3 990</b>
<b>Allocation of net profit/loss for the year</b>			
Net profit for the year according to the income statement (see above)		668	3 990
Utilisation of designated/unrestricted reserves from previous years		520	39
Reservation of designated/ unrestricted funds received but not utilised during the year		-347	-362
<b>Amount remaining for the year/funds carried forward</b>		<b>841</b>	<b>3 667</b>

Balance sheet	Note	2019-12-31	2018-12-31
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>	7		
Equipment, tools and installations		0	25
<b>Financial fixed assets</b>	8		
Other long-term securities holdings		620	620
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>620</b>	<b>645</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Stocks etc.</b>			
Merchandise		16	7
<b>Total stocks etc.</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Current receivables</b>	9		
Accounts receivable – trade		0	1 451
Other current receivables		10 515	5 418
Prepaid expenses and accrued income		2 869	2 978
<b>Total current receivables</b>		<b>13 384</b>	<b>9 847</b>
<b>Cash and bank</b>		83 131	86 326
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>96 531</b>	<b>96 180</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>97 151</b>	<b>96 825</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Funds brought forward		7 949	3 959
Net profit/loss for the year		668	3 990
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>8 617</b>	<b>7 949</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		2 729	1 693
Tax liabilities		63	3
Liability from received but not utilised grants	10	20 293	44 151
Other current liabilities		1 462	1 513
Accrued expenses and deferred income	11	63 987	41 516
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>88 534</b>	<b>88 876</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>97 151</b>	<b>96 825</b>

Cash flow statement	Note	2019	2018
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Profit/loss from operations before financial items		731	3 993
Adjustment for items not included in cash flow, etc.		25	55
Paid income tax		-67	72
<b>Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital</b>		<b>689</b>	<b>4 120</b>
<b>Cash flow from changes in working capital</b>			
Increase/Decrease in stocks and ongoing work		-9	0
Increase/Decrease in accounts receivable		1 451	-1 433
Increase/Decrease in current receivables		-4 989	449
Increase/Decrease in accounts payable – trade		1 036	-1 294
Increase/Decrease in other short-term operating liabilities		-1 373	25 099
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		<b>-3 195</b>	<b>26 941</b>
<b>Investment activities</b>			
Investment in other fixed financial assets		0	-299
<b>Cash flow from investment activities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>-299</b>
<b>Cash flow for the year</b>		<b>-3 195</b>	<b>26 642</b>
<b>Opening cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>86 326</b>	<b>59 684</b>
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	12	<b>83 131</b>	<b>86 326</b>

### NOTE 1 Accounting and valuation principles

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, BFAR 2012:1 (K3) and the Swedish Fundraising Association's (GIVA Sverige's) operating guidelines for annual financial statements.

#### Income statement

##### Operating income

Only the inflow of economic benefits that the organisation has received or will receive on its own account is recognised as income. Unless otherwise specified below, income is valued at the fair value of the benefit that has been or will be received.

#### Donations

Donations include donations received from the general public, companies, organisations, associations, private and non-profit funds and foundations, and sponsorship. Donations also include bequests, the value of donated assets, and income from donations with deeds of gift. Funds from the Swedish Postcode Lottery are also classified as donations. Donations received in the form of undertakings by companies to pay a certain percentage of their sales to a fundraising organisation are also deemed funds raised, because the third-party company is the seller – not Kvinna till Kvinna.

#### Grants

Funds that the organisation has received from the European Union, the Swedish state and formally independent bodies formed by the EU or Swedish state, and which are provided in the form of transfers of resources to an organisation in exchange for that particular organisation having met, or having pledged to meet, certain conditions relating to its activities, are deemed public grants and are to be recorded as grants (K3, Sections 36.8 and 37.10). This is also a requirement in relation to the obligation to repay such grants if the conditions are not met. The definition of a grant also applies to other organisations that provide funds under these conditions.

#### Other income

Primarily, income from successfully completed International Training Programme (ITP) courses and the sale of products.

#### Operating expenses

##### Programme service expenses

Programme service expenses refer to expenses that have a direct connection with the fulfilment of the organisation's purpose and Articles of Association, namely:

- To support projects that promote women's self-reliance and self-esteem, that promote women's psychosocial and/or physical health, or that otherwise help to promote women's participation in building a democratic civil society.
- To publicise facts and information about the effects of war and to build public support for peaceful conflict resolution through the use of civil methods.
- To foster studies and research on the effects of war and armed conflict on women.

Administrative expenses incurred as a direct result of an activity/project are programme service expenses. Examples of such expenses are our overseas offices, central project management and governance, and the administration of grant applications.

#### Fundraising expenses

Fundraising expenses consist of expenses that have a direct connection to fundraising activities targeting any or all of the organisation's donors.

#### Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses that the organisation incurs to fulfil the quality requirements that we have for our purpose and for our donors, but that cannot be regarded as programme service expenses. In our allocations, around 7.3 percent finance the administrative expenses and these are accounted for as programme service expenses. Remaining expenses are those for certain managers and some staff within the finance and communication departments, as well as development expenses for administrative and organisational processes, accounting expenses and some of the common costs.

#### Common costs

The above costs include common costs that can be defined as follows: Common costs include IT, the finance and accounting functions, premises and management (Board of Directors and the secretary-general).

#### Leasing

All the organisation's leasing costs are accounted for as operating costs. Leasing costs include premises rent.

#### Payments to employees

Current payments to employees in the form of wages and salaries, payroll overheads and the like, are recognised as expenses concurrently with the performance of their duties. Since all pension obligations are classified as defined-contribution, a cost is recognised in the year the pension benefits are earned.

#### Income tax

The tax expense for the year includes tax relating to this year's taxable income. This applies to our activities within the International Training Programme (ITP), which is classed as an economic activity. There are no temporary differences, which is why deferred tax is not reported.

#### Balance sheet

##### Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are valued at their costs of acquisition less depreciation according to plan. Tangible fixed assets are systematically depreciated over their assessed economic life. In doing so, the following depreciation period is used:

Equipment/Computers      5 years

Some equipment purchases are recorded as programme service expenses. This occurs when appropriations have been made for the purchase, or when, due to the high risk of theft in field work, the equipment is equated with expendable equipment. During the year, equipment purchases totalling thousand 569 SEK were recorded as programme service costs.

##### Receivables

Receivables are reported in the amounts that we estimate will be paid, based on individual assessment.

##### Foreign currencies

Receivables and payables in foreign currencies are valued at the closing day rate. Receivables in foreign currencies, foreign currencies in cash and bank balances in our field offices are valued at the exchange rate applied for the most recent transfer of funds from Sweden. These currencies are used in the field and are not intended to be returned to Sweden.

##### Liability, received but not utilised grants

A grant received by an organisation that does not meet the necessary criteria is recorded as a liability.

**NOTE 2 Funds raised**

	2019	2018
<b>The Foundation's income is detailed as follows:</b>		
Donations	16 242	17 270
Grants	181 199	149 869
Other operating income	3 548	2 577
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 989</b>	<b>169 716</b>

**Donations are detailed as follows:**

	2019	2018
General public	3 767	4 225
Companies	1 245	595
Swedish Postcode Lottery	10 800	12 000
Other foundations	430	450
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 242</b>	<b>17 270</b>

**Donations not reported in the income statement**

	2019	2018
Advertising	938	251
Pro bono services (estimated amount)	194	218
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 132</b>	<b>469</b>

**Total donations**

	2019	2018
Donations reported in the income statement	16 242	17 270
Donations not reported in the income statement	1 132	469
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 374</b>	<b>17 739</b>

**NOTE 3 Grants recognised as income**

	2019	2018
<b>Sida grants recognised as income</b>		
Western Balkans	14 361	14 010
South Caucasus	5 019	4 822
Middle East, Jerusalem	14 198	10 795
Middle East, Amman	39 546	32 569
Liberia	10 541	10 213
Ukraine	7 280	4 550
Cross-regional framework allocations	41 971	30 284
Information contributions	3 746	3 597
Rwanda	12 246	9 915
Other Sida	1 554	667
Sida allocations for administration	11 111	9 766
<b>Total</b>	<b>161 573</b>	<b>131 188</b>

**Other grants for projects and activities**

	2019	2018
Swedish Inheritance Fund	-	284
UN Trust	1 198	1 399
EU	1 439	1 284
Folke Bernadotte Academy	3 734	2 127
International Alert EPNK project	1 205	477
Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs	1 402	2 277
Canada	68	3 217
British Foreign & Commonwealth Office	-	996
Swedish Inheritance Fund	7 717	6 620
GIZ*	1 854	-
SDC**	362	-
Other	647	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 626</b>	<b>18 681</b>
<b>Total grants recognised as income</b>	<b>181 199</b>	<b>149 869</b>

\*German Corporation for International Cooperation  
 \*\*Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**NOTE 4 Leasing**

	2019	2018
<b>Future leasing payments fall due according to the following:</b>		
Falling due and payable within 1 year	5 411	4 938
Falling due and payable within 5 years	2 215	3 114
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 626</b>	<b>8 052</b>
Expensed leasing charges during the period	6 996	5 456
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 996</b>	<b>5 456</b>

Leasing charges include premises, and office and IT equipment

**NOTE 5 Average number of employees, staff costs**

	2019	2018
<b>Number of employees (women only)</b>		
Sweden	70	65
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2	3
Kosovo	2	2
Macedonia	4	4
Serbia	4	3
South Caucasus	5	4
Liberia	9	7
Palestine and Israel	3	5
Jordan and Lebanon	11	10
Iraq	2	2
Rwanda	6	5
Ukraine	4	2
Tunisia	2	1
DR Congo	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>114</b>

**Salaries and other employee benefits**

	2019	2018
Secretary General	830	773
Other employees	45 240	39 699
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>46 070</b>	<b>40 472</b>
Payroll overhead	15 415	14 403
(of which pension costs)	2 835	2 674
Pension costs Secretary General	274	326

**Board of directors and senior management**

	2019	2018
Women	6	5
Men	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

**Voluntary work**

During the year, a varying number of people did volunteer work for the organisation (e.g. with the packing of dispatches, information and street fundraising). The value of these efforts has not been recorded in the income statement.

**NOTE 6 Tax on profit/loss for the year**

	2019	2018
<b>Income tax based on taxable economic activities</b>		
Pre-tax profit/loss recognised	295	189
Unused tax losses utilised during the year	-	-174
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>15</b>
Tax calculated at prevailing rate (21.4%)	63	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>3</b>

**NOTE 7 Equipment**

	2019	2018
Costs of acquisitions brought forward	1 464	1 666
Sales and disposals	-	-202
<b>Closing accumulated costs of acquisitions</b>	<b>1 464</b>	<b>1 464</b>
Depreciation brought forward	-1 439	-1 586
Sales and disposals	-	202
Depreciation for the year	-25	-55
<b>Accumulated depreciation carried forward</b>	<b>-1 464</b>	<b>-1 439</b>
<b>Residual value according to plan</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>

**NOTE 8 Long-term securities held**

	2019	2018
Acquisition value brought forward	620	321
Year's acquisitions	-	299
<b>Closing accumulated acquisition value</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>620</b>
<b>Securities specification</b>		
	Book value	Market value
Stocks	541	638
Money market fund	79	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>717</b>

**NOTE 9 Contingent liabilities**

	2019	2018
Rental guarantee/deposit	849	849
Mortgages	-	664
<b>Total</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>1 513</b>

**NOTE 10 Liability, received but not utilised grants**

	2019	2018
Sida South Caucasus	117	-
Sida Europe/Western Balkans	3 375	1 179
Sida Middle East	4 676	23 605
Sida Liberia	109	267
Sida Ukraine	-	4 741
Sida Rwanda	3 633	10 059
Sida framework grant	4 816	879
Sida information	393	284
Sida other	859	-
Swedish Inheritance Fund	510	-
Other allocations	1 805	3 137
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 293</b>	<b>44 151</b>

**NOTE 11 Accrued expenses and deferred income**

	2019	2018
Holiday pay	-2 470	-2 346
Other items	-4 758	-3 770
Prepaid grants, Sida	-53 800	-35 400
Repaid payroll fees*	-6 578	-
Retroactive pension contributions	3 619	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-63 987</b>	<b>-41 516</b>

\*Adjustment made during the year for staff posted abroad.

**NOTE 12 Cash and cash equivalents**

	2019	2018
Cash assets	230	342
Bank balances	82 901	85 984
<b>Total</b>	<b>83 131</b>	<b>86 326</b>

**NOTE 13 Significant events after the end of the financial year**

The Board is following the covid-19 pandemic, which is affecting everyone in society. Kvinna till Kvinna is monitoring developments in Sweden and its programme countries, and taking appropriate measures to protect its staff. The secretary-general keeps the Board regularly informed on developments and how they impact the organisation.

Stockholm 2020-03-18



Devrim Mavi  
Chairperson



Viola Furubjelke



Maria Appelblom



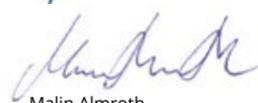
Lars Jalmert



Kajsa Wejryd



Johanna Mannergren

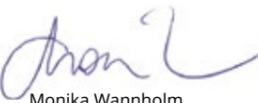


Malin Almroth

Our audit report has been submitted this day, 2020-04-27



Kajsa Goding  
Authorised Public Accountant



Monika Wannholm  
Authorised Public Accountant

## Office translation of original document in Swedish

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the board of Kvinna till Kvinna  
Corporate identity number 802401-6134

## Report on the annual accounts

### Opinions

We have audited the annual accounts of Kvinna till Kvinna for the year 2019. The annual accounts are included on pages 48-49 in this document.

In our opinion, the annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Kvinna till Kvinna as of 31 December 2019 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The statutory administration report is consistent with the other parts of the annual accounts.

### Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities" section. We are independent of Kvinna till Kvinna in accordance with professional ethics for accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions.

### Information of particular importance

As can be seen in Note 13 Significant events after the end of the balance sheet date, the Board of Directors estimates that the outbreak of the virus Covid-19 could have significance for the Foundation's activities in the new year.

### Other Information than the annual accounts

The Board of Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information consists of an annual report (but does not include the annual accounts and our auditor's report thereon).

Our opinion on the annual report does not cover this other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion regarding this other information.

In connection with our audit of the annual report, our responsibility is to read the information identified above and consider whether the information is materially inconsistent with the annual report. In this procedure we also take into account our knowledge otherwise obtained in the audit and assess whether the information otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we, based on the work performed concerning this information, conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other

information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts and that they give a fair presentation in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The board is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the Board of Directors is responsible for the assessment of the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. They disclose, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting. The going concern basis of accounting is not applied if decision has been taken to discontinue the operations.

### Auditor's responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of the Association's internal control relevant to our audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors.

1 (2)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual accounts. We also draw a conclusion, based on the audit evidence obtained, as to whether any material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the

are material for the operations and where deviations and violations would have particular importance for the Association's situation. We examine and test decisions undertaken, support for decisions, actions taken and other circumstances that are relevant to our opinion concerning discharge from liability.

Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in

Stockholm 27 April 2020

our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion about the annual accounts. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

Kajsa Goding  
Authorized Public Accountant

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts, including the disclosures, and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Monika Wannholm  
Authorized Public Accountant

We must inform the Board of Directors of, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit. We must also inform of significant audit findings during our audit, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified.

## Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

### Opinions

In addition to our audit of the annual accounts, we have also audited the administration of the Board of Directors of Kvinna till Kvinna for the year 2019.

In our opinion, the Board of Directors have not acted in breach of the foundations Act, the foundation regulation or the annual accounts Act.

### Basis for Opinions

We conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities" section. We are independent of Kvinna till Kvinna in accordance with professional ethics for accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions.

### Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the administration according to foundation Act and the foundation regulation.

### Auditor's responsibility

Our objective concerning the audit of the administration, and thereby our opinion about discharge from liability, is to obtain audit evidence to assess with a reasonable degree of assurance whether any member of the Board of Directors in any material respect has undertaken any action or been guilty of any omission which can give rise to liability to the Association, or

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect actions or omissions that can give rise to liability to the Association.

As part of an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. The examination of the administration is based primarily on the audit of the accounts. Additional audit procedures performed are based on our professional judgment with starting point in risk and materiality. This means that we focus the examination on such actions, areas and relationships that

2 (2)

**The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation | 2020**

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**Image** Varduhi Tonapetyan from Armenia was only a student when she was forced to marry against her will. She became completely dependent on her husband and was subjected to violence and abuse for years. Through the support of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Spital Helsinki Group, Varduhi has become more economically independent and gained freedom and self-determination. "My goal is to save enough money to start my own business."

*Photo: Maja Brand*



**For all women's rights,  
in every corner of the world.**